



CITY OF NEW HAVEN
JUSTIN ELICKER
MAYOR

OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
KAYLA BLAND
DIRECTOR

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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Previous AFG awards have enabled the City to replace outdated, mission-essential assets, including a heavy rescue unit, self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA), gear washers, and station exhaust-removal improvements.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 us to replace and upgrade essential radio equipment, ensuring clearer, more reliable communication during emergency operations. Modernized portable radios with advanced features will substantially improve firefighter safety, enhance rescue coordination, and support more effective fire suppression efforts across the City of New Haven and its mutual-aid partners.

The 2025 Assistance to Firefighters Grant, if awarded, provides federal funding in the amount of \$1,739,954.86 to replace and upgrade radio equipment. 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 \$173,995.49. The full project budget is \$1,913,950.35.

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