

## System for Award Management (SAM.gov) profile

Please identify your organization to be associated with this application.

All organization information in this section will come from the System for Award Management (SAM) profile for that organization.

### CITY OF NORTH PORT

Information current from SAM.gov as of:	<b>04/02/2023</b>
UEI-EFT:	<b>Z9MLXPDL2AM3</b>
DUNS (includes DUNS+4):	<b>039567821</b>
Employer Identification Number (EIN):	<b>596072227</b>
Organization legal name:	<b>CITY OF NORTH PORT</b>
Organization (doing business as) name:	
Mailing address:	<b>CITY OF NORTH PORT 4970 CITY HALL BLVD. NORTH PORT, FL 34286-4100</b>
Physical address:	<b>4970 CITY HALL BLVD NORTH PORT, FL 34286-4100</b>
Is your organization delinquent on any federal debt?	<b>N</b>
SAM.gov registration status:	<b>Active as of 02/15/2023</b>

We have reviewed our bank account information on our SAM.gov profile to ensure it is up to date

## Applicant information

Please provide the following additional information about the department or organization applying for this grant.

Applicant Name (i.e., fire department or organization name)

**City of North Port**

## Main address of location impacted by this grant

Main address 1 **4970 City Hall Blvd**

Main address 2

City **North Port**

State/territory **FL**

Zip code **34286**

Zip extension **4100**

In what county/parish is your organization physically located? If you have more than one station, in what county/parish is your main station located? **Sarasota**

## Applicant characteristics

The SAFER (Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response) program intends to improve or restore local fire departments' staffing and deployment capabilities so they may more effectively respond to emergencies. With the restored or enhanced staffing, grantees should see a reduction in response times and an increase in the number of trained personnel assembled at the incident scene. Grant funds are available in two activities: Hiring Firefighters and Recruitment and Retention of Volunteer Firefighters. Please review the Notice of Funding Opportunity for information on available program areas and for more information on the evaluation process and conditions of award.

Please provide the following additional information about the applicant.

Applicant type **Fire Department/Fire District**

What kind of organization do you represent? **All Paid/Career**

Which activity are you applying for? **Hiring of Firefighters**

## Operating budget

What was your department's operating budget (e.g., personnel, maintenance of apparatus, equipment, facilities, utility costs, purchasing expendable items, etc.) related to fire-related programs and emergency response for the current (at time of application) fiscal year, as well as the previous three fiscal years?

Current Fiscal Year (i.e., 2021)

**2023**

Fiscal Year	Operating budget
2023	\$26,769,830.00
2022	\$24,987,290.00
2021	\$21,591,300.00
2020	\$19,929,880.00

What percentage of the declared operating budget is dedicated to personnel costs (salary, benefits, overtime costs, etc.)?

**74**

Does your department have any rainy day reserves, emergency funds, or capital outlay?

**Yes**

What is the total amount currently set aside?

**6209584.50**

Describe the planned purpose of this fund.

**20% of operating expenditures is for the Emergency and Disaster Reserve for non-routine and unforeseen disaster situations, including hurricanes, other natural disasters, and events that cause disruptions to public services. Up to 10% is for Economic**

**Stabilization reserved for short-term cash flow purposes, such as unanticipated expenditures, increases in service delivery costs, or economic conditions which negatively impact revenues.**

<b>What percentage of the declared operating budget is derived from the following</b>	<b>2023</b>
Taxes	1
Bond issues	0
EMS billing	10
Grants	1
Donations	0
Fund drives	0
Fee for service	57
Other	31
<b>Total</b>	<b>100 %</b>

Please explain the "Other" portion of the declared operating budget.

**Other refers to use of General Fund millage, investment income, firefighter supplemental income and fund balance.**

Describe your financial need to include descriptions of the following:

- Income vs. expense breakdown of the current annual budget

**Fire Department revenues total \$17,910,520. This total is largely made up of Fire Protection property assessments and EMS billing. Our expenses total \$26,769,830. 74% of our expenditures are personnel costs, such as salaries, benefits and overtime. The deficit**

- Budget shortfalls and the inability to address financial needs without federal assistance
- Actions taken to obtain funding elsewhere (i.e. state assistance programs or other grant programs)
- How your critical functions are affected without this funding

**is made up by reserve funds. Between 2010 and 2020, the City of North Port experienced population growth of 40%, and our population continues to grow rapidly. Since 2000, the population has grown by 244%. Total fire calls have increased by 22% since 2020. The total acreage of all vegetation fires has increased by 60% since 2021, and in 2020, we faced a particularly difficult year, with over 5000 acres OF vegetation fires. Prior to 2020, the average total acreage was 179 per year, making 2022 37% higher than average. Total rescue and emergency medical service incidents have increased over 100% since 2020. Overall, the total number of responses per year are up 40% since 2020. An impact fee study completed in 2011 recommended specific rate levels for emergency services. The city adopted these rates at 50% of the levels recommended. As a result, we now are in the process of adjusting and correcting shortfalls in the rates in order to deal with the exponential population growth. North Port is predominantly residential properties and vacant land. There are corridors which provide some commercial growth, but these are far surpassed by areas experiencing residential growth. The primary tax burden thus falls on citizen taxpayers, leaving little room to increase rates based on sales taxes or other forms of tax revenue. As a result, there is substantial funding pressure on fire and rescue services. This creates unique challenges if we are to maintain service levels that keep pace with growth. All available funding is currently being used to maintain current service and performance levels, with no funding available to increase services in order to meet increased demand. The positions will also allow us to maintain 1710 NFPA minimum standards and an ISO rating of 1.**

## Other funding sources

This fiscal year, are you receiving Federal funding from any other grant program for the same purpose for which you are applying for this grant?

