



Finance Committee Agenda

City of Newton In City Council

Monday, July 12, 2021

The Finance Committee will hold this meeting as a virtual meeting on Monday, July 12, 2021 at 7:15 pm. To view this meeting using Zoom use this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82169223419> or call 1-646-558-8656 and use the following Meeting ID: 821 6922 3419

Item scheduled for discussions:

- #251-21 Acceptance of \$141,818.18 from Assistance to Firefighters Grant program**
HER HONOR THE MAYOR requesting authorization to accept and expend the sum of one hundred forty- one thousand eight hundred eighteen dollars and eighteen cents (\$141,818.18) in federal grant funding through the Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) program run by FEMA.
- #255-21 Distribution of \$200,000 from the PEG Access and Cable Related Fund**
HER HONOR THE MAYOR requesting authorization to distribute two hundred thousand dollars (\$200,000) from the PEG Access and Cable Related Funds to the Newton Communications Access Center, Inc (“NewTV”). These funds will be used by NewTV to maintain a high level of services, including governmental services here at City Hall, during this period of declining cable TV revenues.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Walker Grossman, Chair

The location of this meeting is accessible and reasonable accommodations will be provided to persons with disabilities who require assistance. If you need a reasonable accommodation, please contact the city of Newton’s ADA Coordinator, Jini Fairley, at least two business days in advance of the meeting: jfairley@newtonma.gov or (617) 796-1253. The city’s TTY/TDD direct line is: 617-796-1089. For the Telecommunications Relay Service (TRS), please dial 711.



Ruthanne Fuller
Mayor

City of Newton, Massachusetts
Office of the Mayor

251-21

Telephone
(617) 796-1100

Fax

(617) 796-1113

TDD/TTY

(617) 796-1089

Email

rfuller@newtonma.gov

Honorable City Council
Newton City Hall
1000 Commonwealth Avenue
Newton, MA 02459

Honorable City Councilors:

I respectfully submit this docket item to this Honorable Council requesting the acceptance and expenditure of a \$141,818.18 federal grant through the Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) program run by FEMA. This award is to enhance the technical rescue program both through training additional members to the rescue technician level, and to further train members who are already rescue technicians.

Please see the attached memo from Chief Lucchetti and the backup information from FEMA.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Mayor Ruthanne Fuller

RECEIVED
2021 JUN 14 PM 4:44
CITY CLERK
NEWTON, MA. 02459



Gino P. Lucchetti
Chief

CITY OF NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS
FIRE DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS
1164 Centre Street, Newton Center, MA 02459-1584
Chief: (617) 796-2210 Fire Prevention: (617) 796-2230
FAX: (617) 796-2211 EMERGENCY: 911



Ruthanne Fuller
Mayor

6/14/2021
RE: AFG Grant Award

Mayor Fuller,

It is with great pride that I am announcing that Newton has received an award of \$141,818.18 through the Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG). This award is to enhance the technical rescue program both through training additional members to the rescue technician level, and to further train members who are already rescue technicians. Through these training modules, the Newton Fire Department's rescue program will continue to grow and improve, helping us face any technical rescue emergencies that may arise within the City.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. Lucchetti".

Gino Lucchetti
Chief of Department
Newton Fire Department

From: AFG-Congressional-Notification <AFG-Congressional-Notification@fema.dhs.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, June 9, 2021 9:10 AM
To: AFG-Congressional-Notification <AFG-Congressional-Notification@fema.dhs.gov>
Subject: Fiscal Year 2020 Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) Program Award - Massachusetts
 CRM:0387178

Dear Colleagues,

This is congressional notification of the Department of Homeland Security's FY 2020 Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program - (AFG) award(s) that will be announced to applicants in your State this week. This is Round 1 of the competitive FY 2020 AFG announcements. This program is administered by the Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency in cooperation with the U.S. Fire Administration.

Grantees will receive this information approximately two business days from the date of this notification. This information is not embargoed, you may release it immediately.

