

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:	04/07/2024
UEI-EFT:	Z9MLXPDL2AM3
DUNS (includes DUNS+4):	039567821
Employer Identification Number (EIN):	596072227
Organization legal name:	CITY OF NORTH PORT
Organization (doing business as) name:	
Mailing address:	CITY OF NORTH PORT 4970 CITY HALL BLVD. NORTH PORT, FL 34286-4100
Physical address:	4970 CITY HALL BLVD NORTH PORT, FL 34286-4100
Is your organization delinquent on any federal debt?	N
SAM.gov registration status:	Active as of 03/17/2024

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 Fire Rescue**

Main address of location impacted by this grant

Main address 1	4970 City Hall Boulevard
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?

Fiscal Year	Operating budget
2024	\$28,594,170.00
2023	\$26,769,830.00
2022	\$24,987,290.00
2021	\$21,591,300.00

What percentage of the declared operating budget is dedicated to personnel costs (salary, benefits, overtime costs, etc.)? **75**

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

What is the total amount currently set aside? **7252135.00**

Describe the planned purpose of this fund. **20% of operating expenditures are for the State mandated Emergency and Disaster Reserve for non-routine and unforeseen disaster situations. This includes hurricanes, other natural disasters, and events that cause disruptions to public services. Up to 10% is for Economic Stabilization, which is reserved for short-term cash flow purposes such as unanticipated expenditures, increases in service delivery costs, or an economic downturn that causes a shortfall in revenues**

What percentage of the declared operating budget is derived from the following	2024
Taxes	1

What percentage of the declared operating budget is derived from the following

2024

Bond issues	0
EMS billing	11
Grants	0
Donations	0
Fund drives	0
Fee for service	59
Other	29
Total	100 %

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
- 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

Fire Department revenues total \$28,594,170. This total is largely made up of fire protection property assessments and EMS billing. 74% of our expenditures are personnel costs, such as salaries, benefits and overtime. The deficit 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%. Over the last several years, the City of North Port, like many cities across the country, has experienced historic levels of inflation. These economic conditions have had wide reaching impacts across our organization, including contractual wage and benefit adjustments for public safety positions and unexpected increases to the cost

of completing capital projects. The most recently completed review identified \$67 million dollars in funding shortfalls due mainly to the increased costs associated with escalated construction costs as well as record increases to manufacturing costs of response apparatus. Based upon the Fire District's ten-year revenue sufficiency modeling, at the established service level, the Fire District's expenditures will exceed revenues by approximately \$1 million dollars by 2027. Further, due to the impact of Hurricane Ian in 2022, the City of North Port has significant unfunded or underfunded infrastructure and capital outlay costs as result of the damage and of limited available funding. The city's 15-year capital outlay plan identified \$1.8 billion dollars in unfunded projects. The City of North Port was unsuccessful in obtaining any state appropriations for our capital outlay projects. The critical functions that will be affected by this lack of funding include the following: an acute inability to increase unit availability within the city limits; an acute inability to provide adequate emergency response coverage for our expanded service area due to new, large scale developments; and an acute increase in overtime due to firefighters calling out sick due to mental fatigue and/or burnout.

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? **Yes**

Please provide an explanation for other funding sources in the space provided below.

FEMA, CARES Act, DOJ, CDBG, Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds for

various infrastructure and COVID related projects.

Applicant and community trends

Please provide the following additional information about the applicant.

Injuries and fatalities	2023	2022	2021
What is the total number of fire-related civilian fatalities in your jurisdiction over the last three calendar years?	1	0	1
What is the total number of fire-related civilian injuries in your jurisdiction over the last three calendar years?	0	3	3
What is the total number of line of duty member fatalities in your jurisdiction over the last three calendar years?	0	0	0
What is the total number of line of duty member injuries in your jurisdiction over the last three calendar years?	1	0	0
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	3	12	9

