

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Legal and Finance Committee Members

FROM: Richard Lehmann, Assistant Chief
Rapid City Department of Fire and Emergency Service

DATE: April 5, 2001

RE: Grant Application

In fiscal year 2001, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has a new \$100 million grant program entitled, "Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program". Federal funds are available for fire departments to enhance their ability to protect the health and safety of the public, and that of their firefighting personnel facing fire and fire-related hazards.

The Rapid City Department of Fire and Emergency Services is requesting authorization to submit a grant application to FEMA for the purchase of 5 thermal imaging cameras and 1 receiving station. These cameras enable firefighters to see in smoky, low visibility conditions in order to locate fire victims faster and facilitate a rescue. Thermal Imaging Cameras can also significantly reduce property damage by enhancing the firefighter's ability to quickly locate and extinguish fires. This new technology is sweeping through the United States Fire Service, but is somewhat out of reach for most fire departments due to a list cost of approximately \$17,000 per camera.

The funding breakdown would be as follows:

\$85,000	Thermal Imaging Cameras (5 @ \$17,000 each)
<u>\$ 4,300</u>	Receiving Station (1 @ \$4,300)
\$89,300	TOTAL

Of the total grant application request of \$89,300 (\$62,510 would be 70% federal grant funds and \$26,790 would be 30% local match funds). The L.I.F.E. fund has received \$16,000 in donated funds. There is a local match shortage of \$10,790.

Therefore, the Rapid City Department of Fire and Emergency Services is requesting:

- 1) Authorization to submit a grant application to the Federal Emergency Management Agency for the purchase of 5 thermal imaging cameras and 1 receiving station;
- 2) Approve a supplement to budget #202 in the amount of \$10,790 from the general fund to be used for the 30% local match; and,
- 3) Authorize the Mayor and Finance Officer to sign the grant agreement should the grant be awarded.