

**Element #1 - Project Description (30%):** This statement should describe why the applicant needs the grant funds, i.e., how the requested firefighters will be used within the department and a description of the specific benefit these firefighters will provide for the fire department and community. If the applicant is requesting funding under the rehiring of firefighters activity, the narrative should provide details as to when and why the vacancies occurred and how the vacancies have affected the service to the community. Applications must also discuss how the grant would enhance the department's ability to protect critical infrastructure.

- Why the Auburn Volunteer Fire Department (AVFD) needs grant funding?

Due to the continuing economic downturn, the City of Auburn has been reducing programs, services, personnel, salaries, and benefits. Over the last three years, the City of Auburn has reduced its workforce by 20% and cut personnel costs by over 15%. The Auburn Volunteer Fire Department has been relentless in implementing every cost saving measure to reduce expenditures and save jobs.

- How will the requested firefighters be used within the AVFD?

With enhanced and restored staffing, the requested firefighters will be used to significantly reduce response times and increase the number of trained personnel on the engine company to comply with NFPA 1720. Currently the AVFD utilizes 6 part time firefighters to fill one position on the fire engine between three platoons approximately 80% of the time. These part time firefighters are non-benefited and paid hourly for hours worked. Shifts are filled on a rotating basis by seniority. If awarded grant funding, daily engine company staffing will consist of four full time personnel.

- What is the specific benefit these firefighters will provide for the AVFD and the community of Auburn?

The AVFD will be able to fully comply with OSHA 1910.134 Two In/Two Out, meet the staffing and deployment standards recommended in NFPA 1720, and increase daily staffing from two to four full time firefighters on the engine company. By implementing the previous; our community will benefit by reducing overall response times by at least two minutes, increase firefighter safety, reduce injuries and associated costs, increased property conservation, and provide a higher level of protection to the citizens of Auburn and surrounding communities.

- How did the vacancies affect service to the community of Auburn?

In April of 2009, two Battalion Chief positions were eliminated through attrition. The City Council adopted a Strategic Re-organization Plan that shifted engine company personnel into command and control roles, thus reducing the actual number of firefighters.

- How will the grant enhance the department's ability to protect critical infrastructure?

The AVFD provides protection to the following critical infrastructure: Interstate Freeway (I-80) and State Highways (49, 193), railways (Union Pacific), waterways (American River), pipelines (fuel/transportation), municipal airport, and utility distribution systems (power/phone/sewer/water). The requested firefighters will provide more "boots on the ground" to better protect these critical infrastructures.

**\*Element #2 - Impact on Daily Operations (30%):** This statement should explain how the community and current firefighters are at risk without the requested firefighters, and to what extent that risk will be reduced if the applicant is awarded. What impact will the newly funded positions have on NFPA and/or OSHA compliance?

- How the community of Auburn and AVFD are at risk without the requested firefighters?

Current staffing levels significantly risk the community and members of the AVFD in the following scenarios: Structural firefighting, Wildfire and Urban Interface firefighting, CPR, Rescues, Motor Vehicle Accidents, and other emergencies.

- What extent will the risks be reduced if awarded?

Per the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) 2010 Report on Residential Fireground Field Experiments, four person engine companies were 30-50% more effective on structural fires reducing the risk significantly. Based on the Placer County Local Hazard Mitigation Plan, 87% of the City of Auburn is in the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) hazard classification. The actual dollar values at risk in the WUI area is \$1,541,936,957. Per Field Operations Guide ICS 420-Resource Types and Minimum Standards, engine companies need to have four personnel on WUI incidents thus greatly reducing the risk. According to NIST's Report on EMS Field Experiments, four person engine companies were several minutes faster at scene on all types of EMS emergencies including rescues and motor vehicle accidents thus greatly reducing the risk.

- What impact will the awarded positions have on NFPA and/or OSHA compliance?

The restored and enhanced firefighter staffing will allow the AVFD to comply with NFPA 1720 staffing requirements between 90-100% of first alarm assignments. Currently we have 13 firefighters on a first alarm assignment, 10 of which respond through automatic aid agreements. Using the newly hired firefighters in conjunction with automatic aid, we would have 15 firefighters

arriving on scene within 9 minutes 90-100% of the time. With the newly acquired firefighters, we would also be able to comply with OSHA 1910.134 Two In/ Two Out 100% of the time without the use of automatic aid.

**\*Element #3 - Financial Need (30%):** This statement should explain the applicant's organizational budget and its inability to address the need without federal assistance, including other actions the applicant has taken to meet their staffing needs.

- What are the specifics of the AVFD's organizational budget?

The AVFD's organizational budget is based 100% on General Fund; property and sales tax revenue. Unfortunately due to the economy, property and sales taxes have plummeted the last several years leaving our budget in critical hardship. However, fiscal projections do indicate that we are nearing the bottom of the fallout, barring any unforeseen circumstances.

- Why is the AVFD unable to address the needs without federal assistance?

The City of Auburn's "no growth" budget has resulted in a critical need and subsequent requests for grant assistance. Our city's tax revenues have declined over 23% the last three years with an above average unemployment rate. Rising fuel costs, insurance, retirement, and worker's compensation along with a huge decrease in tax revenue have left our city in fiscal austerity.

- What other actions has your department taken to meet the staffing needs?

Alternate funding sources to maintain and enhance existing service levels are continually evaluated for sustainability. Areas identified for sustaining staffing levels include: Special assessments and/or taxes, fees for services, future potential development, and economic increases. It is anticipated that within the next 2 years one or a combination of these areas will be implemented to maintain grant funded positions. With grant funding, we are hoping to not only maintain but enhance our department's personnel and emerge from the recession stronger than when it began.

**\*Element #4 - Cost/Benefit (10%):** This statement should explain, as clearly as possible, what benefits your department and/or your community will realize if the project described is funded (i.e. anticipated savings and/or efficiencies).

- What benefits (e.g., anticipated savings and/or efficiencies) will your department and/or community realize if the project is funded?

The anticipated benefits above and beyond response and hazard mitigation include: Restore community outreach and prevention programs that were reduced due to staffing requirements, recruitment and retention of volunteer and part time employees, implement a previously developed inspection program, and improve company cohesion, department efficiency, and community involvement.

The anticipated benefits beyond our community and fire department extend to our neighboring agencies and include: Strengthen county wide automatic and mutual aid capabilities, provide a county recognized Rapid Intervention Crew, and enable support services such as an air unit and water tender that are unavailable with our current staffing.

**\*Element #5 - Performance (Additional Consideration):** Applicants should explain whether they have a proven track record for timely project completion and satisfactory performance in other AFG, FP&S, and SAFER awards.

All grants awarded to the AVFD have a proven track record for timely project completion and satisfactory performance. Previous grants awarded are:

2003 FP&S Fire Safety Education Trailer  
2009 AFG PPE Grant for SCBA's