

Board of County Commissioners

Agenda Request

Date of Meeting: April 7, 2009

Date Submitted: March 18, 2009

To: Honorable Chairman and Members of the Board

From: Benjamin H. Pingree, County Administrator
Lindsay Stevens, Assistant County Administrator
G. Scott McDermid, Director, Department of Public Safety
Louis Lamarche, Interim Fire Chief

Subject: Request Board Approval of an Awarded FEMA Grant and Related County Match Funds for the Purchase of Personal Protective Equipment Appropriate for Fire Suppression Activities and a Thermal Imaging Camera for Sopchoppy Station 1

Statement of Issue:

This agenda item requests Board approval of an awarded Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Grant and related County match funds for the purchase of personal protective equipment appropriate for fire suppression activities and a thermal imaging camera for Sopchoppy Station 1.

Background:

Wakulla County Fire Rescue, Sopchoppy Station 1, was approved for a grant through FEMA for \$56,620.00 to purchase personal protective equipment and a thermal imaging camera on November 10, 2008. This grant was not properly filed by staff prior to application development and submittal. In addition, this grant was not properly placed before the Board after award and prior to equipment purchase. All procedural failures occurred prior to the development of the current structure of the Department of Public Safety. Upon receiving the information that the grant was not properly filed, Public Safety staff developed and implemented a Scope of Procedures (SOP) to mitigate the procedural problem from future occurrences (Attachment #2). County match funds on the grant for the personal protective equipment and thermal imaging camera was \$2,980.00 from Account #180-9000-522-992-000 (Major Equipment Purchase Reserve).

Analysis:

The personal protective equipment (PPE) and thermal imaging camera grant was developed, submitted, received and the equipment was purchased to provide the firefighters of Wakulla County protective clothing and self contained breathing apparatus needed to safely perform the fire suppression functions assigned. This equipment gives the firefighters of Wakulla County the ability to make entry into burning structures and conduct rescues, in addition to providing for rapid fire extinguishment. The thermal imaging camera provides the improved ability to conduct rescues and locate the seat of the fire in limited visibility situations. This equipment has been received and placed into service. It has been used and will continue to be used to the benefit of Wakulla County and its citizens.

Options:

1. Approve the FEMA awarded grant and match funds retroactively.
2. Do not approve the FEMA awarded grant and match funds retroactively.
3. Board Direction.

Recommendation:

Option #1

Attachment(s):

1. Grant application and approval letter.
2. Revised Fire Rescue standard operating guideline for grant activities.