**No**

This fiscal year, are you receiving Federal funding from any other grant program regardless of purpose? **No**

## Applicant and community trends

Please provide the following additional information about the applicant.

Injuries and fatalities	2022	2021	2020
What is the total number of fire-related civilian fatalities in your jurisdiction over the last three calendar years?	0	1	0
What is the total number of fire-related civilian injuries in your jurisdiction over the last three calendar years?	3	3	5
What is the total number of line of duty member fatalities in your jurisdiction over the last three calendar years?	0	0	5
What is the total number of line of duty member injuries in your jurisdiction over the last three calendar years?	0	0	21
What is the total number of members with self-inflicted fatalities over the last three years?	0	0	0

How many frontline vehicles does your organization have in each of the types or classes of vehicle listed below that respond to first alarm assignments in support of NFPA 1710/1720? You must include vehicles that are leased or on long-term loan as well as any vehicles that have been ordered or otherwise currently under contract for purchase or lease by your organization but not yet in your possession.



### Filled riding positions

The number of filled riding positions must be equal or less than the number of frontline apparatus multiplied by the number of available riding positions.

Type or class of vehicles	Number of frontline apparatus	Number of available riding positions	Number of filled riding positions
Engines or pumpers (pumping capacity of 750 gallons per minute (GPM) or greater and water capacity of 300 gallons or more): pumper, pumper/tanker, rescue/pumper, foam pumper, CAFS pumper, type I, type II engine urban interface.	3	12	9
Ambulances for transport and/or emergency response.	6	12	12
Tankers or tenders (water capacity of 1,000 gallons or more).	1	2	1
Aerial apparatus: aerial ladder truck, telescoping, articulating, ladder towers, platform, tiller ladder truck, quint.	3	12	9
Brush/quick attack (pumping capacity of less than 750 GPM and water carrying capacity of at least 300 gallons): brush truck, patrol unit (pickup w/ skid unit), quick attack unit, mini-pumper, type III engine, type IV engine, type V engine, type VI engine, type VII engine.	6	6	0
Rescue vehicles: rescue squad, rescue (light, medium, heavy), technical rescue vehicle, hazardous materials unit.	1	4	0
Additional vehicles: EMS chase vehicle, air/light unit, rehab units, bomb unit, technical support (command, operational support/supply), hose tender, salvage truck, ARFF (aircraft rescue firefighting), command/mobile communications vehicle.	2	2	2

Is your department facing a new risk, expanding service to a new area, or experiencing an increased call volume?

**Yes**

Please explain how your department is facing a new risk, expanding service to a new area, or experiencing an increased call volume.

**North Port is a large land area city, with six fire stations to protect and serve over 104 square miles. The city's population has increased by 244% since 2000, placing increased demands on response services. Growth in the past 21 years has not been isolated to concentrated population areas but has been sprawling, creating service gaps of undeveloped land and low-density areas of**

**residential structures. With increased growth, the department has seen a steady increase in call volume and response time. Total fire calls have increased by 22% since 2020. The total acreage of all vegetation fires has increased by 60% since 2021, and in 2020, we faced a particularly difficult year, with over 5000 acres of vegetation fires. Prior to 2020, the average total acreage was 179 per year, making 2022 37% higher than average. Total rescue and emergency medical service incidents have increased over 100% since 2020. Overall responses are up 40% since 2020. More tourist attractions, critical care facilities and commercial businesses are being constructed--all of which will increase calls further and place further increased demand on response from the six fire stations. The positions will also allow us to maintain 1710 NFPA minimum standards and an ISO rating of 1.**

## Community description

Please provide the following additional information about the community your organization serves.

Type of jurisdiction served	<b>City</b>
What type of community does your organization serve?	<b>Urban</b>
What is the square mileage of your first due response zone/jurisdiction served?	<b>104</b>
What percentage of your primary response area is protected by hydrants?	<b>33</b>

<b>What percentage of your primary response area is for the following:</b>	<b>Percentage (must sum to 100%)</b>
Agriculture, wildland, open space, or undeveloped properties	70



What percentage of your primary response area is for the following:	Percentage (must sum to 100%)
Commercial and industrial purposes	2
Residential purposes	28
<b>Total</b>	100

What is the permanent resident population of your first due response zone/jurisdiction served? **81000**

Do you have a seasonal increase in population? **Yes**

What is your seasonal increase in population (number of people)? **10000**

Please describe your organization and/or community that you serve.

**North Port, Florida, is located approximately twelve miles east of the Gulf of Mexico. We are positioned on the southwest coast of Florida, in the southernmost part of Sarasota County, which is bordered on the south by Charlotte County, on the east by Desoto County and on the north by Manatee County. North Port is a bedroom community and one of the fastest growing cities in the State of Florida. The city is also one of the largest and most expansive land-mass cities in the state, at approximately 104 square miles. North Port is the most populated city within Sarasota and Manatee Counties, with a current population of over 80,000 full time residents and 10,000 seasonal residents between October and May. North Port is a considerably new city. The North Port Fire Rescue department was formed in 1961, two years after the City was incorporated. The department started as a volunteer organization. It transitioned into a paid department in 1983 following the development of a tax district charging non ad-valorem rates to all property owners. The department has held a Public Protection Classification Rating of 1/1Y since 2014. The department**

has 6 fire stations and 129 active firefighters/EMTs/paramedics providing structure fire suppression, basic life support, wildland fire suppression, advanced life support, EMS, and a rescue technical level program. All staff are trained to the level of firefighter II and all are EMTs or paramedics. We have interlocal and mutual aid agreements, providing services to portions of unincorporated Sarasota and Charlotte County. The Mission Statement of the department is to “Provide Exceptional Public Safety Services in a Safe, Compassionate and Professional Manner.”