Type or class of vehicles	Number of frontline apparatus	Number of available riding positions	Number of filled riding positions
more): pumper, pumper/tanker, rescue/pumper, foam pumper, CAFS pumper, type I, type II engine urban interface.			
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 suffering from a significant financial burden, and in order to provide adequate emergency response coverage to a rapidly growing city, there is and will continue to be an acute need to hire multiple stations' worth of full time firefighters over the next several years. Preliminary models indicate that without assistance from this grant, North Port will easily fall short of the funding required to hire the needed full time staff. We have requested support and subsequently been denied in each

of the last 3 years, and the future is looking bleak without assistance. North Port is a large city by land area, with six fire stations responding to 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 is sprawling, creating gaps of undeveloped land along with residential structures. With this 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, more critical care facilities and more commercial businesses are being constructed--all of which will increase calls further and place further increased response demands from the six fire stations. We have several planned development areas within the city and those development areas will require at least two additional fire stations, with a third being extremely likely.

Community description

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

Type of jurisdiction served

City

What type of community does your organization serve?

Urban

What is the square mileage of your first due response zone/jurisdiction served? **104**

What percentage of your primary response area is protected by hydrants? **33**

What percentage of your primary response area is for the following:	Percentage (must sum to 100%)
Agriculture, wildland, open space, or undeveloped properties	70
Commercial and industrial purposes	2
Residential purposes	28
Total	100

What is the permanent resident population of your first due response zone/jurisdiction served? **92000**

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

What is your seasonal increase in population (number of people)? **15000**

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 Sarasota County. North Port is a bedroom community and one of the fastest growing cities in the country. 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 92,000 full time residents and 15,000 seasonal residents between October and May. North Port is a fairly 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	2023	2022	2021
Fire - NFIRS Series 100	302	429	217
Overpressure Rupture, Explosion, Overheat (No Fire) - NFIRS Series 200	17	6	3
Rescue & Emergency Medical Service Incident - NFIRS Series 300	8216	10092	9679
Hazardous Condition (No Fire) - NFIRS Series 400	180	307	184
Service Call - NFIRS Series 500	1409	1578	1267

Summary of responses per year per category	2023	2022	2021
Good Intent Call - NFIRS Series 600	728	964	897
False Alarm & Falls Call - NFIRS Series 700	611	666	529
Severe Weather & Natural Disaster - NFIRS Series 800	16	180	8
Special Incident Type - NFIRS Series 900	1	1	0
Total	11480	14223	12784

Fire

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

How many responses per year per category?	2023	2022	2021
"Structure Fire" (Of the NFIRS Series 100 calls, NFIRS Codes 111-120)	65	48	43
"Vehicle Fire" (Of the NFIRS Series 100 calls, NFIRS Codes 130-138)	45	31	38
"Vegetation Fire" (Of the NFIRS Series 100 calls, NFIRS Codes 140-143)	169	166	136
Total	279	245	217

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

Total acreage per year	2023	2022	2021
Total acreage of all vegetation fires	256	545	338

Rescue and emergency medical service incidents

How many responses per year per category?	2023	2022	2021
"Motor Vehicle Accidents" (Of the NFIRS Series 300 calls, NFIRS Codes 322-324)	635	615	593
"Extrications from Vehicles" (Of the NFIRS Series 300 calls, NFIRS Code 352)	63	50	46
"Rescues" (Of the NFIRS Series 300 calls, NFIRS Code 300, 351, 353-381)	16	33	9
EMS-BLS Response Calls	4874	5701	5349
EMS-ALS Response Calls	5304	4391	4330
EMS-BLS Scheduled Transports	0	0	0
EMS-ALS Scheduled Transports	0	0	0
Community Paramedic Response Calls	0	0	0
Total	10892	10790	10327

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.

