

**CITY OF CLARKSTON
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA
SPECIAL MEEETING
829 5TH STREET**

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2017
1:00 P.M.**

- 1. CALL TO ORDER: 1:00 P.M.**
- 2. EXECUTIVE SESSION:
 A. Litigation**
- 3. NEW BUSINESS
 A. Authorization of Fire Department SAFER Grant Application**
- 4. ADJOURNMENT**

CITY OF CLARKSTON

InterOffice Memorandum

DEPARTMENT: FIRE

DATE: February 8, 2017

TO: City Councilors and Mayor

FROM: Steve Cooper

SUBJECT: SAFER Grant

"The purpose of SAFER Grants is to provide funding directly to fire departments"- "to assist them in increasing the number of firefighters to help communities meet industry minimum standards and attain 24 hour staffing to provide adequate protection from fire and fire related hazards and to fulfill traditional mission of fire departments".

"Hiring of Firefighters Activity grants provide financial assistance to help fire departments hire new firefighters. The goal is to assist departments to improve staffing levels to ensure they have adequate personnel to respond and safely perform at incident scenes, providing protection from fire and fire-related hazards in their communities. This activity provides three-year grants to assist fire departments by paying the salaries and benefits of the SAFER-funded positions." (from grant guidance documents)

The 2017 SAFER Grant application period is open through Friday, February 10th at 2:00pm pacific standard time.

If a grant award is offered, the recipient has a maximum of 30 days to either accept the award or decline the award. A recipient may request additional time to accept the award if needed.

This grant has a three year period of performance. If awarded, you have up to 180 days to hire. The period of performance starts on the date of hire.

This year's grant program pays for the majority of a firefighter's pay and benefit costs – please see the following description of what the grant will pay for if awarded. The amount of Federal funding provided to a recipient for hiring a firefighter in any fiscal year may not exceed—

- in the first year of the grant, 75 percent of the usual annual cost of a first-year firefighter in that department at the time the grant application was submitted;
- in the second year of the grant, 75 percent of the usual annual cost of a first-year firefighter in that department at the time the grant application was submitted; and
- in the third year of the grant, 35 percent of the usual annual cost of a first-year firefighter in that department at the time the grant application was submitted.

"Usual annual costs" includes the base salary (exclusive of overtime) and standard benefits package (including the average health, dental, and vision costs, FICA, life insurance, retirement/pension, etc.) offered by fire departments to first-year firefighters.

A first year firefighter pay and benefits will cost approximately \$89,000 in Clarkston – overtime costs are not eligible for this grant.

	federal share	local share
year one	\$66,750	\$22,250
year two	\$66,750	\$25,550
year three	\$31,150	\$64,350

While this year's grant does not pay for all of the cost of a firefighter it does pay a very significant portion of a firefighters cost. If your review of numbers and information leads you to decide to provide services within Clarkston with 12 on-duty firefighters seizing on this grant opportunity significantly reduces Clarkston's out-of-pocket costs. If the grant is applied for there is no assurance we will be awarded the grant. If Clarkston is awarded the grant there is an opportunity for the City Council to refuse the award at that time.