## Call volume

### Summary

Summary of responses per year by category. Enter whole numbers only. If you have no calls for any of the categories, enter 0.

Summary of responses per year per category	2022	2021	2020
Fire - NFIRS Series 100	429	217	241
Overpressure Rupture, Explosion, Overheat (No Fire) - NFIRS Series 200	6	3	4
Rescue & Emergency Medical Service Incident - NFIRS Series 300	10092	9679	7274
Hazardous Condition (No Fire) - NFIRS Series 400	307	184	153
Service Call - NFIRS Series 500	1578	1267	1226
Good Intent Call - NFIRS Series 600	964	897	819
False Alarm & Falls Call - NFIRS Series 700	666	529	456

<b>Summary of responses per year per category</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
Severe Weather & Natural Disaster - NFIRS Series 800	180	8	8
Special Incident Type - NFIRS Series 900	1	0	1
Total	14223	12784	10182

## Fire

How many responses per year by category? Enter whole numbers only. If you have no calls for any of the categories, enter 0.

<b>How many responses per year per category?</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
"Structure Fire" (Of the NFIRS Series 100 calls, NFIRS Codes 111-120)	48	43	47
"Vehicle Fire" (Of the NFIRS Series 100 calls, NFIRS Codes 130-138)	31	38	37
"Vegetation Fire" (Of the NFIRS Series 100 calls, NFIRS Codes 140-143)	166	136	117
Total	245	217	201

What is the total acreage of all vegetation fires? Enter whole numbers only. If you have no vegetation fires, enter 0.

<b>Total acreage per year</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
Total acreage of all vegetation fires	545	338	5126

## Rescue and emergency medical service incidents

<b>How many responses per year per category?</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
"Motor Vehicle Accidents" (Of the NFIRS Series 300 calls, NFIRS Codes 322-324)	615	593	499
"Extrications from Vehicles" (Of the NFIRS Series 300 calls, NFIRS Code 352)	50	46	7
"Rescues" (Of the NFIRS Series 300 calls, NFIRS Code 300, 351, 353-381)	33	9	40
EMS-BLS Response Calls	5701	5349	1388
EMS-ALS Response Calls	4391	4330	4565
EMS-BLS Scheduled Transports	2056	2020	0
EMS-ALS Scheduled Transports	4368	4290	0
Community Paramedic Response Calls	0	0	0
Total	17214	16637	6499

## Mutual and automatic aid

How many responses per year by category? Enter whole numbers only. If you have no calls for any of the categories, enter 0.

<b>How many responses per year per category?</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
Amount of times the organization received Mutual Aid	160	65	176
Amount of times the organization received Automatic Aid	0	0	5
Amount of times the organization provided Mutual Aid	635	1130	378

How many responses per year per category?	2022	2021	2020
Amount of times the organization provided Automatic Aid	0	0	20
Of the Mutual and Automatic Aid responses, amount that were structure fires	7	3	18
Total	802	1198	597

## Grant request details



### Instructions

You can add the positions you are requesting by using the add buttons below. Include all positions in a single item. Please answer all the questions for the overall Hiring activity as well as the required information for the requested positions.

**Grand total: \$3,574,740.96**

### Program area: Hiring of firefighters

<p>▼</p> <p><b>Activity: Hiring of Firefighters</b></p>	<p><b>\$3,574,740.96</b></p>
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## Hiring of Firefighters activity questions

### Staffing levels

SAFER intends to restore or improve local fire departments' staffing and deployment capabilities so they may more effectively respond to emergencies. With the enhanced staffing, a SAFER grant recipient's response time will be reduced sufficiently and an appropriate number of trained personnel will be assembled at the incident scene.

The following questions are designed to help us understand the staffing changes that have occurred in your department over the past several years and how the grant will assist in restoring or improving your staffing levels. The information provided must be a true and accurate depiction of your department on the timelines listed below.

For more information regarding these standards please see the Notice of Funding Opportunity or go to [www.nfpa.org/freeaccess](http://www.nfpa.org/freeaccess)

Select the item that best describes the NFPA standard **1710 - with aerial** your department is attempting to meet:

What is the department's current (at the start of the application period) budgeted operational staffing level? Include all budgeted positions, even if they are not currently filled.

Current budgeted operational staffing level **117**

How many budgeted, but vacant operational positions **0** does your department have at the start of the application period?

Please enter information about your organization's staffing levels in the table [below](#) .

Staffing levels	Total number of operational career personnel	Number of operational career officers	Number of NFPA support
Staffing levels at the start of the application period	117	24	117

Staffing levels	Total number of operational career personnel	Number of operational career officers	Number of NFPA support
Staffing levels at one year prior to the start of the application period	111	21	111
Staffing levels at two years prior to the start of the application period	111	21	111
If awarded this grant, what will the staffing levels be in your department?	129	24	129

Please provide details on the department's existing staffing model to include the number of shifts, number of positions per shift, chief level officer staffing per shift (i.e., Battalion Chief, District Chief, etc.), and contracted shift hours per week/pay period. If the contracted shift hours included FLSA overtime or Kelly Days, please be sure to include details.

**The department operates three shifts on a 24/48-hour schedule. At the time of application, there are 37 personnel assigned per shift, with one District Chief per shift. Personnel work 2,920 scheduled hours per year.**

Does your department utilize part-time or reserve paid firefighters? **No**

### Hiring of firefighters

Please provide the following additional information regarding your fire department.

### Based on current staffing levels:

If your department utilizes overtime to fill positions to ensure you are meeting applicable NFPA staffing and deployment standards, you should remove the number of positions filled by overtime from your calculations.

