



CITY OF NEW HAVEN
JUSTIN ELICKER
MAYOR

OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
KAYLA BLAND
DIRECTOR

200 ORANGE ST.
NEW HAVEN, CT 06510
(203) 946-8442

Dear Alders,

I am writing to respectfully request that the Board of Alders grant permission for the City to apply for, and accept if awarded, the 2025 FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG).


The AFG program is a nationally competitive grant intended to help fire departments and emergency services agencies obtain critically needed equipment, training, and resources. Each year, thousands of departments across the country apply, with only a fraction receiving awards. Funding decisions are based on demonstrated need, operational impact, and alignment with FEMA's national priorities, making each successful award both significant and highly competitive. Previous AFG awards have enabled the City to replace outdated, mission-essential assets, including a heavy rescue unit, self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA), gear washers, and station exhaust-removal improvements. These investments have played a key role in strengthening firefighter safety and improving operational readiness.

The 2025 AFG grant opportunity would allow the City to purchase a NFPA 1900-compliant side-loading Tactical Support Unit and provide the necessary upfitting to support specialized rescue operations. This purpose-built unit will consolidate trench rescue, confined space, structural collapse, rope rescue, machine rescue, airbag, and other technical rescue equipment currently dispersed across multiple trailers and aging apparatus. Centralizing these assets on a single modern platform will significantly improve deployment efficiency, enhance responder safety, reduce delays during emergency response, and ensure compliance with applicable standards.

The 2025 Assistance to Firefighters Grant, if awarded, provides federal funding in the amount of \$254,181.82 for the purchase and upfitting of the Tactical Support Unit. As a condition of accepting these funds, the City is required to contribute non-federal matching funds equal to or greater than 10 percent of the federal award, totaling \$25,418.18, for a full project budget of \$279,600.00.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and for your ongoing support of the City's fire and emergency services.

Respectfully submitted,


Kayla Bland, EMD