

**CITY COUNCIL RESEARCH DIVISION  
LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY**



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**Bill Type and Number:** Ordinance 2020-0623

**Introducer/Sponsor(s):** Council President at the request of the Mayor

**Date of Introduction:** October 13, 2020

**Committee(s) of Reference:** F, NCSPHS

**Date of Analysis:** October 13, 2020

**Type of Action:** Appropriation of funds; authoring Administration to execute agreement; providing oversight

**Bill Summary:** The bill appropriates funds in the sum of \$14,240,160.00 to fund sixty (60) firefighter positions within the Jacksonville Fire and Rescue Department for the grant period beginning February 20, 2021 through February 19, 2024. The transfer of these funds will be as follows:

**From:**

**Subfund Title:** Fire & Rescue Grants  
**Grant Title:** FRFO SAFER Grant – Fire Control  
**Line Item:** US Dept of Homeland Security  
**Amount:** \$14,240,160.00

**To:**

**Subfund Title:** Fire & Rescue Grants  
**Grant Title:** FRFO SAFER Grant – Fire Control  
**Line Item:** (12 line items detailed on the attached Exhibit 1)  
**Total Amount:** \$14,240,160.00

The bill authorizes the Administration to execute and deliver the agreement. Oversight for the program will be provided by the Jacksonville Fire and Rescue Department (JFRD), Emergency Preparedness Division.

**Background Information:** The Jacksonville Fire & Rescue Department (JFRD) has been awarded the FEMA FY19 Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency (SAFER) Grant. The application was submitted requesting funding for 60 new firefighter positions. The SAFER program intends to improve local fire departments' staffing and deployment capabilities, so they more effectively respond to emergencies. The funding awarded for 60 firefighter positions is critical to the operations of the JFRD and will allow adequate staffing to maintain National Fire Protection Agency (NFPA) 1710 compliance. The 60 firefighter positions will add one firefighter to 20 engine companies across all three shifts (A, B, C shifts). The department will then have 59% of JFRD engine companies responding with four personnel. This is a 26% increase in four personnel engine companies and NFPA 1710 compliance. The addition of a 4th firefighter to an engine company decreases the time needed to assemble four firefighters at the scene of an emergency (2in-2out rule) and allow for quicker and safer initiation of firefighting operations. A 4th person also allows for enhance treatment and care of critical patients that are located at critical infrastructure sites. The grant will cover all salaries and benefits of a Firefighter as provided in the grant application and award. Benefits covered include FLSA overtime, Health, Dental, Life Insurance, Pension benefits, and clothing allowance, holiday/leave sellback, etc.

**Policy Impact Area:** Public health and safety, JFRD

**Fiscal Impact:** The funding is being funded by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) / FEMA to JFRD to be used for the salaries and related expenses for sixty (60) new firefighter positions. There is no City match required. The period of performance is February 20, 2021 to February 19, 2024. There will be ongoing maintenance and staffing obligations.

**Analyst:** Baltiero