



CITY OF RAPID CITY

RAPID CITY, SOUTH DAKOTA 57701

Rapid City Fire Department
Fire & Life Safety Division

1930 Promise Road
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To: Rapid City Legal and Finance Committee

Subject: BLM WUI Community Assistance Grant

The Rapid City Fire Department is asking for permission from the City of Rapid City to apply for and accept a \$174,000 grant offered by the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management as part of their MT/DAK Wildland Fire Community Assistance grant program. This grant would provide dollars necessary to continue providing job training and employment opportunities for local area Veterans transitioning from active duty, which will further current and enable future wildfire fuel reduction projects within the city limits.

Newly elected administration departmental changes have prompted procedural changes in DOI BLM grant allocation procedures. Rapid City's current BLM Wildfire Community Assistance agreement ended in March of 2018 with unknown parameters surrounding reallocation of the relinquished funds. Standard historical extension and/or reallocation procedures did not materialize, thus a new agreement is required. This new agreement was just recently made known, with a closing date of 7/15/2018. This expedited timeframe by the BLM prompted the necessity for a late addition to the L&F agenda on 6/27/18.

The RCFD will utilize these grant funds to supplement the programs currently in place under the Rapid City Urban Interface Management Plan and the *Survivable Space Initiative*. The grant parameters do encourage match funds to be provided, although specific percentages are not specified. Sources with the BLM have concurred that dollars historically allocated by Rapid City for these programs, as well as specified in kind match dollars, will suffice for the match requirement.

These programs are, as you know, vital in our efforts to try and reduce the effects of severe wildland fires in our community.

Sincerely,

Tim Weaver

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