We have included the following attachment in this notification:

- An AFG Program fact sheet

Additionally, a list of awards planned in your state, including recipient contact information, is as follows:

Award Number	Organization	Program Area	Federal Share	POC Name	POC Phone	POC City	POC Zip
EMW-2020-FG-15863	Beverly, City of	Operations and Safety	\$40,887.27	Catherine Barrett	9786052368	Beverly	01915-5849
EMW-2020-FG-12677	Somerville, City of	Operations and Safety	\$239,544.18	Laura Haas	6176256600 - 2133	Somerville	02143-1740
EMW-2020-FG-10289	Newton, City of	Operations and Safety	\$141,818.18	Phillip McCully	6175937889	Newton	02459-1539

[website](#) for information, or contact the AFG Program Help Desk:

Toll-free: 1-866-274-0960

Email: firegrants@fema.dhs.gov

For congressional inquiries regarding the FY 2020 Assistance to Firefighters Grants Program, please contact:

Chris Rizzuto

FEMA, Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs

Email: Christopher.Rizzuto@fema.dhs.gov

Phone: (202) 786-9450

Andrew White
FEMA, Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs
Email: Andrew.White2@fema.dhs.gov
Phone: (202) 782-9650

FY 2020 Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) Program

The AFG Program will make \$319.5 million directly available to eligible applicants to enhance their response capabilities to, and more effectively protect the health and safety of the public and emergency response personnel from, fire and other related hazards.

Overview

The AFG Program is one of three grant programs that constitute the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) focus on enhancing the safety of the public and firefighters with respect to fire and related hazards. Since fiscal year (FY) 2001, the AFG Program has awarded approximately \$7.7 billion in grants to provide critically needed resources that equip and train emergency personnel to recognized standards, enhance operational efficiencies, foster interoperability, and support community resilience. The total amount appropriated for the FY 2020 AFG Program initiative is \$355 million. From this appropriation amount:

- The FY 2020 AFG Program will award \$319.5 million to an estimated 2,000 eligible first-responder organizations that need support to improve their capability to respond to fires and emergencies of all types, and
- The FY 2020 Fire Prevention & Safety (FP&S) Grant Program will award \$35.5 million to fire departments and non-profit organizations to support fire prevention and firefighter health and safety research and development (note that the FP&S Grant Program is a separate grant program and will have its own Notice of Funding Opportunity [NOFO] and application period).

Purpose

The purpose of the AFG Program is to award grants directly to fire departments, nonaffiliated EMS organizations, and SFTAs to enhance their ability to protect the health and safety of the public, as well as that of first-responder personnel. Using a competitive process that is informed by fire service subject matter experts, grants are awarded to eligible applicants whose applications best address the priorities of the AFG Program.

Funding

In FY 2020, the DHS Appropriations Act, 2020 (Pub. L. No. 116-93) appropriated a total of \$355 million to support the AFG Program. Under the AFG Program's authorizing statute, the Fire prevention and Control Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. § 2229), no less than 10 percent of the appropriated funds must support fire prevention and safety activities, which include assisting fire prevention programs and supporting firefighter health and safety research and



FEMA

development. Therefore, no less than \$35.5 million of the appropriation must be awarded for fire prevention and safety activities under the FP&S Program. The remaining \$319.5 million will be awarded in competitive grants to fire departments, non-affiliated EMS organizations, and SFTAs. Further, under the Fire prevention and Control Act, funding for vehicles is limited to 25 percent of the total FY 2020 AFG Program appropriation. Finally, no less than 3.5 percent of available grant funds shall fund emergency medical services provided by fire departments and nonaffiliated EMS organizations, and no more than 3 percent of available grant funds shall be collectively awarded to all SFTA recipients. **Please refer to the FY 2020 AFG Program NOFO for additional information and guidance on these requirements.**

Eligibility

Eligible applicants for the FY 2020 AFG Program include fire departments, nonaffiliated EMS organizations, and SFTAs operating in any of the 50 states, as well as fire departments in the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico¹, or any federally recognized Indian tribe or tribal organization. The definitions of eligible applicants are below.

Definitions

- A *fire department* is an agency or organization that has a formally recognized arrangement with a state, territory, or local government (city, county, parish, fire district, township, town, village, or other governing body) to provide fire suppression on a first-due basis to a fixed geographical area.
- A *nonaffiliated EMS organization* is an agency or organization that is a public or private nonprofit emergency medical service entity providing medical transport that is not affiliated with a hospital and does not serve a geographic area in which emergency medical services are adequately provided by a fire department.

FEMA considers the following as hospitals under the AFG Program:

- Clinics
- Medical centers
- Medical college or university
- Infirmary
- Surgery centers
- Any other institution, association, or foundation providing medical, surgical, or psychiatric care and/or treatment for the sick or injured

¹ The District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico are all defined as "States" in the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974.

