

A G E N D A



Recommendation for Council Action

Austin City Council	Item ID	72837	Agenda Number	13.
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Meeting Date:	8/3/2017	Department:	Austin Fire Department
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Subject

Approve an ordinance amending the Fiscal Year 2016-2017 Austin Fire Department Operating Budget Special Revenue Fund (Ordinance No. 20160914-001) to accept and appropriate \$30,000 in grant funds from National Institute of Standards and Technology to enhance firefighter safety and improve emergency response through the assessment and implementation of emerging technologies like robotics.

Amount and Source of Funding

Funding in the amount of \$80,000 is available from the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Public Safety Innovation Accelerator Program for the grant period of June 2017 to May 2020. A City funding match is not required. This grant funding will reimburse expenses related to Public Safety communication technologies and research.

Fiscal Note

A fiscal note is attached detailing the acceptance and appropriation of grant funds.

Purchasing Language:	
Prior Council Action:	
For More Information:	Rhoda Mae Kerr, Fire Chief; 512-974-0130 and Tom Dodds, Chief of Staff; 512-974-0132
Council Committee, Boards and Commission Action:	
MBE / WBE:	
Related Items:	

Additional Backup Information

This action authorizes acceptance of supplemental grant funding from New York University (NYU) as a sub-recipient of a grant from the National Institute for Standards and Technology. The Austin Fire Department will support NYU research on public safety communication technologies by providing personnel from the Robotic Emergency Deployment Team to use Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) to enhance firefighter safety and improve emergency response through the assessment and implementation of emerging technologies like robotics. This grant funding will reimburse the City for expenses related to travel, personnel salaries and benefits, and the purchase of materials and supplies for the UAVs. The funding is \$30,000 this fiscal year, and is estimated to be \$25,000 for the next fiscal year, and another \$25,000 for the following fiscal year.

The General Fund will not be required to contribute additional funds beyond those currently budgeted to this grant. When the grant funds expire, the Austin Fire Department's need for continuing funding will be evaluated and may be denied.