How often does your department meet the NFPA assembly requirements as indicated in the table above for the department's first due response zone/jurisdiction served? **Half of the time (40 to 59%)**

What is the average actual staffing level on your first arriving engine company or vehicle capable of initiating suppression activities on the number of structure fires indicated in the department call volume section of your application? **3**

Do you provide NFPA 1582 annual medical/physical exams? **Yes**

**If awarded the number of positions requested in this application:**

How often do you anticipate that your department will meet the NFPA assembly requirements as indicated in the table above? **Most of the time (80 to 99%)**

What will be the average actual staffing level on your first arriving engine company or vehicle capable of initiating suppression activities on the number of structure fires indicated in the department call volume section of your application? **3**

Will you provide the new hires with NFPA 1582 entry-level physicals? **Yes**

Will the personnel hired meet the minimum EMS training and certification as required by your Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ)? **Yes**

Is it your department's intent to sustain the awarded positions after the completion of the period of **Yes**



performance?

Please provide a brief description on how the positions will be sustained.

**In conjunction with our City Commission and financial consultant, we are working to grow and balance assessment fees and property taxes to sustain the additional personnel long term. Based on financial projections from our consultant study, we expect revenues to start balancing with community growth within the three-year grant period, insuring that the department is able to absorb the positions in the fourth year.**

Describe the department's step-by-step hiring process (application period, written test, physical, approval) and the timeline for each step.

**Once a hiring requisition is approved by Human Resources, we will post the position for two weeks. To be eligible to apply, the candidate must complete the National Testing Network (NTN) Candidate Physical Agility Test (CPAT), Video test, Mechanical Aptitude test, Math Test, Reading Test, and the Work Attitude Questionnaire. Those scores are submitted to Human Resources via NTN along with an application. After Human Resources receives the scores and eligibility from NTN, the scores are calculated to the Optimized Validity score. The 20 applicants with the highest scores are sent reference request forms and invited to the skills ability test held at Station 82. The test is a pass/fail completion with a maximum time of 12 minutes for the tested skills. If all 20 applicants pass, their completion times will move them to the interview process. We invite 16 applicants to a panel interview composed of a rank and file member from each rank (Apprentice through Lieutenant). The panel interview is followed by a Fire Chief's interview. Both interviews are scored and combined to form a ranking list. Offers are made by Human Resources based on the list. Our hiring list is valid for 12**

months before expiration. When conditional offers are made, new hires undergo LifeScan medical physicals and background checks. The LifeScan physicals are performed annually and are consistent with those required under NFPA 1582 Chapter 6, Medical Evaluations of Candidates 6.1 and Chapter 9, Essential Job Tasks— Specific Evaluation of Medical Conditions in Members. Upon successful completion, a start date of no less than two weeks is set to allow for new hires to provide a two-week notice to their current employer. The entire hiring process takes approximately 12 weeks.

How many recruits can be trained in one academy class?

0

How long after award will the department be able to start a recruit class?

**North Port Fire Rescue does not hold recruit classes, but we provide orientation to new hires when there are vacancies. New hires have already been through a recruit class and thus are already certified. Immediately after the award contract is fully executed, the hiring process is initiated. The hiring process takes about 12 weeks to complete. Orientation begins immediately following hiring.**

How often are your recruit classes held?

**North Port Fire Rescue does not hold recruit classes, but we provide orientation to new hires when we have vacancies. New hires have already been through a recruit class and thus are already certified.**

Does the department need governing body approval to accept and implement the award?

**Yes**

Provide details on the timeline needed to accept the grant award.

**Approximately 30-60 days are needed to allow for legal review and contract execution.**

Is your request for hiring firefighters based on a risk analysis, staffing needs analysis, or an Insurance Services Office (ISO) rating?

**Yes**

Describe how the analysis was conducted and the outcome of the analysis or ISO rating.

**North Port Fire Rescue conducted an internal staffing needs analysis to look for potential effects of growth in fringe areas of the city and decreased unit availability. A heavy factor in ISO's rating schedule is the deployment analysis and the ability to place a first-due unit on scene within 320 seconds and a full first alarm assignment within 560 seconds. With higher unit-hour utilization rates, increasingly, it is the case that in-zone units are unavailable on assigned calls and out-of-zone units are taking longer to respond from further and further distances. Credit for company personnel is another heavily weighted factor for our ISO rating, which reviews the average number of existing firefighters and company officers available to respond to first-alarm fires. North Port Fire Rescue has determined that although we scored an ISO 1 in 2019, if we do not increase our staffing, we are at high-risk risk for dropping to a lower public protection classification.**

Does your department currently have a policy in place to recruit and hire veterans?

**Yes**

Please provide a brief description of the policy in place.

**The city grants preference to the following classes of veterans: 1) disabled veterans who have served on active duty in any branch of the Armed Forces and who presently have an existing service-connected disability compensable under public laws administered by the VA; 2) disabled veterans who are receiving compensation, disability retirement benefits, or a pension by reason of**

**public laws administered by the Department of Defense; 3) a spouse of a veteran; 4) a veteran of any war, who has served at least one day during that war time or who has been awarded a campaign or expeditionary medal; 5) unremarried widow or widower of a veteran who died of a service-connected disability; 6) the mother, father, legal guardian, or unremarried widow or widower of a service member who died as a result of military service under combat-related conditions; 7) a veteran discharged under honorable conditions; 8) a current member of any reserve component of the US Armed Forces or FL National Guard.**

## **Narrative statements**

The narrative statements must provide all the information necessary for you to justify your needs and for FEMA to make an award decision. A panel of peer reviewers will perform the second phase of the applications' evaluations by using the narrative statements below to determine the worthiness of the request for an award.

