

Memorandum

Memorandum No: 24-140

Date: December 13, 2024
To: Honorable Mayor and City Council
From: Ryan Henderson, City Manager 
Re: 2025 SAFER Grant Application

The fire department will be pursuing a SAFER Grant in 2025 for six (6) additional positions.

The SAFER Grant program, which stands for “Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response”, is operated and awarded through FEMA, the Federal Emergency Management Agency. This initiative provides assistance directly to fire departments in order to increase the number of trained "front line" firefighters available in their communities. Increasing the fire department’s Effective Response Force (ERF) helps us meet industry minimum standards for fire suppression and rescue activities.

By using a competitive process that is informed by fire service subject-matter experts, SAFER grants are awarded to applicants whose applications best address the priorities of the program. The grant is a structured compensation package that is phased over a 4-year time frame - 75% (Year 1); 75% (Year 2); 35% (Year 3). Year 4 and forward is compensated entirely by the city.

Ultimately, the primary objective of SAFER aims to enhance a local fire departments' ability to comply with staffing, response, and operational standards established by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA); specifically, NFPA 1710 and/or NFPA 1720.

The Anna Fire Department has applied several times in the past for this grant, however, a very large number of agencies throughout the country submit applications so the competition is fierce, and the amount of grant funds is finite. Our main objective in applying is further our efforts to reduce overtime costs and create frontline depth within the department.

c: Ray Isom, Fire Chief
Taylor Lough, Assistant City Manager
Greg Peters, Assistant City Manager
Management Team