



CITY OF CONCORD

New Hampshire's Main Street™

FIRE DEPARTMENT

REPORT TO MAYOR AND THE CITY COUNCIL

FROM: John A. Chisholm, Fire Chief

DATE: June 13, 2024

SUBJECT: A report from the Fire Chief authorizing the City Manager or his designee to apply for grants and accept funds totaling up to one-hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000.00) from the Department of Safety, Division of Fire Standards & Training and Emergency Medical Services for classes during Fiscal Year 2025 for the purpose of reimbursement of overtime and backfill for Fire Department members to attend Technical Rescue courses.

Recommendation

The Fire Department requests that the City Council accept this report.

Background

The Department of Safety, Division of Fire Standards & Training and Emergency Medical Services offers a variety of technician-level training courses. These classes occasionally qualify for grant-funded reimbursement of overtime and back fill funds. There is no City match required for these grants. The Fire Department would like the ability to use these grant funds to offset training costs for Fire Department members.

Discussion

The Fire Department provides technical rescue service to the citizens and guests of the City of Concord. Technical rescue certifications and trainings are critical to effectively and safely mitigate technical rescue incidents. These rescue specialties include confined space rescue, swift water rescue, trench rescue, and high-angle (rope) rescue among others. The Department of Safety, Division of Fire Standards & Training and Emergency Medical Services may secure funding for grants which cover up to 100% of the overtime and back fill related expenses for these classes. The funding mechanism for these grants now require a formal grant agreement between the municipality and the State of NH. Enrollments for Concord Fire Department members scheduled for July 2024 already qualify for up to twenty-three thousand four-hundred dollars (\$23,400) in reserved grant funding. Also, it is frequent that classes are not advertised with sufficient time for City Council to approve the request to apply for these grants funds prior to the application period closing for the course. This request is to authorize blanket grant applications for the described purposes during FY25 and accept reimbursement for these grant-funded trainings, not to exceed a total of one-hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000). The \$23,400 in funds available from the State of NH grant for the classes scheduled in July 2024 will be available only until August 31, 2024.