Please ensure that your narrative clearly addresses each of the following evaluation criteria elements to the best of your ability with detailed but concise information. Provide only the information being requested for each element; if you provided information pertaining to the narrative elements elsewhere in the application you must still include it below. Failure to provide the information being requested may result in a lower score or the application not being funded.

## **Project description**

Why does the department need the positions requested in this application?

**The City of North Port needs the additional 12 positions to provide the community with adequate fire protection from fire and fire-related hazards. The positions will also allow us to maintain 1710 NFPA minimum standards and an ISO rating of 1. North Port Fire Rescue's mission is to provide exceptional public safety services in a safe,**

**compassionate, and professional manner, and these positions will ensure fulfillment of this mission. That our rapidly increasing population has resulted in increased call volume is evident, and this increase is placing greater and greater demands on our response performance. The new positions will help to mitigate these demands. As stated earlier, North Port Fire Rescue conducted an internal staffing needs analysis to look for potential effects of growth in fringe areas of the city and decreased unit availability. A heavy factor in ISO's rating schedule is the deployment analysis and the ability to place a first-due unit on scene within 320 seconds and a full first-alarm assignment within 560 seconds. With increasing unit-hour utilization rates, we are feeling the effects of in-zone units being unavailable on assigned calls and out-of-zone units taking longer to respond from further distances. Credit for company personnel is another heavily weighted factor for our ISO rating, which reviews the average number of existing firefighters and company officers available to respond to first-alarm fires. North Port Fire Rescue has determined that although we scored an ISO 1 in 2019, if we do not increase our staffing, we are at high-risk risk for dropping to a lower public protection classification.**

How will the positions requested in this application be used within the department? (e.g., 4th on engine, open a new station, eliminate browned out stations, reduce overtime)?

**The positions requested will serve many applications within the fire department. We are planning to open an additional fire station soon, and we are proactively planning for the staffing needs for our expanding service area. If awarded this grant, our plan is to onboard 12 positions at one time. The immediate application will be to staff our existing units with these additional**

What specific services will the requested positions provide to the fire department and community?

**personnel in order to properly onboard and orient each new employee and also to increase our effective response force as listed in NFPA 1710. After the three-year grant period, these positions will permit the proper staffing of the additional station.**

Describe how funds awarded through this grant would enhance the department's ability to protect critical infrastructure within the primary response area.

**The specific services will be to enhance daily staffing for the immediate grant period as well as to enhance our capability of meeting NFPA assembly requirements. Safe operation on an emergency scene is part of the core of our mission. Adding additional staffing to each response translates to a safer work environment, strengthening service delivery and the safety of our community and staff.**

**North Port Fire Rescue is the primary emergency response provider to 3.6 miles of US 41, which links Tampa to Miami and is a State of Florida Designated Hurricane Evacuation Route. This section of US 41 is also utilized as a detour when there are serious incidents on the 15-mile stretch of I-75 between Toledo Blade and River Road. Two US 41 bridges cross over the tidal Myakka River and a nearby tributary. The Myakka River is an Outstanding Florida Water and hazardous situations can create negative environmental impacts if not responded to in a timely manner. Electrical transmission lines, communication towers, a water utility booster station, water treatment plant, million-gallon water storage tank (using anhydrous ammonia as a disinfectant) and a wastewater plant are also protected by the assigned station. The continued pressure to staff future stations sufficiently will place service demands on other North Port Fire Rescue**

**stations, affecting our ability to achieve positive outcomes in regard to the safety of life and property. For example, the North Port Fire Department experienced a severe and significant impact to response times during the immediate aftermath of Hurricane Ian. From the date of impact on 9/28/2022 until 10/11/2022 at 1900 hours (when response times returned to normal), the average time required for a unit to arrive on scene increased by 48%, going from 5.24 minutes to 7.75 minutes. The average time required for a unit to leave the scene and arrive at their destination increased by 30%, going from 17.82 minutes to 23.09 minutes. This effect on response times and transport caused by the damage from Hurricane Ian and its aftermath as a result of the limits of our current staffing capabilities had a profound fiduciary and human impact on operations, not to mention an impact on the safety and wellbeing of North Port residents. The hiring of 12 additional firefighters will reduce death, injury and property damage at these critical facilities and protect them from injuries, fire, and fire related injuries. The positions will also allow us to maintain 1710 NFPA minimum standards and an ISO rating of 1.**

## **Impact on daily operations**

Explain how the community and the current firefighters employed by the department are at risk without the positions requested in this application.

**North Port citizens and current Fire Rescue staff are at risk without these requested positions due to the scarcity of available and response-ready resources as a result of exponential growth in population and call volume. The increased number of calls requires the utilization of more resources than ever before, and North Port Fire Rescue is seeing a dramatic increase in unit hour**

**utilization for all response apparatus. This translates to extended response times, which in turn has a direct negative impact on our community. Rapid response is crucial for positive outcomes to both medical and trauma incidents. Delayed response times to a fire means greater spread of fire, greater property loss and greater loss of life if someone is trapped and there is a delay in effective response-force arrival. For EMS, delays result in a failure to provide ALS-level care within timeframes established by NFPA1710 and current standards of care. The risks to our firefighters include more and more critical and dangerous tasks with reduced or delayed assistance from second- or third-due apparatus. These delays can cause first-arriving firefighters to be assigned multiple responsibilities and to perform multiple tasks for extended periods of time, leading to unsafe practices, fatigue, and injury.**

How will that risk be reduced if awarded?