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- SFTAs operate in any of the 50 states, as well as the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. Applicants must be designated either by legislation or by a Governor's declaration as the sole fire service training agency within a state, territory, or the District of Columbia. The designated SFTA shall be the only agency/bureau/division, or entity within that state, territory, or the District of Columbia, eligible to apply.

Program Highlights

Under the FY 2020 AFG Program, eligible organizations may apply for grants under the following activities:

Operations and Safety

- Grant projects funded include professional training, wellness and fitness programs and equipment, personal protective equipment, modifications to facilities, and supplies that support firefighting and non-affiliated EMS operations and safety. Nr

Vehicle Acquisition: Fire Departments and Non-Affiliated EMS Organizations

- Eligible apparatuses include, but are not limited to, pumpers, aerials, quints, brush trucks, tankers/tenders, rescue vehicles, and ambulances.

Regional Grants

- Regional projects in which multiple organizations (fire and/or non-affiliated EMS organizations) serving more than one local jurisdiction would benefit directly from the activities requested with grant funds.

SFTAs

- SFTAs are eligible to apply for critically needed resources to protect the public, train emergency personnel, and foster interoperability and support community resilience.

Application Process and Evaluation Criteria

AFG Program applications are reviewed through a multi-phase process. All complete and eligible applications are electronically pre-scored and ranked based on the substance of the application, relative to the established funding priorities as published in the NOFO. Applications most consistent with the established AFG Program funding priorities score the highest and are determined to be in the "competitive range" and will undergo further evaluation by a peer review panel, comprised of representatives from the fire service and non-affiliated EMS organizations.

A minimum of three peer review panelists evaluate the applications using the Narrative Statement, answers to general questions, and answers to activity-specific questions. Under the AFG program, peer review panels consist of members of the nation's fire service. Peer review panels do not include federal government employees. Each application is judged on its own merits against established criteria and is not compared to other applications.

The funding priorities differ for fire departments, non-affiliated EMS organizations, and SFTAs. The funding priorities and evaluation criteria are developed from recommendations provided by a criteria development panel, composed of fire service professionals representing the major fire service organizations.

Applications most consistent with the established AFG Program funding priorities that score the highest will undergo a Technical Review by the FEMA Program Office to assess the request with respect to costs, quantities, feasibility, eligibility, and recipient responsibility.

Program Coordination

The following entities were involved in developing the FY 2020 AFG Program guidance:

DHS

- FEMA
- U.S. Fire Administration

Major Fire Service Organizations

- International Association of Fire Chiefs
- International Association of Fire Fighters
- National Volunteer Fire Council
- National Fire Protection Association
- National Association of State Fire Marshals
- International Association of Arson Investigators
- International Society of Fire Service Instructors
- North American Fire Training Directors
- Congressional Fire Services Institute

AFG Program Resources

For additional information on the FY 2020 AFG Program, please visit our web site at:

<https://www.fema.gov/grants/preparedness/firefighters/assistance-grants>.

You may also contact the AFG Program Help Desk at 1-877-585-3242 or by e-mail at firegrants@fema.dhs.gov. The AFG Program Help Desk is open Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. ET.

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CITY OF NEWTON

IN CITY COUNCIL

DRAFT

ORDERED:

That, in accordance with the recommendation of the Finance Committee through its Chair Rebecca Walker Grossman, the authorization to accept and expend the sum of one hundred forty-one thousand eight hundred eighteen dollars and eighteen cents (\$141,818.18) in federal grant funding through the Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) program run by FEMA be and is hereby approved.

Under Suspension of Rules
Readings Waived and Approved
DRAFT

(SGD) NADIA KHAN
Acting City Clerk

(SGD) RUTHANNE FULLER
Mayor



Ruthanne Fuller
Mayor

City of Newton, Massachusetts
Office of the Mayor

255-21

Telephone

(617) 796-1100

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(617) 796-1113

TDD/TTY

(617) 796-1089

Email

rfuller@newtonma.gov

Honorable City Council
Newton City Hall
1000 Commonwealth Avenue
Newton, MA 02459

Honorable City Councilors:

I respectfully submit this docket item to this Honorable Council authorizing the distribution of \$200,000 from the PEG Access and Cable Related Fund (the "Fund") to the Newton Communications Access Center, Inc. ("NewTV"). These funds will be used by NewTV to maintain a high level of services, including governmental services here at City Hall, during this period of declining cable TV revenues.

