

BOARD OF ALDERMEN

ITEM NO. C(2)

AGENDA ITEM ABSTRACT

MEETING DATE: March 18, 2008

TITLE: A Request to Approve a Budget Amendment and Authorize Three New Fire Fighting Positions

DEPARTMENT: Fire-Rescue Department	PUBLIC HEARING: NO
ATTACHMENTS: A. Budget Ordinance	FOR INFORMATION CONTACT: Travis Crabtree 918-7349

PURPOSE

A budget amendment is required to recognize the FY07-08 portion of a multi-year grant that will be awarded from the FEMA's National Preparedness Directorate for the Fire-Rescue Department to hire three new firefighters in preparation of opening Fire Station #2. In recognizing the grant revenue (\$21,507), the Board of Aldermen is also requested to authorize three new fire fighting positions to the pay plan by May 8, 2008.

INFORMATION

The Carrboro Fire-Rescue Department has been honored in being the recipient of a Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grant. Carrboro was one of 27 departments on a national level to receive the February 15th announcement. The entire grant is for \$314,262 over a four year period.

The SAFER grant was created to provide funding directly to fire departments in order to help them increase the number of trained, "front-line" firefighters available in their communities. The goal of SAFER is to enhance the local fire departments' abilities to comply with staffing, response and operational standards established by NFPA and OSHA (NFPA 1710 and OSHA 1910.134). Specifically, SAFER funds should assist local fire departments to increase their staffing and deployment capabilities in order to respond to emergencies whenever they may occur. As a result of the enhanced staffing, response times should be sufficiently reduced with an appropriate number of personnel assembled at the incident scene. Also, the enhanced staffing should provide that all front-line/first-due apparatus of SAFER grantees have a minimum of four trained personnel to meet the OSHA standards referenced above. Ultimately, a faster, safer and more efficient incident scene will be established and communities will have more adequate protection from fire and fire-related hazards. With Fire station #2 moving forward, we feel this is exceptional timing on spreading the cost of new personnel over several years.

FISCAL AND STAFF IMPACT

Grant monies pay for a decreasing percentage of salaries and benefits over a four-year period. In year one, the Town will have a 10% match and by year four, a 70% match. The first seven weeks (until the end of FY 07-08) of this match (\$2,390) will be paid for with lapsed salaries. This grant offsets future personnel costs for Fire Station #2. There are sufficient funds (lapsed salary) in the budget to support the additional cost of firefighting gear and uniforms of \$11,200.

RECOMMENDATION

Approve the budget ordinance and authorize three new fire fighting positions as requested.