



# CITY OF LONG BEACH

DEPARTMENT OF FIRE

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DAVID W. ELLIS  
FIRE CHIEF

October 11, 2005

HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL  
City of Long Beach  
California

## RECOMMENDATION:

Authorize the City Manager to execute all necessary documents to receive and expend grant funding from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and increase appropriations in the General Grants Fund (SR 120) in the Fire Department (FD) by \$915,303. (Citywide)

## DISCUSSION

On August 26, 2005, the Long Beach Fire Department (LBFD) received notification from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Office of Domestic Preparedness, of approval of \$915,303 in Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program (AFG) - Operations and Safety Program grant funds.

The AFG 2005 funds will be used to implement and augment a wellness/fitness and injury prevention program for Long Beach firefighters and lifeguards. The Department currently has a small program in place, which is voluntary and has approximately 40 percent participation. However, the recently completed Fire Service Review conducted by Tri-Data/PFM strongly recommended a mandatory wellness/fitness program. This grant will enable the implementation of a department-wide mandatory program.

This one-year grant will specifically aid in the prevention of health problems and the physical performance of the City's firefighters, lifeguards and support personnel that will also benefit the public they serve. Components of the program include annual fitness evaluations, behavioral health and rehabilitation services, complete wellness and fitness programs, education on nutrition and exercise, and injury prevention programs. In addition, it will provide fitness equipment for all fire stations and support facilities. All firefighters and lifeguards will be required to participate in the program, which is expected to reduce and prevent Workers' Compensation injuries and illnesses as well as improve the health of the employees, reduce medical related costs, increase productivity and enhance service delivery to our customers.

As with all components of a wellness/fitness program, prevention of health problems and improvements in physical performance benefit the individual employee as well as the public they serve. While fire service employees are subject to the same health challenges as society as a whole, the enormous physical demands of firefighting and the responsibility to provide uncompromised performance as First Responders to ensure public safety make the prevention of fitness-related disorders an even greater necessity. All written and/or video material developed through the program will be shared with the City Safety Officer, Police and other interested departments as well as other fire jurisdictions.

This item was reviewed by Deputy City Attorney Richard Anthony on September 28, 2005 and Budget Management Officer David Wodynski on October 3, 2005.

TIMING CONSIDERATIONS

City Council action on this matter is requested on October 11, 2005 to commence the receipt of grant funds and procurement of equipment.

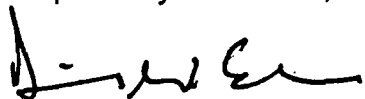
FISCAL IMPACT

As the grant is unbudgeted, an appropriation increase is included in the recommendation. The expense appropriation will be fully offset by grant revenue and an operating transfer (match) from the General Fund. The grant requires a match of 20 percent of the total program, or \$183,060. The match will come from a combination of salary savings from temporary vacancies and one-time savings of contractual services and reduced equipment maintenance during FY 06. The net impact to the General Fund will be zero.

SUGGESTED ACTION:

Approve recommendation.

Respectfully submitted,



DAVID W. ELLIS  
FIRE CHIEF

APPROVED:



GERALD R. MILLER  
CITY MANAGER