

# Memorandum

City of Lawrence

Fire Medical

**To:** David Corliss, City Manager

**From:** Mark Bradford, Chief

**cc:** Diane Stoddard, Assistant City Manager  
Cynthia Boecker, Assistant City Manager  
Jonathan Douglass, Assistant to the City Manager/City Clerk

**Date:** June 18, 2012

**Re:** Assistance to Firefighters Grant for Station Video Conferencing

## **Grant Background:**

The primary goal of the Assistance to Firefighters Grants (AFG) is to meet the firefighting and emergency response needs of fire departments and nonaffiliated emergency medical services organizations. The deadline for receipt of the applications is July 6, 2012. The AFG, which will be distributed in phases throughout FY 2012, will ultimately award approximately \$285 million.

Fire departments serving populations of over 50,000 or more must match the Federal grant funds with an amount of non-Federal funds equal to 20 percent of the total project cost and the project must be completed in one year.

## **Station Video Conferencing Background:**

This is the second time in two years that Fire Medical has had the opportunity to apply for the Assistance to Firefighters grant for station video conferencing. The city permitted our application in 2010; however; we were not successful.

As you are aware, in February 2008 the Department was awarded accreditation by the Center for Public Safety Excellence. As part of the accreditation process, the following recommendation regarding Station Video Conferencing was made:

*The existing technology should be capitalized by the Department. The fire stations are already networked together so the use of video and conference telecommunicating should be explored. This allows for partial decentralization of current training deliveries and more important, accomplishes training while keeping fire resources in the communities they are responsible to protect. (8C.1)*

Constant and consistent training is necessary for emergency responders to make quick and appropriate decisions to safely resolve any size incident. Modern technology will allow us to bring a higher quality and greater quantity of education and training to a larger audience. The evolving role of emergency services requires daily interaction with

other departments and agencies. Rising costs and decreasing budgets make this interaction a challenge.

Total estimated cost	\$355,000
Federal share (80%)	\$284,000
<b>City share (20%)</b>	<b>\$71,000</b>

**Action Request:**

Fire Medical Department staff requests approval from the City Commission to pursue Assistance to Firefighters Grant for personal station video conferencing and authorize funding for twenty percent as outlined for an estimated city cost of \$71,000.