

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM

SUBJECT: FY 2020 Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER)  
Grant Application

Work Session/Regular  
Session

DATE OF MEETING: March 23, 2021

BUDGET IMPACT: \$2,149,692.26 (100% reimbursed by grant)

FUNDING SOURCE:

( ) Annual

( ) Capital

(X) FEMA Funding: \$2,149,692.26

( ) SPLOST

( ) TSPLOST

COUNTY ACTION REQUESTED ON: Approval for Staff to submit an application for the FY 2020 SAFER Grant

HISTORY, FACTS AND ISSUES: The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) recently announced the application period for the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Grant Program. FEMA currently has \$355 million in funding to be awarded to fire departments across the nation through this highly competitive grant process. The purpose of the SAFER Grant Program is to provide funding directly to fire departments and volunteer firefighter interest organizations to assist with increasing the number of firefighters to help communities meet industry minimum standards, to attain 24-hour staffing to provide adequate protection from fire and fire-related hazards, and to fulfill traditional missions of fire departments.

The hiring of additional full time firefighters is consistent with Lowndes County's goal of expanding the fire service locally. As such, Lowndes County Fire Rescue is seeking to apply for a SAFER Grant which would fund the hiring of 12 additional full time fighters and fully fund their salary and benefits for a period of 3 years. This grant requires no matching funds, however, it provides funding for salary and fringe benefits only. The cost of other items such as, entry physical, uniforms, safety equipment, etc. would be the responsibility of Lowndes County.

OPTIONS:     1. Authorize staff to submit FY 2020 SAFER Grant application for 12 Full Time Firefighter Positions  
                  2. Board's Pleasure

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approve

DEPARTMENT: Emergency Management

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Ashley Tye

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS: