

*** 1a. Why does the department need the positions requested in this application?**

We are requesting 6 firefighter positions to finish staffing our second ladder truck for fire station 6. City A is a rapidly growing community. According to Nerdwallet.com City A is the second fastest growing economy in the United States. City A experienced 6% growth in 2014, and an 18% growth rate since 2009. This rapid growth has increased the burden on our ability to protect the community and our firefighters. A staffing needs analysis using Geographic Information Systems (GIS) study employing ArcView GIS software found that we do not meet compliance with existing national standards and federal health and safety regulations due to insufficient staffing. City A Fire Department (CAFD) only complied with the assembly sections of NFPA 1710, 57.45% of the time. With this grant funding that compliance rate will be increased to 66.43%. CAFD can only provide aerial coverage to 68.35 % of all roads covered currently within 8 minutes. This ladder truck will increase compliance to 80.25% of all roads covered.

CAFD is committed to firefighter safety. On February 15, 2013 the City B Fire Department (CBFD) suffered two line of duty deaths. As an automatic aide agency with CBFD it is important that we learn from that event. Two lessons learned were the need for adequate number of fire fighters on scene and the need for better mutual aid assemblies. (Both were recommendations in state and federal LODD reports). The NIOSH report addressed the need for appropriate levels of staffing while engaged in firefighting. "Recommendation #12: Fire departments should ensure that appropriate staffing levels are available on scene to accomplish fire ground tasks and be available for unexpected emergencies." The findings of the State Fire Marshall's LODD report point to a need for better mutual aid assemblies. "Recommendation 5a: Fire departments should ensure staffing levels are appropriate to perform critical tasks including staffing the command post with an aide to the IC. NFPA Standard 1710 identifies the minimum resources for an effective firefighting force to perform critical tasks. These tasks include water supply, deploying an initial attack line, ventilating, performing search and rescue and establishing a RIT." We need these grant positions for our fire fighter's safety. Both City B and City A Fire Departments are understaffed for the service area we protect. Following the recession, City A has seen unprecedented growth. With the growth the city's budget has been pulled in many different directions. This growth has not only increased our calls for service, but has put us in direct competition with other city departments for funding. Infrastructure increases are needed throughout our growing city. We work hard to ensure core services remain a priority, but the economic reality is that without this grant funding, filling these positions vital to the safety of our members, may be again delayed.

1b. How will the positions requested in this application be used within the department (i.e., 4th on engine, open a new station, eliminate browned out stations, reduce overtime (provide additional details as to how this will occur))?

The 6 firefighters requested through SAFER will be used to finish staffing our ladder truck at station 6. The station six project has been delayed multiple times since it was approved in 2008. The station was supposed to open with one ALS engine, one ALS ladder, one ALS Medic, one EMS/Safety Officer, and a second Battalion Chief. Due to the slowing economy this station was opened in December of 2012 with one ALS engine and one ALS Medic. The increase in firefighter positions will allow this station to operate our much needed second ladder. This ladder will have a minimum staffing of 4 firefighters. Overtime will be paid to ensure this staffing level. If this grant is funded station 6 will be able to respond to reported

fires with a full response of one engine, one ladder, and one medic. This will allow 9 firefighters out of this station if dispatched to a structure fire or other multi-company response. These positions will increase compliance with NFPA 1710 and OSHA 2 in 2 out.

1c. What are the specific benefits the positions requested in this application will provide to the department and community?

The additional firefighters will increase citizen and firefighter's safety. Currently the citizens that live and work in the University Drive corridor do not have protection provided by an aerial ladder within 8 minutes. The additional staffing will increase efficiency of our firefighters by dispersing workload and help to reduce injuries sustained on the fire ground. Recently CAFD responded to a working apartment fire in central City A. During this fire crews utilized not only CAFD's aerial master streams, but also utilized the City of City B Fire Department (CBFD) aerial master streams to suppress the fire. CBFD Truck 1 had a 12 minute response time to this fire. We estimate our second ladder could have arrived in less than 7 minutes. The benefit of these positions would not stop in City A. The new ladder will split the difference and make each ladder approximately 4 miles apart. There will be ladders at CAFD station 2 & 6 and CBFD station 1. All about 4 miles apart.

1d. Please describe how the awarding of this grant would enhance the departments ability to protect the critical infrastructure discussed in the Applicant Characteristics section of the application.

If this grant is funded we will better serve State University's main campus, and Football Field. Football Field is undergoing renovations. The additions are scheduled to be completed in August. Following those renovations will have a seating capacity of 100,000 and will host 7 home football games each year. The new ladder will provide elevated access to this target hazard. TAMU system and GlaxoSmithKilne received a federal contract to developed one of three new national centers focused on developing and manufacturing medicine and vaccines to respond to pandemic diseases and bioterrorism. This lab is 100,000 square feet and this ladder truck will be the closest ladder to protect this live virus lab. These firefighters will assist with any situation there. They also protect State University's nuclear reactor. Station 6 is where our hazmat equipment is housed and these firefighters will assist our hazmat techs with that program.

2a. How are the community and the current firefighters employed by the department at risk without the positions requested in this application?

Currently fire fighters are at risk during firefighting operations because we fail to meet national standards on staffing and assembly requirements. Our firefighters on the university dr. corridor are responding without the protection of an aerial ladder within 8 minutes. Due to this our fire fighters are required to work longer with less assistance from responding companies, thus increasing the possibility of work related injuries. Due to large number of multi-family dwellings located in our response area, we frequently have large scale apartment fires that require more than one ladder. Our automatic aide agreement with CBFD is vital for both cities. Our citizens in both cities are vulnerable to inescapability in

mid and high rise fires due to insufficient ladder coverage. Currently we only comply with the assembly requirements of 1710 57% of the time and we can only provide a ladder truck in 8 minutes to 68% of all roads covered in City A.

2b. How will that risk be reduced if awarded the positions requested in this application?

Currently fire fighters are at risk during firefighting operations because we fail to meet national standards on staffing and assembly requirements. Our firefighters on the university dr. corridor are responding without the protection of an aerial ladder within 8 minutes. Due to this our fire fighters are required to work longer with less assistance from responding companies, thus increasing the possibility of work related injuries. Due to large number of multi-family dwellings located in our response area, we frequently have large scale apartment fires that require more than one ladder. Our automatic aide agreement with Cbfd is vital for both cities. Our citizens in both cities are vulnerable to inescapability in mid and high rise fires due to insufficient ladder coverage. Currently we only comply with the assembly requirements of 1710 57% of the time and we can only provide a ladder truck in 8 minutes to 68% of all roads covered in City A.

2c. What impact will the positions requested in this application have on the departments NFPA compliance, if awarded?

The ladder positions requested in this grant will have a very positive impact on the department's ability to comply with NFPA standards. The additional ladder staff will increase the ability to have 15 firefighters assembled in 8 minutes. This will most noticeably be improved in northern City A, State A&M University, and southern sections of City B. City A Fire Department (CAFD) as currently staffed, only complied with the assembly sections of NFPA 1710, 57.45% of the time. With this grant funding that compliance rate will be increased to 66.43%. Furthermore, CAFD can only provide aerial coverage to 68.35 % of all roads covered currently within 8 minutes. The additional ladder truck will increase compliance to 80.25% of all roads covered. The ladder will also provide a second unit dispatched to fire and EMS calls when the engine at station 6 is on a call or out of district. This will increase the first unit on scene within 4 minutes compliance rate. The ladder will carry ALS medical equipment and trained EMT-Paramedics. This will again drive down the response time for ALS requirement in 1710, as station 6 is in a population dense environment and a second EMS call is a frequent event at that station.

Per NFPA 1710 units considered a quint can be considered as engine or ladder companies. The aerial ladder purchased, our reserve ladder, and the current ladder in service all have pumps and can operate as quints. This is important because when the engine at station six is on another call for service this ladder and the staff can initiate fire attack within 240 seconds.

3a. Please provide additional details on the departments operating budget, to include a breakdown of the budget, as indicated in Applicant Characteristics section of the application.

The City of City A general fund is where capital is budgeted for the fire department. As noted in the data section most of the capital revenue comes from ad valorem and sales tax. In FY 2014 the fire

department budget was \$13,532,961 with salaries and benefits 86% or \$11,596,260, supplies \$596,108 or 4%, maintenance \$227,049 or 2 %, purchased services 8% or \$1,113,544 and \$0 for capital outlay. City A increased taxes in 2015 and the fire department budget increased. We hired 4 positions out of 12 required to staff this ladder, one position for and Incident Safety Officer, a new Battalion Chief position over training and testing, and replaced ineffective and dangerous EMS equipment. We also provided cost of living adjustments to help ensure our current personnel, who we have used valuable department financial resources to train, would not move to other departments. Unlike other parts of the country State has a shortage of qualified firefighters and these increases were needed to remain competitive in order to hire and retain firefighters. These budget increases are in direct response to rapid growth and were required just to keep up with the extra demand for services. Fiscal Year 2015 (FY) the budget is \$15,079,831. Of this budget 82% or \$12,435,039 is budgeted for salaries and benefits. 4 % or \$646,887 is budgeted for supplies. 2 % or \$244,449 is budgeted for maintenance. Purchased services accounts for (Software contracts, maintenance on computers, monitor servicing)9% or \$1,368,257 and 3% or \$385,153 is budgeted for capital outlay. The above mentioned tax increase yielded 3 million dollars and virtually all of it was used for core service (Fire, EMS, and Police). The City Council will begin discussing tax rate soon but we expected another tax increase to help with funding additional city services. We are trying to ensure the best possible fire and EMS protection for our community and our firefighters as our city's population skyrockets.

3b. Please describe the department's budget shortfalls and the inability to address the financial needs without federal assistance.

The budget shortfall stems from the unprecedented growth of our community. As previously noted we are the second fastest growing economy in the county. While this growth is good for the long term for our city it has put a strain on the system. The revenue side of the budget has not been able to keep pace with the increases needed for staffing, apparatus purchasing, and station building. We are currently in need of another station on the south side of City A. The growth does not seem to be stopping and the fire department is in direct competition for every tax dollar that is paid. We are in competition with a police department that faces the same trouble with staffing. We are in constant competition with public works and utilities. Every city department is feeling the pressures of a rapidly growing city. A major problem is that new construction happening now will not have an impact on the tax roll for another year and the cumulative affects will now be known for some time.

3c. Please discuss other actions the department has taken to meet their staffing needs (i.e., state assistance programs, other grant programs, etc.).

CAFD has tried to meet our staffing needs by taking a staggered approach to hiring firefighters to complete the station 6 project. We hired 4 firefighters for the ladder in FY 2014. In 2015 we will hire 2 more positions. This will be a total of 6 positions the city has paid for. We have invested half the cost of the ladder staffing. We are asking for 6 from SAFER to give us all 12 positions. State does not offer grants to cover full time paid municipal firefighters. They do offer extensive grant opportunity to volunteer and county agencies but not to cities. Both management and labor have worked hard to ensure the city's leaders that the second ladder truck is very important to our firefighter's and citizen's safety. The program has the support of council but needs a one -time investment to ensure these positions are

funded before the support is lost for this project. This award will get us to the final level of staffing to complete the ladder and we can provide funding going forward.

4. Please describe the benefits (i.e., anticipated savings, efficiencies) the department and community will realize if awarded the positions requested in this application.

The benefit of these positions can be directly related to the health and safety of the citizens and firefighters of City B and City A. This ladder as previously mentioned will be servicing a large section of the City of City B. We estimate that an additional 18,500 citizens living in City B and 50,000* citizens in City A will have a 1710 compliance response. Furthermore we expect to see a marked reduction in property damage in multi-family apartment fires. The firefighters of both cities will have a more complete response assembly for multiple alarm incidents as noted in the CBFDD LODD reports. This ladder will make a safety net of ladder staffing. As previously noted this ladder will split the difference between the ladder at CFSD station 2 and CBFDD station 1 making each ladder about 4 miles apart. The city will be able to complete a project that is sustainable and these positions will become permanent firefighter positions without the need for additional federal funding.