How many responses per year per category?	2023	2022	2021
Amount of times the organization received Mutual Aid	78	160	65
Amount of times the organization received Automatic Aid	0	0	0
Amount of times the organization provided Mutual Aid	261	635	1130
Amount of times the organization provided Automatic Aid	0	0	0
Of the Mutual and Automatic Aid responses, amount that were structure fires	5	7	3

How many responses per year per category?	2023	2022	2021
Total	344	802	1198

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: \$5,754,871.26

Program area: Hiring of firefighters



Activity: Hiring of Firefighters

\$5,754,871.26



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

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

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 **129**

How many budgeted, but vacant operational positions does your department have at the start of the application period? **2**

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	129	24	0

Staffing levels	Total number of operational career personnel	Number of operational career officers	Number of NFA support
Staffing levels at one year prior to the start of the application period	123	24	0
Staffing levels at two years prior to the start of the application period	117	21	0
If awarded this grant, what will the staffing levels be in your department?	147	27	0

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, with three alternating shifts. At the time of this application, there are 43 personnel assigned per shift, including two District Chiefs, six Lieutenants, and 35 Firemedics per shift. Each Fire station has an assigned suppression unit (engine or quint) and one advanced life support (ALS) transport capable ambulance. One ALS unit splits time between two stations to cover heavier call volume during peak hours from our busiest station. Personnel work 2,920

scheduled hours per year. Per the Collective Bargaining Agreement, bargaining unit employees work a 7-day work period with FLSA 53 hour threshold for overtime and have a two week pay period with no Kelly Days. Any compensable time worked in excess of 53 is compensated at a time-and-one-half rate. Built in overtime is accounted for in "long weeks" of Sunday, Wednesday, Saturday where overtime is known to occur. Five vacation slots are available each day.

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?

Sometimes (20 to 39%)

What is the average actual staffing level on your first arriving engine company or vehicle capable of initiating suppression

3

activities on the number of structure fires indicated in the department call volume section of your application?

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? **Often (60 to 79%)**

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 performance? **Yes**

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 be in balance with community growth by the end of the three-year grant period, ensuring 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. These 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 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 applicants pass, their completion times will move them to the interview process. We invite 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 up to 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?

24

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

North Port Fire Rescue provides a six-week orientation to new hires when there are vacancies. New hires have already been through a Florida minimum Standards class and thus are already Firefighter I/II 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 upon hiring.

How often are your recruit classes held?

North Port Fire Rescue recruit onboardings are held every six months in January and July. Orientation period is six weeks before new hires are issued shift and station assignments.

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 due to decreased unit availability. 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. This rating was given to us prior to the soon-to-be expanded service area, which will undoubtedly require the additional staffing we are requesting. Currently, due to higher unit-hour utilization rates, it is frequently the case

that in-zone units are unavailable due to being on other assigned calls, and it is also the case that out-of-zone units are taking longer to respond and do so from further and further distances. Credit for company personnel (item 571 in the ISO rating schedule) scored North Port a 9.17 of a possible 15.

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.

North Port 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 18 positions to provide the community with adequate fire protection from fire and fire-related hazards. 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. Our rapidly increasing population has resulted in increased call volume, and this increase is placing greater and greater demands on our response

performance. We are now faced with an expanded service area that is projected to increase our population by 20,000 residents over the next three years. These new positions are needed 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 combined with 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 as a result of being on assigned calls in other zones, and out-of-zone units taking longer to respond and from further distances. If we do not increase our staffing, we are at high-risk risk of dropping to a lower public protection classification as well as of falling below acceptable national standards for the expanded service area planned to emerge in the next three years. Numerous publications have North Port, FL as one of the fastest growing cities in the country. We are already feeling the effects of this rapid growth, as our response system is being stressed more

and more each day. With the expanded service areas underway, we simply can't sustain our current standards without assistance.

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 one additional fire station almost immediately, with the distinct possibility of two more opening within the next 5 years. We are proactively planning for the staffing needs for our expanding service area. If awarded this grant, our plan is to onboard 18 positions at one time. The immediate application will be to properly onboard and orient each new employee and also to increase our effective response force as listed in NFPA 1710. These positions will permit the proper staffing of the additional station in our expanded service area. The additional positions will reduce the heavy overtime load we are currently suffering from and will allow for reduced expenditures toward overtime as well as reduce crew fatigue for frequent overtime requirements.

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

The specific services for the immediate grant period will be to increase staffing for expanded service areas 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 for our firefighters, strengthening service delivery and the safety of our community and staff.

