



Tyler Professional Fire Fighters Association

P. O. Box 8168
Tyler, Texas 75711



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Justin Dominy
(903) 780-3733
dominyff@outlook.com

Tyler Fire Department Wins \$1.58 Million Staffing Grant

TPFFA: 12 more firefighters to be hired, boosting public safety protection

TYLER, Texas, Oct. 7, 2017 – The Tyler Professional Fire Fighters Association proudly announces that the City of Tyler Fire Department was awarded a Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA.)

Justin Dominy, president of the Tyler Professional Fire Fighters Association, IAFF Local 883, said, “The Tyler Fire Department competed against thousands of departments during the rigorous grant process and was one of only 10 departments selected from Texas. Cooperation between our association and the city made this happen. We are grateful for our community’s support of firefighters.”

Subject to Tyler City Council approval on Oct. 11, the SAFER Grant will provide the city with \$1.58 million in funding over a three-year period for the hiring of an additional 12 fire fighters. Acceptance of this grant would be another step towards maintaining the city’s current favorable ISO Rating (Insurance Services Office), which saves residents and businesses millions of dollars on insurance premiums.

Dominy added, “Adequate staffing levels are crucial to ensure the safety of our citizens and fire fighters. The SAFER Grant was created to provide funding directly to fire departments to help add and retain trained, front-line firefighters in their communities. The goal of SAFER is to enhance the local fire departments’ ability to comply with staffing response and operational standards established by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA 1710.) Our city officials understand this. We also want to thank the staff of Sen. John Cornyn which provided assistance and two deadline extensions so the city could ensure the feasibility of accepting the grant.”

If approved, the SAFER Grant will cover firefighter salaries and benefits at a rate of 75 percent for the first two years and 35 percent in the third year. Half of the cost to the city for the first two years of the grant will be offset by estimated savings in overtime, which is currently necessary to keep minimum staffing. The City of Tyler would be responsible for the full salary and benefits beginning on year four.