

Date: March 25, 2014

To: Mayor Walter B. Duke, III
Vice Mayor Chickie Brandimarte
Commissioner Bobbie H. Grace
Commissioner Albert C. Jones

From: Robert Baldwin, City Manager



Re: BSO Fire Services Agreement Amendment and 2013 SAFER Grant

Last summer, as part of our direction to reduce approximately \$1.5 million from the escalating costs of our public safety contracts with the Broward Sheriff's Office, BSO Fire reduced our medical units from three-paramedic to two-paramedic units. You will recall, roughly half of the fire providers in Broward County utilize two-paramedic units. To maintain the three-paramedic units, if possible, the City Commission agreed to apply for a Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Grant. The grant was recently approved by the Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) and is awaiting acceptance by the City Commission.

If approved, your action tonight will:

- 1) Amend our existing contract with the Broward Sheriff's Office to clarify the terms of the City's Fire Agreement by separating and identifying the cost and resources of the general Fire services from the SAFER grant. Invoices from BSO to the City will be itemized to identify costs associated with the SAFER grant. The amendment specifies that staff hired and paid for under the grant will not become the obligation of the City upon the conclusion of the grant's available funding and that the staffing for the City's Advanced Life Support (ALS) rescue units will revert back to two-paramedic units when grant funding is exhausted.
- 2) Accept the SAFER Grant. The award in the amount of \$1,619,631 will fund nine (9) firefighter/paramedics for a period of up to two years. The additional firefighters/paramedics will increase staffing on each of the City's two ALS rescue units from two (2) to three (3). The 2013 SAFER grant does not require a City match and does not require the City to retain the grant personnel beyond the two-year funding period. Decisions on employee retention and assignment at BSO are the responsibility of the Sheriff.

The City has requested an extension to accept the grant since the City Commission meeting is past FEMA's March 21, 2014 deadline to accept the grant. The request is pending and discussion with FEMA indicated that an extension would be granted. Additional extension requests may be made, but are not guaranteed to be approved.

The Administration recommends approval of the contract amendment along with acceptance of the 2013 SAFER grant.