

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING A FEMA GRANT FOR \$180,773.00 UNDER THE FY 2017 ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTERS GRANT PROGRAM TO FUND AND PURCHASE PHYSICALS AND CANCER SCREENINGS FOR FIREFIGHTERS, AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATORS, CARDIAC MONITORS, AND RESPIRATOR FIT TESTING EQUIPMENT; APPROPRIATING THE CITY'S LOCAL SHARE FROM ACT 833 FUNDS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, the North Little Rock Fire Department ("NLRFD") needs to provide physicals and cancer screenings for Firefighters, and to purchase Automated External Defibrillators ("AED"), cardiac monitors, and respirator FIT testing equipment (see NLRFD grant application narrative attached hereto as Exhibit "A"); and

WHEREAS, the application of the NLRFD to the Federal Emergency Management Agency ("FEMA") and the Department of Homeland Security ("DHS") under the FY 2017 Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program was approved to fund physicals and cancer screenings for Firefighters, and to purchase AEDs, cardiac monitors, and respirator FIT testing equipment (see letter from FEMA attached hereto as Exhibit "B"); and

WHEREAS, the award pursuant to FEMA Grant No. EMW-2017-FO-02184 is \$180,773.00 for the Federal share, with the local match being \$18,077.00 (see Summary Award Memo attached hereto as Exhibit "C"); and

WHEREAS, there is a sufficient amount available in Act 833 Funds to cover the local share.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORTH LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1: That FEMA and DHS Grant No. EMW-2017-FO-02184, in the amount of One Hundred Eighty Thousand Seven Hundred Seventy-three & 00/100 Dollars (\$180,773.00), to fund health screenings and equipment as described herein, is hereby accepted.

SECTION 2: That the sum of Eighteen Thousand Seventy-seven & 00/100 Dollars (\$18,077.00), representing the City's local share, is hereby appropriated from Act 833 Funds.

SECTION 3: That this Resolution shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and approval.

PASSED:

APPROVED:

Mayor Joe A. Smith

SPONSOR:

Joe A. Smith
Mayor Joe A. Smith *by AF*

ATTEST:

Diane Whitbey, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Amy Beckman Fields
Amy Beckman Fields, City Attorney

PREPARED BY THE OFFICE OF THE CITY ATTORNEY/cf

FILED	<u>11:20</u>	A.M.	_____	P.M.
By	<u>A. fields</u>			
DATE	<u>09-18-2018</u>			
Diane Whitbey, City Clerk and Collector North Little Rock, Arkansas				
RECEIVED BY	<u>Shanna Owell</u>			

Honorable Mayor Joe Smith and North Little Rock City Council Members,

As we have in the past few years, NLRFD has aggressively sought after grant funding to supplement our budget, as well as take the burden off of our community. We have been notified by FEMA that we have been extended an offered award of \$180,773.00 in federal grant funds to fund our 2 projects listed below. The total project is estimated at \$198,000.00, of which NLRFD will be responsible for the matching funds of \$18,077.00 (10%).

We ask that you accept this award, and appropriate the matching funds to be allocated through our Arkansas Act 833 funding.

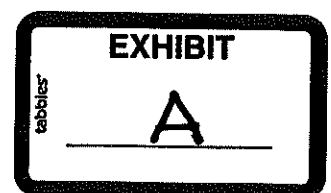
Project #1

Wellness and Fitness

North Little Rock Fire Department (NLRFD) has acquired federal grant funding under the Wellness and Fitness category for firefighter physicals and wellness screenings. These individual screenings will include the following:

- Medical questionnaire
- Vitals and biometrics
- Blood tests (CBC, CMP, Lipid panel, PSA 50+)
- Urine tests (UA, Baseline Heavy Metals)
- Fecal occult kit
- Audiometry
- Visual screening
- Resting ECG
- Spirometry
- Physical exam and consultation
- Department of Transportation (DOT) medical certification (as needed)
- Chest x-ray
- Bench step test
- Summary report with physician's written report

NLRFD estimates that each of these physicals with cost \$350 per firefighter, with a total cost of \$51,850.00 for our 163 operational level staff. NLRFD currently offers our Hazardous Materials Technicians and all newly recruited firefighters a physical examination to determine their level of health and fitness. In the past, our budget allowed for us to offer yearly physicals to all members, but with the economic downturn and diminishing tax revenue, we were unable to



continue these without financial assistance. We also afford all of our firefighters the option of obtaining all recommended immunizations for emergency services personal at the department's expense. However, due to personal and religious beliefs we are not making this program mandatory, but voluntary.

The benefits derived compared to the cost of a Health and Wellness Program would be enormous. In the past year, we have seen an increase in the number of firefighters who have been put on leave due to injury and health related issues. In 2017 alone, NLRFD lost 31,415 hours due to firefighter injury and sickness at a cost of approximately \$670,000. It is anticipated that participation in this program by all department personnel will significantly reduce the number of sick leave hours taken and lower the costs that are associated. The reduction of injuries and overall improvement in our firefighter general health would stabilize and possibly reduce our worker's compensation insurance cost; this, in turn, has potential to reduce our health insurance premiums.

It is currently estimated that approximately 38% of NLRFD firefighters have risk factors for cardiac disease or failure. According to the United States Fire Administration (USFA) report, there were 16 firefighter fatalities that occurred during training activities from 2014-2015, all of which were from heart attacks. In 2016, 9 firefighters died while engaging in training activities, of which, 2 fatalities were from heart attacks. Additionally, in 2016, 43 firefighters died as a result of stress or overexertion; 39 firefighters died due to heart attacks, and four firefighters died due to cerebrovascular accidents (CVA). The 10-year statistics identify that on average, 52.6 firefighters will die per year while on-scene as a result of stress or overexertion. This trend shows that of all fire-related fatalities, 54.6 percent are health related.

