

September 5, 2023

To: Members of the Budget and Finance Committee

From: Sheryl M. M. Long, City Manager *SM*

202301943

Subject: Emergency Ordinance – Cincinnati Fire Department: First Responder Recruitment, Retention, and Resilience Grant Program

Attached is an Emergency Ordinance captioned:

AUTHORIZING the City Manager to apply for, accept, and appropriate a grant from the Ohio Emergency Management Agency of up to \$801,503 to provide resources for the recruitment and retention of new firefighters for the Cincinnati Fire Department; and **AUTHORIZING** the Director of Finance to deposit the grant resources into Fire Grant Fund 472, revenue account no. 472x8522.

Approval of this Emergency Ordinance would authorize the City Manager to apply for, accept, and appropriate a grant from the Ohio Emergency Management Agency (OEMA) of up to \$801,503 to provide resources for the recruitment and retention of new firefighters for the Cincinnati Fire Department. This Emergency Ordinance further authorizes the Finance Director to deposit the grant resources into Fire Grant Fund revenue account no. 472x8522.

This grant is available from the Ohio Emergency Management Agency's First Responder Recruitment, Retention, and Resilience program to provide resources for the recruitment and retention of new firefighters for the Cincinnati Fire Department. The City intends to utilize the grant resources to pay two existing positions to serve as recruiters, purchase equipment and supplies necessary for recruitment events, and provide bonus payments for firefighters. If accepted, the bonus pay plan will be outlined in a separate, forthcoming ordinance.

The City applied for this grant prior to the deadline of June 17, 2022, and became aware of the award in July 2023. No grant funds will be accepted without approval by the City Council.

There are no new FTEs associated with this grant, and no matching funds are required.

The recruitment and retention of firefighters is in accordance with the "Live" goal to "[c]reate a more livable community" as described on pages 156-163 of Plan Cincinnati (2012).

The reason for the emergency is the immediate need to accept grant resources to cover Cincinnati Fire Department recruitment costs.

The Administration recommends passage of this Emergency Ordinance.

cc: Andrew Dudas, Budget Director
Karen Alder, Finance Director



Attachment