**These recognized risks will be reduced by immediately increasing the number of highly trained firefighters on first-arriving apparatus, compensating for the fact that additional incoming apparatus may experience delays due to staffing and call demand from secondary response zones within a rather large 104 square mile city. Risk will continue to be mitigated as new stations are placed into service. The new station will improve response times and place more personnel on emergency scenes in the areas of the city experiencing rapid growth. The hiring of 12 additional firefighters will reduce injuries to citizens and firefighters as well as decreasing risk of property damage. The positions will also allow**



**us to increase unit availability and maintain 1710 NFPA minimum standards and an ISO rating of 1.**

## **Cost benefit**

Describe the benefits (e.g., quantifying the anticipated savings and/or efficiencies) the department and community will realize if awarded the positions requested in this application.

**If awarded the SAFER grant, the financial benefits to our citizens will be significant. This award would significantly reduce the financial impact of hiring the additional staff vitally needed by deferring the cost of such for three full years. The \$3,574,740.96 request, over a three-year period, would allow North Port Fire Rescue to financially prepare for the future without sacrificing the safety and wellbeing of the citizens we serve today. It will also protect our firefighters today by immediately and powerfully mitigating our current staffing needs. The cost of saving lives is priceless. In addition to the financial savings, we feel strongly that these positions are critical to maintaining our ISO 1 rating. We have experienced more growth and urban sprawl than nearly any other municipality in Florida. ISO has a direct effect on insurance rates paid by businesses and residents. Our commitment to maintaining the lowest possible insurance rating may be affected if we are unable to maintain the staffing needed to keep response times low, unit availability high, and to get the necessary number of staff and apparatus to our calls.**

## **Additional information**

If you have any additional information you would like to include about the department and/or this application in general, please provide below.

**The professionalism, commitment, dedication and skill of the operational staff of North Port Fire Rescue has resulted in an under-resourced Fire District doing more with less. Our response times**

have remained optimal throughout our period of exponential growth. And we are a regional leader in meeting the needs of our citizens. The SAFER grant would allow us to "bridge the gap" from our current level of service to a future where we catch up with the demands that our staff have handled thus far with outstanding esprit de corps and performance levels, thus insuring that the City, its citizens, and its Fire Rescue personnel are safe and protected.

## Position



**Position: New, Additional Firefighter(s)**

**\$3,574,740.96**

What benefits are included in the annual benefits amount? You must provide details on the dollar amounts or percentages for each benefit being provided (health costs (family, employee only, employee plus one), dental, vision, FICA, life insurance, retirement/pension, etc.). Note: Failure to provide this information may results in reductions to the requested amounts.

### **Benefits funded**

FICA is 7.65% and Retirement is 27.00%. Health care is broken down as follows; Health \$10,617.24 per year; Dental \$465.14 per year; Vision \$47.84 per year; Life \$286.52 per year

How many full-time firefighter positions are you requesting? "Full-time" is considered 2,080 hours or more worked per year.

### **Number of firefighters**

12

What are the anticipated annual costs per position, per year? Annual costs include the base salary (exclusive of non-FLSA overtime) and the standard benefits package (including the average health cost, dental, vision, FICA, life insurance, retirement/pension, etc.) offered by the fire department. To get the “average” health care costs, average the annual cost among various health insurance plans offered (i.e., self only, family, etc). Do not use figures that assume all employees will select self or family coverage.

<b>Year</b>	<b>Annual Salary</b>	<b>Annual Benefits</b>	<b>Total per firefighter</b>
1	61699.32	32795.55	\$94,494.87
<b>Year</b>	<b>Annual Salary</b>	<b>Annual Benefits</b>	<b>Total per firefighter</b>
2	64784.29	34435.33	\$99,219.62
<b>Year</b>	<b>Annual Salary</b>	<b>Annual Benefits</b>	<b>Total per firefighter</b>
3	68023.50	36157.09	\$104,180.59
3 YEAR TOTAL	\$3,574,740.96		

## Grant request summary

Is your proposed project limited to one or more of the [following activities](#) ⓘ : Planning and development of policies or processes. Management, administrative, or personnel actions. Classroom-based training. Acquisition of mobile and portable equipment (not involving installation) on or in a building.

**Yes**

# Budget summary

## Budget summary

Object class categories	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total
Personnel	\$740,391.84	\$777,411.48	\$816,282.00	\$2,334,085.32
Fringe benefits	\$393,546.60	\$413,223.96	\$433,885.08	\$1,240,655.64
Travel	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Equipment	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Supplies	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Contractual	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Construction	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Other	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Total direct charges</b>	\$1,133,938.44	\$1,190,635.44	\$1,250,167.08	\$3,574,740.96
Indirect charges	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	\$1,133,938.44	\$1,190,635.44	\$1,250,167.08	\$3,574,740.96
<b>Non-federal resources</b>				
Applicant				\$0.00
State				\$0.00
Other sources				\$0.00

Object class categories	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total
Remarks				
<b>Total Federal and Non-federal resources</b>				
Federal resources	\$1,133,938.44	\$1,190,635.44	\$1,250,167.08	\$3,574,740.96
Non-federal resources	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	\$1,133,938.44	\$1,190,635.44	\$1,250,167.08	\$3,574,740.96
Program income				\$0.00

## Contact information

Did any individual or organization assist with the development, preparation, or review of the application to include drafting or writing the narrative and budget, whether that person, entity, or agent is compensated or not and whether the assistance took place prior to submitting the application?

**Yes**

### Application participants

Please add all individuals or organizations who assisted with the application.

Include all individuals or organizations who assisted with the development, preparation, or review of the application to include drafting or writing the narrative and budget, whether that person, entity, or agent is compensated or not and whether the assistance took place prior to submitting the application or not.

