







**LEGAL NOTICE**  
Town of Merrimack  
**Public Hearing**



---

Residents of Merrimack are hereby advised that the Town Council will conduct a public hearing to consider the acceptance and expenditure of the Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) in the amount of \$317,600, with a Federal portion of \$288,728 and a Town portion of \$28,872, that has been awarded to the Merrimack Fire Department for the purpose of replacing outdated Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) and associated equipment, pursuant to RSA 31:95-b and Charter Article 8-15. All interested parties are invited to attend. The public hearing will be held on **Thursday, August 18, 2016, at 7:00 PM** in the Matthew Thornton Room located at 8 Baboosic Lake Road in Merrimack.

---

For Town of Merrimack Use:

Posted: August 10, 2016

To Be Published: August 10, 2016 (*Union Leader*)





# TOWN OF MERRIMACK, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Department of Fire Rescue  
432 Daniel Webster Highway  
Merrimack, New Hampshire 03054

Headquarters  
TEL: 603.424.3690

---

## Assistance to Firefighters Grant

## Acceptance Recommendation

---

Town of Merrimack New Hampshire  
Fire and Rescue



2015

---

---

# Assistance for Firefighters Grant 2015

## INTRODUCTION

We are requesting permission to accept and expend the Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) for the purpose of replacing outdated Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) and associated equipment for the sum of \$317,600.00, with a federal portion of \$288,728.00 and a Town portion of \$28,872.00. Also approve the Town Manager or designee the authority to sign all applicable documents.

## BACKGROUND OF AWARD

### SUMMARY OF ASSISTANCE ACTION ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTERS GRANT PROGRAM Application

<b>INSTRUMENT:</b>	GRANT
<b>AGREEMENT NUMBER:</b>	EMW-2015-FO-06413
<b>GRANTEE:</b>	Merrimack Fire Rescue
<b>DUNS NUMBER:</b>	069912673
<b>AMOUNT:</b>	\$317,600.00, Operations and Safety

#### Project Description (FEMA)

The purpose of the Assistance to Firefighters Program is to protect the health and safety of the public and firefighting personnel against fire and fire-related hazards.

After careful consideration, FEMA has determined that the recipient's project or projects submitted as part of the recipient's application, and detailed in the project narrative as well as the request details section of the application including budget information was consistent with the Assistance to Firefighters Grant program's purpose and worthy of award. The projects approved for funding are indicated by the budget or negotiation comments below. The recipient shall perform the work described in the grant application for the recipient's approved project or projects as itemized in the request details section of the application and further described in the grant application narrative. The content of the approved portions of the application along with any documents submitted with the recipient's application are incorporated by reference into the terms of the recipient's award. The recipient may not change or make any material deviations from the approved scope of work outlined in the above referenced sections of the application without prior written approval, via amendment request, from FEMA.

---

Period of Grant Performance  
01-JUL-16 to 30-JUN-17

Amount Awarded	Town Portion	Federal Portion
\$317,600.00	\$28,872.00	\$288,728.00

FEMA, "Congratulations, on behalf of the Department of Homeland Security, your application for financial assistance submitted under the Fiscal Year (FY) 2015 Assistance to Firefighters Grant has been approved in the amount of \$288,728.00. As a condition of this award, you are required to contribute a cost match in the amount of \$28,872.00 of non-Federal funds, or 10 percent of the Federal contribution of \$288,728.00. Combined with local and federal contributions the dollars total \$317,600.00."

## SUMMARY

With this Grant we will be completely upgrading our end of life cycle Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA.) Under this grant we will be attainment SCBA complete units, spare bottle for each unit, face masks for each employee, and associated equipment to include emergency escape system for each unit.

After our meeting with the Town Council in 2015 we indicated that we would be applying for the Grant over the next three years to try and secure the grant to offset the money needed to replace the Fire Department's aging SCBA units.

The first application package was presented to FEMA and we came up just short of acceptance based on the scoring process and money available. We were able to make modification to the application on our second attempt to FEMA and this time we were granted the award as stated above.

This Grant once accepted by the Town Council will save the community \$288,728.00 in tax dollars that would have been needed to replace these SCBA units as they are at their end of life cycle.

Merrimack Fire Rescue is always trying to move in a progressive direction as well as striving to provide better service to our community as well as provide a safe work environment to our employees. By replacing end of life cycle equipment we will be able to continue to provide a high level of service to our customers.

Any questions please let me know

Respectfully Submitted

Michael Carrier, Fire Chief  
Brian Borneman, Assistant Chief  
Richard Gagne, Captain



Approved: February 26, 2015

Posted: February 27, 2015

Appropriations are what the Council is voting on. To identify the tax rate, you subtract from the appropriations revenues received from sources other than property tax, and add in abatements and veterans' credits. The net amount is what is to be raised by taxes. That is divided by the Town's value (currently \$2,945,686,660) and then by 1,000 to identify the projected tax rate of \$5.54 (Town's portion), which represents an increase of \$0.08 or 1.41%.

Town Manager Cabanel noted contributing factors to the increases/decreases include the addition of part-time positions at the Transfer Station, Tax Collector's Office, and Code Enforcement, two new police officer positions (\$158,178), and the change at the Library in moving two part-time positions to a single full-time position, which adds costs associated with benefits. New Hampshire Retirement rates have gone up. Health insurance costs have shown a significant savings due to five Collective Bargaining Agreements (CBAs) being in the third year of a three-year contract that provides for a significant change to details and benefits of health insurance. Another area was the increase in capital reserve fund deposits (\$369,000).

Town Manager Cabanel noted monies have been set aside in CRFs that have already been appropriated by placing them in the budget. They are identified in an area she referred to as a savings account. When the monies are needed they are taken out. The money comes in as revenue and goes out as an expense, but it was already set aside (saved) in previous years.

Proposed CRF expenses in the General Fund total \$2,722,334, which includes State bridge aid on the Bean Road Bridge. The Town's portion is \$320,000 (20%) and the State's portion \$1,280,000 (80%). Those funds are coming in and going out. Because we gross appropriate, it needs to be identified.

Capital purchases include the continuation of upgrading of licenses and computer-server (\$35,000). The sum of \$82,334 has been identified for Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) breathing apparatus for the Fire Department. A grant has been applied for; however, the outcome will not be known until the June timeframe. Monies were included in the budget in case the Town is not successful in its grant application. Deposits into the CRF have been increased as well. Costs for a replacement Ambulance have been included (\$200,000). Other road infrastructure includes drainage improvements (done every year). Enough funds have been saved to pave the remainder of the Town's responsibility for the D.W. Highway, within the urban compact from Chamberlain Bridge to Reeds Ferry Lumber (\$400,000). Expenditures are identified for a six-wheel dump truck (\$155,000) and a front end loader for the Highway Department (\$150,000).

From the Sewer Infrastructure CRF are proposed expenditures for a F250 4x4 pickup with plow (\$35,000), manhole/sewer line repair (\$75,000), and a Bobcat Toolcat for cross-country sewer maintenance (\$75,000). Town Manager Cabanel reiterated the CRF is funded through sewer user fees.

Total of proposed expenditures from existing CRFs is \$2,907,334.

Town Manager Cabanel explained deposits into Capital Reserve Funds impact the tax rate. Monies are being allocated/set aside as a means of saving for future capital expenses. A slide was provided indicating all proposed allocations. Those that differ from FY15 include General Government - Milfoil (\$10,000 below FY15 allocation), Fire Department - Ambulance (\$10,000 above FY15 allocation), Fire Department - Equipment (\$20,000 above FY15 allocation), Communications -

