

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA: NOVEMBER 19, 2013

SUBJECT: 2013 HSGP (HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT)

SOURCE: FIRE DEPARTMENT

COMMENT: The Fire Department applied for a Homeland Security Grant in July of 2013 and received award documents on November 5, 2013. The grant provides \$32,753 in federal funds with no local match.

Grant funds will reimburse the department for the purchase of:

- 75 VHF pagers from OSI International, \$26,250
- 6 Level IIIA ballistic vests from Galls, \$2,645
- 4 multi-sensor gas monitors from Inspector Tools, \$1,765
- 1 gas monitor calibration kit from Inspector Tools, \$242


The department currently utilizes a third-party system for paging off-duty and reserve firefighters. The system relies on antiquated dial-up modems that have failed numerous times during the past year. This grant will provide a VHF paging system owned and operated by the City of Porterville that will streamline workflow in the dispatch center, improve paging reliability and speed, and result in a savings to the Fire Department in excess of \$6,000 per year. Ballistic vests and multi-gas sensor monitors are used by arson investigators as basic personal safety equipment while performing fire and arson investigation duties.

RECOMMENDATIONS: That the City Council

- 1) Accept the 2013 Homeland Security Grant Award;
- 2) Authorize the City Manager and Fire Chief to sign grant documents required within 90 days of receipt; and
- 3) Authorize staff to negotiate the purchase of equipment using funds from the "firefighting and rescue equipment" replacement fund, to be reimbursed by grant funds.

Dir 

Approp./ Funded 

CM 

Item No. 9