<b>Michael J Davey</b>  <a href="mailto:mdavey@northportfl.gov">mdavey@northportfl.gov</a>	<b>Primary phone</b> 9414684644 Mobile  <b>Fax</b>	<b>Mailing address</b> 4970 City Hall Blvd North Port FL 34286
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## Secondary point of contact

Please provide a secondary point of contact for this grant.

The Authorized Organization Representative (AOR) who submits the application will be identified as the primary point of contact for the grant. Please provide one secondary point of contact for this grant below. The secondary contact can be members of the fire department or organizations applying for the grant that will see the grant through completion, are familiar with the grant application, and have the authority to make decisions on and to act upon this grant application. The secondary point of contact can also be an individual who assisted with the development, preparation, or review of the application.

<b>MR Nicholas Herlihy</b> Deputy Fire Chief  <a href="mailto:nherlihy@northportfl.gov">nherlihy@northportfl.gov</a>	<b>Primary phone</b> 9412408160 Work  <b>Fax</b>	<b>Additional phones</b> 9412536275 Mobile
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## Assurance and certifications

## SF-424B: Assurances - Non-Construction Programs

OMB Number: 4040-0007

Expiration Date: 02/28/2022

Certain of these assurances may not be applicable to your project or program. If you have any questions, please contact the awarding agency. Further, certain Federal awarding agencies may require applicants to certify to additional assurances. If such is the case, you will be notified.

As the duly authorized representative of the applicant, I certify that the applicant:

1. Has the legal authority to apply for Federal assistance and the institutional, managerial and financial capability (including funds sufficient to pay the non-Federal share of project cost) to ensure proper planning, management and completion of the project described in this application.
2. Will give the awarding agency, the Comptroller General of the United States and, if appropriate, the State, through any authorized representative, access to and the right to examine all records, books, papers, or documents related to the award; and will establish a proper accounting system in accordance with generally accepted accounting standards or agency directives.
3. Will establish safeguards to prohibit employees from using their positions for a purpose that constitutes or presents the appearance of personal or organizational conflict of interest, or personal gain.
4. Will initiate and complete the work within the applicable time frame after receipt of approval of the awarding agency.
5. Will comply with the Intergovernmental Personnel Act of 1970 (42 U.S.C. §§4728-4763) relating to prescribed standards for merit systems for programs funded under one of the 19 statutes or regulations specified in Appendix A of OPM's Standards for a Merit System of Personnel Administration (5 C.F.R. 900, Subpart F).
6. Will comply with all Federal statutes relating to nondiscrimination. These include but are not limited to: (a) Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (P.L. 88-352) which prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color or national origin; (b) Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, as amended (20 U.S.C. §§1681-1683, and 1685-1686), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex; (c) Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (29 U.S.C. §794), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of handicaps; (d) the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended (42 U.S.C. §§6101-6107), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of age; (e) the Drug Abuse Office and Treatment Act of 1972 (P.L. 92-255), as amended, relating to nondiscrimination on the basis of drug abuse; (f) the Comprehensive Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation Act of 1970 (P.L. 91-616), as amended, relating to nondiscrimination on the basis of alcohol abuse or alcoholism; (g) §§523 and 527 of the Public Health Service Act of 1912 (42 U.S.C. §§290 dd-3 and 290 ee- 3), as amended, relating to confidentiality of alcohol and drug abuse patient records; (h) Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. §§3601 et seq.), as amended, relating to nondiscrimination in the sale, rental or financing of housing; any other nondiscrimination provisions in the specific statute(s) under which application for Federal assistance is being made; and, (j) the requirements of any other nondiscrimination statute(s) which may apply to the application.

7. Will comply, or has already complied, with the requirements of Titles II and III of the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970 (P.L. 91-646) which provide for fair and equitable treatment of persons displaced or whose property is acquired as a result of Federal or federally-assisted programs. These requirements apply to all interests in real property acquired for project purposes regardless of Federal participation in purchases.
8. Will comply, as applicable, with provisions of the Hatch Act (5 U.S.C. §§1501-1508 and 7324-7328) which limit the political activities of employees whose principal employment activities are funded in whole or in part with Federal funds.
9. Will comply, as applicable, with the provisions of the Davis-Bacon Act (40 U.S.C. §§276a to 276a-7), the Copeland Act (40 U.S.C. §276c and 18 U.S.C. §874), and the Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act (40 U.S.C. §§327-333), regarding labor standards for federally-assisted construction subagreements.
10. Will comply, if applicable, with flood insurance purchase requirements of Section 102(a) of the Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973 (P.L. 93-234) which requires recipients in a special flood hazard area to participate in the program and to purchase flood insurance if the total cost of insurable construction and acquisition is \$10,000 or more.
11. Will comply with environmental standards which may be prescribed pursuant to the following: (a) institution of environmental quality control measures under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (P.L. 91-190) and Executive Order (EO) 11514; (b) notification of violating facilities pursuant to EO 11738; (c) protection of wetlands pursuant to EO 11990; (d) evaluation of flood hazards in floodplains in accordance with EO 11988; (e) assurance of project consistency with the approved State management program developed under the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. §§1451 et seq.); (f) conformity of Federal actions to State (Clean Air) Implementation Plans under Section 176(c) of the Clean Air Act of 1955, as amended (42 U.S.C. §§7401 et seq.); (g) protection of underground sources of drinking water under the Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974, as amended (P.L. 93-523); and, (h) protection of endangered species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (P.L. 93-205).
12. Will comply with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968 (16 U.S.C. §§1271 et seq.) related to protecting components or potential components of the national wild and scenic rivers system.
13. Will assist the awarding agency in assuring compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (16 U.S.C. §470), EO 11593 (identification and protection of historic properties), and the Archaeological and Historic Preservation Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. §§469a-1 et seq.).
14. Will comply with P.L. 93-348 regarding the protection of human subjects involved in research, development, and related activities supported by this award of assistance.
15. Will comply with the Laboratory Animal Welfare Act of 1966 (P.L. 89-544, as amended, 7 U.S.C. §§2131 et seq.) pertaining to the care, handling, and treatment of warm blooded animals held for research, teaching, or other activities supported by this award of assistance.
16. Will comply with the Lead-Based Paint Poisoning Prevention Act (42 U.S.C. §§4801 et seq.) which prohibits the use of lead-based paint in construction or rehabilitation of residence structures.
17. Will cause to be performed the required financial and compliance audits in accordance with the Single Audit Act Amendments of 1996 and OMB Circular No. A-133, "Audits of States, Local Governments, and Non-Profit Organizations."
18. Will comply with all applicable requirements of all other Federal laws, executive orders, regulations, and policies governing this program.
19. Will comply with the requirements of Section 106(g) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) of 2000, as amended (22 U.S.C. 7104) which prohibits grant award recipients or a sub-recipient from (1) Engaging in severe forms of trafficking in persons during the



