

FOR COUNCIL MEETING OF:

January 8, 2007

AGENDA ITEM NO.: 4.3 (d)

**TO:** MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL  
**THRU:** ROBERT G. WELLS, CITY MANAGER  
**FROM:** MIKE KNODE, FIRE CHIEF  
**SUBJECT:** FIRE PREVENTION GRANT APPLICATION

**ISSUE:**

Shall the Fire Department apply for federal Fire Prevention and Safety Grant funds to support the department's public fire safety education program?

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends City Council approve submitting an application for Fire Prevention and Safety Grant funds.

**BACKGROUND:**

The United States Fire Administration (USFA), a division of the federal Department of Homeland Security, offers grant funds to fire departments to improve the delivery of fire prevention and public fire safety education programs. USFA provides 80 percent of the funds necessary to deliver program or activities approved through the application process. The remaining 20 percent is to be provided through local sources. The grant application period ends January 12, 2007.

**FACTS & FINDINGS:**

The Salem Fire Department has produced two successful fire safety video programs over the past several years, both funded primarily by this particular grant program. The first video addressed fire safety issues targeted at preschool and kindergarten age children. The second video covered much of the same material but was produced in Spanish.

The videos are used extensively by teachers in Salem area schools and pre-schools to augment the fire department's delivery of this important message. The videos are also provided to others on request. Feedback from teachers indicates these videos have been very effective in delivering the fire safety message.

The fire department is proposing through this grant to produce a third video, targeting second and third grade age children and covering safety topics not covered in the first video. These topics include water safety, candle fire safety, poisoning prevention, combustibles and heat sources, and the importance of wearing a helmet while skateboarding.

The total cost to produce the new video is estimated at \$25,000. If this grant application is approved, \$20,000 would be provided by USFA. The 20 percent local match of \$5,000 is proposed in the FY 07-08 Fire Department budget.

The grant application must be submitted by January 12, 2007. If the Fire Department receives authorization to apply for the grant and the matching funds are not approved in the adopted budget, the department will withdraw its application.

**OPTIONS:**

1. Authorize the department to submit an application for Fire Prevention and Safety Grant funds.
2. Approve the application for grant funds but direct staff to raise the local match requirement from sources other than the City budget.
3. Do not authorize the department to apply for grant funds.