

August 3, 2026

To: Members of the Budget, Finance & Governance Committee

From: Sheryl M. M. Long, City Manager 202602486

Subject: **Ordinance – Fire: FY 2025 Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Grant**

Attached is an Ordinance captioned:

AUTHORIZING the City Manager to apply for, accept, and appropriate a grant of up to \$16,094,708 from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency, FY 2025 Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Grant Program (ALN 97.083) to fund the salary and benefits of up to fifty fire recruits in the Cincinnati Fire Department for three years; and **AUTHORIZING** the Director of Finance to deposit the grant funds into Fire Grants and Donations Fund 472, revenue account no. 472x8542.

This Ordinance authorizes the City Manager to apply for, accept, and appropriate a grant of up to \$16,094,708 from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), FY 2025 Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Grant Program (ALN 97.083) to fund the salary and benefits of up to fifty fire recruits in the Cincinnati Fire Department for three years. This Ordinance also authorizes the Director of Finance to deposit the grant funds into Fire Grants and Donations Fund 472 revenue account no. 472x8542.

This grant is available from Federal Emergency Management Agency's FY 2025 SAFER Grant Program. The Fire Department intends to utilize the grant resources to fund the salary and benefits of up to fifty fire recruits for three years. Acceptance of the grant requires a local match of 25 percent in the first two years and 65 percent in the third year, totalling approximately \$6,704,946. The local match would need to be included in future operating budgets.

This grant would not provide resources for non-personnel expenses such as uniforms, personal protective equipment, psychological testing, books, and other ancillary items and services necessary for training. Resources would need to be included in the FY 2028 operating budget for the next recruit class scheduled to begin in October 2027.

The City has already applied for the grant to meet the application deadline of June 22, 2026, but no grant funds will be accepted without approval by the City Council. Grant awards are expected to be announced in September 2026.

Accepting these grant resources is in accordance with the "Live" goal to "[c]reate a more livable community" as described on pages 156-162 of Plan Cincinnati (2012).

The Administration recommends passage of this Ordinance.

cc: Andrew Dudas, Budget Director
Steve Webb, Finance Director

Attachment

