



**STAFF REPORT**  
*Public Hearing 7-16-19*

AGENDA ITEM #: 19-69  
COUNCIL MTG OF: June 18, 2019  
FROM: Dave Caron, Town Administrator  
OFFERED BY: Michael J. Gagnon, Fire Chief  
PREPARED BY: William Gillis, Battalion Chief  
SUBJECT: Assistance to Firefighters Grant Request

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**PURPOSE:**

Recommendation to apply for an Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) for the purpose of replacing fire department self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA), air filling station and associated equipment.

**TOWN ADMINISTRATOR COMMENTS:**

The Fire Department is requesting permission to apply for an Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) through the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. The amount of this grant request is approximately \$700,000 with a 10% cost share. The Town's cost share would be funded through the capital improvement fund. If awarded, this grant funding would support the replacement of 46 SCBA, 26 additional regulators, 92 air cylinders, 80 face pieces, two rapid intervention team (RIT) air packs and the air cylinder refilling station. The current equipment is at the end of its life cycle and is not compliant with current National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) safety standards.

**BACKGROUND:**

SCBA is a critical piece of safety equipment for firefighters. SCBA provide respiratory protection and are worn inside dangerous atmospheres such as building fires or hazardous material incidents. Firefighters cannot enter dangerous atmospheres without this equipment. Existing SCBA are over 12 years old and NFPA safety standards have seen two revisions. These revisions reflect significant changes in performance and engineering designed to improve firefighter safety and interoperability.

**DISCUSSION:**

Existing SCBA are seeing increased out-of-service time due to increasing age related maintenance repairs. The increased age and general wear and tear negatively impact reliability and safety.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

Soft (in-kind) matches are not allowed with the AFG. The capital improvement fund would be used to support this expenditure and there would be no impact on the operating budget.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION BY COUNCIL:**

Allow the Town Administrator, on behalf Fire Department, to apply for the AFG for the replacement of existing SCBA, regulators, face pieces, RIT packs and air filling station.

**RECOMMENDED MOTION:** After the July 16 public hearing, act upon Resolution #2019-037 as attached.