



Agenda Date: 9/20/2005  
Agenda Placement: 6A

## NAPA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS Board Agenda Letter

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors  
**FROM:** Sharon Bull for Ernie Loveless - Fire Chief  
County Fire Department  
**REPORT BY:** Sharon Bull, Staff Services Analyst, 967-1417  
**SUBJECT:** Acceptance of Department of Homeland Security Assistance to Firefighters Grant

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### **RECOMMENDATION**

County Fire Chief requests approval of the following actions relating to the Department of Homeland Security Assistance to Firefighters grant:

1. Acceptance of the grant in the amount of \$720,000 for the purchase of 160 self-contained breathing apparatus; and
2. Approval of Budget Transfer No. 11, increasing appropriations for special fire supplies by \$800,000 with offsetting revenues in the County Fire budget. (4/5 vote required)

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The Department of Homeland Security has awarded an "Assistance to Firefighters" grant to the Napa County Fire Department. The funds are designated as a 90% share of the cost to replace 160 self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) which are reaching obsolescence and are not in compliance with new National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards.

County Fire's 10% cost share, or \$80,000, is available in contingencies in the 2005-2006 budget.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

Is there a Fiscal Impact?	Yes
Is it currently budgeted?	No
What is the revenue source?	This is a grant of \$720,000 from the Department of Homeland Security. This grant has a 10% match requirement of \$80,000, which is budgeted in the County Fire contingency line item.

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Is it Mandatory or Discretionary?	Mandatory
Is the general fund affected?	No
Future fiscal impact:	None.
Consequences if not approved:	If not approved, County Fire will still be required to replace the SCBAs at a cost of \$720,000.
Additional Information:	None

### **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT**

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION: The proposed action is not a project as defined by 14 California Code of Regulations 15378 (State CEQA Guidelines) and therefore CEQA is not applicable.

### **BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION**

Early this year, the Department of Homeland Security announced a program to award \$600 million to fire departments throughout the United States. The Napa County Fire Department applied for and was awarded \$720,000 in grant funds under the FY 2005 Assistance to Firefighters grant program.

These funds are granted for the specific purpose of replacing 160 low pressure self contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) systems and 160 spare low pressure cylinders. The low pressure SCBAs and cylinders currently in use are at or near the end of their serviceable life and will be replaced by high pressure systems which have a low-profile cylinder and include built-in features to meet a current National Fire Protection Association guidelines. Interoperability of equipment, both within the department and with cooperating agencies, adds pressure to complete this project within a short time frame. The grant funds enable County Fire to avoid a multi-year phase in of equipment.

The Occupational Health and Safety Administration (OSHA) requires firefighters to don SCBAs for protection when entering a hazardous environment.

Acceptance of this grant will further enhance the safety of Napa County Fire Department emergency personnel.

### **SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS**

None

CEO Recommendation: Approve

Reviewed By: Britt Ferguson