This current evidence indicates that an ever increasing number of health related injuries and fatalities are occurring within the fire service. This clearly inhibits firefighter's capabilities to perform their duties. Moreover, it increases the costs of both workers compensation and health insurance for our Department and the City of North Little Rock. When firefighters are off duty for extended periods of time due to poor health or work related injuries, it increases overtime costs as well. A healthy and physically-fit firefighter is better able to meet mission requirements. Therefore, the requested funding is essential to our ability to protect the health and safety of our citizens and firefighters from fire and emergency-related hazards. It is our objective to offer and complete individual comprehensive health assessments for all NLRFD operational staff.

With the funding from this grant, the North Little Rock Fire Department is embarking on a project to combat these issues. This project will enhance day-to-day department operations by advocating an organizational culture that supports positive lifestyle that promotes health and reduces risk for injuries and illness. Additionally, it will promote employee cognizance of health and fitness across all levels of fire personnel, with aims to increase physical performance and productivity.

Project #2

Equipment

NLRFD has secured federal funding to acquire:

20 - Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) BLS Level @ \$3100.00 each.

3 - Monitor/Defibrillator - 15 leads @ \$24,000.00 each.

1 - SCBA/respirator FIT testing equipment @ \$13,000.00.

Total Project - \$147,000.00

This funding is critical to our ability to protect the health and safety of our citizens and firefighters by replacing our outdated AED's and 12-lead cardiac monitor/defibrillators with new, more reliable ones. With this plan the NLRFD will replace all existing AED devices on our responding apparatus. These AED's were placed in service in 2011, and are reaching the end of their operational expectancy. With an average of 29 uses per device per year, we have had over 200 life-saving opportunities. This project also includes AED's for our staff vehicles and our Central Fire Station, which is the public/business office. The 15-lead monitors will be placed on our existing ALS Engine and Rescue Companies, which are utilized on all ALS responses, as well as for firefighter medical monitoring at training events, Haz-Mat incidents, and special operations calls.

BLS responses 2015-2017: 15,021

ALS responses 2015-2017: 6,472

AED uses 2015-2017: 89

NLRFD recently replaced our aging SCBA's (2017). Along with the packs, we also replaced all face pieces for our 164 firefighters. With this replacement, we will be conducting quantitative FIT testing yearly, as required by NFPA 1500-2013, OSHA 1910.134, and NIOSH 1019B. In the past NLRFD has outsourced this testing, but with this funding we will be able complete our testing in a more timely and cost-effective manner.

The total of both projects is estimated at \$198,850.00. FEMA has extended the offer of \$180,773.00 in federal grant funds. We are prepared to fulfill the required match of \$18,077.00 (10%) with Act 833 funds.

Furthermore, we will request formal bids upon approval of this project in accordance with the City's purchasing policies, thus ensuring both procurement integrity and maximum use of financial resources. Finally, we will require the successful bidder to train our trainers in the proper uses of this equipment.

Thank you for your continued support.



FEMA

Mr. Billy Jones
North Little Rock Fire Department
300 N. Main Street
North Little Rock, Arkansas 72114-5326

Re: Award No.EMW-2017-FO-02184

Dear Mr. Jones:

Congratulations, on behalf of the Department of Homeland Security, your application for financial assistance submitted under the Fiscal Year (FY) 2017 Assistance to Firefighters Grant has been approved in the amount of \$180,773.00. As a condition of this award, you are required to contribute a cost match in the amount of \$18,077.00 of non-Federal funds, or 10 percent of the Federal contribution of \$180,773.00.

Before you request and receive any of the Federal funds awarded to you, you must establish acceptance of the award through the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Programs' e-grant system. By accepting this award, you acknowledge that the terms of the following documents are incorporated into the terms of your award:

- Summary Award Memo
- Agreement Articles (attached to this Award Letter)
- Obligating Document (attached to this Award Letter)
- FY 2017 Assistance to Firefighters Grant Notice of Funding Opportunity.

Please make sure you read, understand, and maintain a copy of these documents in your official file for this award.

Prior to requesting Federal funds, all recipients are required to register in the System for Award Management (SAM.gov). As the recipient, you must register and maintain current information in SAM.gov until you submit the final financial report required under this award or receive the final payment, whichever is later. This requires that the recipient review and update the information annually after the initial registration, and more frequently for changes in your information. There is no charge to register in SAM.gov. Your registration must be completed on-line at <https://www.sam.gov/portal/public/SAM/>. It is your entity's responsibility to have a valid DUNS number at the time of registration.

In order to establish acceptance of the award and its terms, please follow these instructions:

Step 1: Please go to <https://portal.fema.gov> to accept or decline your award. This will take you to the Assistance to Firefighters eGrants system. Enter your User Name and Password as requested on the login screen. Your User Name and Password are the same as those used to complete the application on-line.

Once you are in the system, the Status page will be the first screen you see. On the right side of the Status screen, you will see a column entitled Action. In this column, please select the View Award Package from the drop down menu. Click Go to view your award package and indicate your acceptance or declination of award. PLEASE NOTE: your period of performance has begun. If you wish to accept your grant, you should do so immediately. When you have finished, we recommend printing your award package for your records.

Step 2: If you accept your award, you will see a link on the left side of the screen that says Update 1199A in the Action column. Click this link. This link will take you to the SF-1199A, Sign-up Form. Please complete the SF-1199A on-line if you have not done so already. When you have finished, you must submit the form