period of time that the award is in effect (2) Procuring a commercial sex act during the period of time that the award is in effect or (3) Using forced labor in the performance of the award or subawards under the award.

## Certifications regarding lobbying

OMB Number: 4040-0013

Expiration Date: 02/28/2022

### Certification for Contracts, Grants, Loans, and Cooperative Agreements

The undersigned certifies, to the best of his or her knowledge and belief, that:

1. No Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid, by or on behalf of the undersigned, to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of an agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with the awarding of any Federal contract, the making of any Federal grant, the making of any Federal loan, the entering into of any cooperative agreement, and the extension, continuation, renewal, amendment, or modification of any Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement.
2. If any funds other than Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with this Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement, the undersigned shall complete and submit Standard Form-LLL, "Disclosure of Lobbying Activities," in accordance with its instructions.
3. The undersigned shall require that the language of this certification be included in the award documents for all subawards at all tiers (including subcontracts, subgrants, and contracts under grants, loans, and cooperative agreements) and that all subrecipients shall certify and disclose accordingly. This certification is a material representation of fact upon which reliance was placed when this transaction was made or entered into. Submission of this certification is a prerequisite for making or entering into this transaction imposed by section 1352, title 31, U.S. Code. Any person who fails to file the required certification shall be subject to a civil penalty of not less than \$10,000 and not more than \$100,000 for each such failure.

### Statement for Loan Guarantees and Loan Insurance

The undersigned states, to the best of his or her knowledge and belief, that:

If any funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with this commitment providing for the United States to insure or guarantee a loan, the undersigned shall complete and submit Standard Form-LLL, "Disclosure of Lobbying Activities," in accordance with its instructions. Submission of this statement is a prerequisite for making or entering into this

transaction imposed by section 1352, title 31, U.S. Code. Any person who fails to file the required statement shall be subject to a civil penalty of not less than \$10,000 and not more than \$100,000 for each such failure.

OMB number: 4040-0013, Expiration date: 02/28/2022 [View burden statement](#)

## SF-LLL: Disclosure of Lobbying Activities

OMB Number: 4040-0013

Expiration Date: 02/28/2022

Complete only if the applicant is required to do so by 44 C.F.R. part 18. Generally disclosure is required when applying for a grant of more than \$100,000 and if any funds other than Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with this Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement, the undersigned shall complete and submit Standard Form-LLL, "Disclosure Form to Report Lobbying," in accordance with its instructions. Further, the recipient shall file a disclosure form at the end of each calendar quarter in which there occurs any event described in 44 C.F.R. § 18.110(c) that requires disclosure or that materially affects the accuracy of the information contained in any disclosure form previously filed by the applicant.

The applicant is not currently required to submit the SF-LLL.

## Notice of funding opportunity

I certify that the applicant organization has consulted the appropriate Notice of Funding Opportunity and that all requested activities are programmatically allowable, technically feasible, and can be completed within the award's Period of Performance (POP).

## Equal Opportunity Hiring

By signing this application, I certify that the organization will, to the extent practicable, seek, recruit, and hire members of racial and ethnic minority groups and women to increase their ranks within our organization.

By signing this application, I certify that, if awarded under the Hiring of Firefighters Activity, the organization assures a policy will be put into place, or is currently in place, ensuring that positions filled under this grant are not discriminated against, or prohibited from, engaging in volunteer firefighting activities in another jurisdiction during off-duty hours.

## **Accuracy of application**

I certify that I represent the organization applying for this grant and have reviewed and confirmed the accuracy of all application information submitted. Regardless of intent, the submission of information that is false or misleading may result in actions by FEMA that include, but are not limited to: the submitted application not being considered for award, enforcement actions taken against an existing award pending investigation or review, or referral to the DHS Office of Inspector General.

## **Authorized Organizational Representative for the grant**

By signing this application, I certify that I understand that inputting my password below signifies that I am the identified Authorized Organization Representative for this grant. Further, I understand that this electronic signature shall bind the organization as if the application were physically signed and filed.

## **Authorization to submit application on behalf of applicant organization**

By signing this application, I certify that I am either an employee or official of the applicant organization and am authorized to submit this application on behalf of my organization; or, if I am not an employee or official of the applicant organization, I certify that the applicant organization is aware I am submitting this application on its behalf, that I have written authorization from the applicant organization to submit this application on their behalf, and that I have provided contact information for an employee or official of the applicant organization in addition to my contact information.