The decline in cable TV revenues presents a threat to NewTV and local public access stations across Massachusetts and the country. The City Council recently passed a resolution supporting Massachusetts House Bill 130, a comprehensive funding solution for public access television based on new taxes on streaming entertainment services.

The single payment of \$200,000 from the Fund to NewTV will allow the station to balance their FY22 budget with level staffing, cover payments for fixed expenses, maintain a high level of overall service, and increase governmental services including meeting coverage.

The City of Newton derives revenues from franchise fees and capital payments made by Comcast, RCN and Verizon. These are allocated between the City and NewTV pursuant to a grant agreement between the City, acting through its Mayor as cable license Issuing Authority (the "City") and NewTV dated July 23, 2018. NewTV receives eighty percent (80%) of these franchise fee revenues and forty percent (40%) of these capital payments.

On July 11, 2017, the City accepted G.L.c. 44, §53F¾, which established a separate revenue fund known as the PEG Access and Cable Related Fund (the "Fund"). Monies in the Fund are derived solely from the City's portions of franchise fee and capital payments made by the three cable operators in accordance with their franchise agreements. By statute, monies in the Fund shall only be appropriated for cable-related purposes consistent with the franchise agreements, including but not limited to (i) support of public, educational or governmental access cable television services; (ii) monitoring compliance of the cable operators with their franchise agreements; or (iii) preparing for renewal of the franchise agreements.

The Fund currently has a balance over \$800,000, after the recent \$200,000 technology investment for the City Council chamber and meeting rooms which the City Council approved earlier this term.

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2021 JUN 16 AM 9:22
CITY CLERK
NEWTON, MA. 02459
JUN 15, 2021

The \$200,000 in this docket item is consistent with the use of PEG Funds to support public, educational and governmental access cable television services.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Ruthanne Fuller

Mayor Ruthanne Fuller

NewTV PEG Support Summary FY17-FY22									
Year	Comcast Subs Amt.	Comcast PEG Support	Verizon Subs Amt.	Verizon PEG Support	RCN Subs Amt.	RCN PEG Support	NewTV 4% Share of PEG	Variance	Notes
FY17	12,115	\$642,606.07	11,865	\$650,368.38	3,219	\$134,104.75	\$1,442,163.20		n/a
FY18	12,045	\$664,094.11	11,266	\$626,539.71	3,102	\$133,564.86	\$1,438,566.68	-\$3,596.52	vs FY17
FY19	11,651	\$634,880.99	10,707	\$589,904.33	2,883	\$126,756.96	\$1,365,132.28	-\$73,434.40	vs FY18
FY20	11,230	\$624,771.05	10,032	\$573,587.56	2,350	\$115,312.72	\$1,326,053.33	-\$39,078.95	vs FY19
FY21	11,122	\$617,726.41	9,162	\$519,172.35	2,004	\$101,804.79	\$1,249,869.55	-\$76,183.78	vs FY20
Proj. FY22 @ 4%	10,858	\$606,547.21	8,110	\$469,246.82	508	\$52,715.52	\$1,137,127.55	-\$112,742.00	*vs FY21
Proj. FY22 @ 4.5%		\$682,365.60		\$527,902.65		\$59,304.96	\$1,269,573.21	\$19,703.66	*vs FY21
Proj. FY23 Cable Subs	10,293		6,894		127				

CITY OF NEWTON

IN CITY COUNCIL

DRAFT

ORDERED:

That, in accordance with the recommendation of the Finance Committee through its Chair Rebecca Walker Grossman, to distribute two hundred thousand dollars (\$200,000) from the PEG Access and Cable Related Funds to the Newton Communications Access Center, Inc (“NewTV”). These funds will be used by NewTV to maintain a high level of services, including governmental services here at City Hall, during this period of declining cable TV revenues be and is hereby approved as follows:

FROM:	FY22 Receipts Reserved for Appropriation-Fund Balance RCN Cable TV (5500-335516).....	\$200,000
TO:	FY22 Executive Consulting-PEG TV (0110320-530106).....	\$200,000

Under Suspension of Rules
Readings Waived and Approved
DRAFT

(SGD) NADIA H KHAN

Acting City Clerk

(SGD) RUTHANNE FULLER

Mayor

Date: _____