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

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 21-mile stretch of I-75 between Kings Highway in Charlotte County and River Road in Sarasota County. Two US 41 bridges cross over the tidal Myakka River and a nearby tributary. The Myakka River is classified as "Outstanding Florida Water" and hazardous situations can produce profound and negative environmental impacts if not responded to in a timely manner. Electrical transmission lines, communication towers, a water utility booster station, two water treatment plants, a 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, North Port Fire Rescue 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 limited our current staffing capabilities and had a profound financial and human impact on operations, not to mention an impact on the safety and well-being of North Port residents. The hiring of 18 additional firefighters will reduce death, injury and property damage at these critical times. 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 a 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. Response is crucial for positive outcomes for all emergency incidents. Delayed response times to a structure fire means greater spread of fire, greater property loss, and greater loss of life if someone is trapped. For EMS, delays result in a failure to provide ALS-level care within timeframes established by NFPA1710 and by 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 come 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 18 additional firefighters will reduce injuries to citizens and firefighters as well as decreasing the risk of property damage. The positions will also allow us to increase unit availability and work further toward NFPA 1710 minimum standards while maintaining an ISO rating of 1. By reducing this risk, it supports one of the five basic homeland security missions noted in the DHS Quadrennial Homeland Security Review, to strengthen national preparedness and resilience. Specifically, this project will ensure our first responders can respond with greater safety, speed, and efficiency, which is what our citizens and visitors expect.

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 associated costs for three full years. The \$5,754,871.26 request, over a three-year period, would allow North Port Fire Rescue to financially prepare for the future without sacrificing the safety and well-being of the citizens we serve today. It will also protect our firefighters immediately by 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 the country. 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 obtain the necessary number of staff and apparatus required to handle 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. Thus far, our response times have remained acceptable throughout our period of exponential growth, but the unprecedented and unexpected growth already realized and predicted for the future will stress our emergency response capabilities beyond safe and acceptable levels without the requested assistance we desperately need.

Position



Position: New, Additional Firefighter(s) \$5,754,871.26

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.

FICA is 7.65% and Retirement is 32.67%. Health care is broken down as follows; Health \$11,666.16 per year; Dental \$465.14 per year; Vision \$45.84 per year; Life \$244.93 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

18

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.

Year	Annual Salary	Annual Benefits	Total per firefighter
1	63404.27	38012.09	\$101,416.36
2	66574.48	39912.69	\$106,487.17
3	69903.21	41908.33	\$111,811.54
3 YEAR TOTAL	\$5,754,871.26		

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	\$1,141,276.86	\$1,198,340.64	\$1,258,257.78	\$3,597,875.28
Fringe benefits	\$684,217.62	\$718,428.42	\$754,349.94	\$2,156,995.98
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
Total direct charges	\$1,825,494.48	\$1,916,769.06	\$2,012,607.72	\$5,754,871.26
Indirect charges	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
TOTAL	\$1,825,494.48	\$1,916,769.06	\$2,012,607.72	\$5,754,871.26
Non-federal resources				
Applicant				\$0.00
State				\$0.00
Other sources				\$0.00
Remarks				
Total Federal and Non-federal resources				
Federal resources	\$1,825,494.48	\$1,916,769.06	\$2,012,607.72	\$5,754,871.26

Object class categories	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total
Non-federal resources	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
TOTAL	\$1,825,494.48	\$1,916,769.06	\$2,012,607.72	\$5,754,871.26
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?

No

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.

Valerie Malingowski Grants Manager vmalingowski@cityofnc	Primary phone 9414297001 Work	Additional phones 9413567540 Mobile
	Fax	

Assurance and certifications

OMB number: 4040-0007, Expiration date: 02/28/2025 [View burden statement](#)

SF-424B: Assurances - Non-Construction Programs

OMB Number: 4040-0007

Expiration Date: 02/28/2025

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: 02/28/2025

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.

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: 02/28/2025 [View burden statement](#)

SF-LLL: Disclosure of Lobbying Activities

OMB Number: 4040-0013

Expiration Date: 02/28/2025

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.