

**CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
BUDGET AND LEGISLATIVE ANALYST**

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TO: Budget and Finance Sub-Committee
FROM: Budget and Legislative Analyst 
SUBJECT: March 9, 2017 Budget and Finance Sub-Committee Meeting

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Item 4 File 17-0098	Department: Fire Department (Fire)
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	
<p>Legislative Objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The proposed resolution would authorize the San Francisco Fire Department (SFFD) to accept and expend a 75 percent matching grant in the amount of \$769,922 from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security’s Port Security Grant Program to purchase a dive boat. The proposed grant also requires SFFD to provide matching funds of at least \$256,641, or 25 percent of the estimated total dive boat cost of \$1,026,563. <p>Key Points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In September 2015, FEMA and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security’s Port Security Grant Program awarded SFFD a grant of \$769,922 to purchase a dive boat. • SFFD currently has three fire boats—the recently purchased <i>St. Francis</i>, the <i>Phoenix</i>, and the <i>Guardian</i>—and one rapid response boat—<i>Rescue Boat 1</i>. The proposed dive boat would be used for search and rescue, dive operations, and Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear (CBRN) detection to protect the Port and the Bay. The dive boat would also support sporting events along with <i>Rescue Boat 1</i>, and would allow the ten-year-old rescue boat, to serve as a backup, instead of the primary, rescue boat. <p>Fiscal Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The proposed grant requires that the SFFD contribute matching funds of at least \$256,641, or 25 percent of the estimated total dive boat cost of \$1,026,563. Funds from the City’s General Fund were appropriated in SFFD’s FY 2016-17 budget to cover the required cost match. <p>Recommendation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approve the proposed resolution. 	

MANDATE STATEMENT

City Administrative Code Section 10.170-1 states that accepting Federal, State, or third-party grant funds in the amount of \$100,000 or more, including any City matching funds required by the grant, is subject to Board of Supervisors approval.

BACKGROUND

In September 2015, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Port Security Grant Program awarded the San Francisco Fire Department (SFFD) a grant of \$769,922 to purchase a dive boat. The Board of Supervisors approved the required matching funds of \$256,641 in the SFFD's FY 2016-17 budget.

SFFD currently has three fire boats—the recently purchased¹ *St. Francis*, the *Phoenix*, and the *Guardian*—and one rapid response boat—*Rescue Boat 1*. The fire boats respond to a variety of incidents, including firefighting, marine firefighting, oil spill response, and search and rescue. The rapid response boat primarily responds to water rescues and medical calls on the water, but it also supports sporting events such as fleet week, Alcatraz swims, and triathlons. SFFD previously had two rapid response boats, but the newer boat capsized in the ocean and was lost last year. According to Mr. Mark Corso, SFFD Chief Financial Officer, SFFD was unable to respond with a rescue boat for nearly a month when *Rescue Boat 1* was out of service for repairs because there is currently no backup rescue boat.

The proposed 38-foot dive boat would be a high-speed catamaran and would be smaller than the three fire boats but larger than the rapid response boat. Key characteristics of the proposed boat not currently addressed through SFFD's existing water assets include: 1) a stabilized dive platform that would make diving and retracting individuals from the water safer than is currently possible on the SFFD's existing boats; and 2) Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear (CBRN) detection equipment. The dive boat would be used for search and rescue, dive operations, and CBRN detection to protect the Port and the Bay. The dive boat would also support sporting events along with *Rescue Boat 1*, and would allow the ten-year-old rescue boat, to serve as a backup, instead of the primary, rescue boat.

SFFD is currently working with the City's Office of Contract Administration (OCA) and complying with federal requirements on procurement for the proposed dive boat.

DETAILS OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

The proposed resolution would authorize SFFD to accept and expend a 75 percent matching grant in the amount of \$769,922 from FEMA and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Port Security Grant Program to purchase one dive boat for search, rescue and diving operations. The proposed grant also requires SFFD to provide matching funds of at least \$256,641, or 25 percent of the estimated total dive boat cost of \$1,026,563.

¹ In May 2014, the Board of Supervisors approved a resolution to accept and expend a 75 percent matching grant in the amount of \$7,608,000 from FEMA and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Port Security Grant Program to purchase the *St. Francis* (File 14-0488).

FISCAL IMPACT

The proposed Federal grant requires that the SFFD contribute matching funds of at least \$256,641, or 25 percent of the estimated total dive boat cost of \$1,026,563. Funds of \$256,641 were appropriated in SFFD's FY 2016-17 General Fund budget to cover the required cost match.

Table 1 below shows the proposed dive boat budget, totaling \$1,026,563.

Table 1: Proposed Dive Boat Budget

Sources	Amount
SFFD FY 2016-17 General Fund Budget	\$256,641
FEMA Port Security Grant	769,922
Total Sources	\$1,026,563
Uses	
Emergency response vessel (one dive boat)	\$741,961
Radiation detection	86,000
Side and bottom scan sonar	24,190
Positive pressure CBRN protective cabin	23,650
Thermal imaging camera	37,925
Automatic Identification System (AIS) transponder	9,660
Diver recall system	6,730
Chemical multi-threat 5 gas meter with photo ionization detector	9,200
Search light, scene lighting and public address system	6,825
Subtotal, Total Costs Pre-Tax	\$946,141
Tax (8.5%)	80,422
Total Costs	\$1,026,563

Source: Fire Department

According to Mr. Corso, the initial project was scaled down due to limited available FEMA funds. The current budget of \$1,026,563 is \$201,754, or 16 percent, less than the initial budget of \$1,228,317. To accommodate the reduced funding, SFFD reduced the boat's radiological detection and identification capability and removed funds for training and additional equipment from the budget.

Operating Expenditures

According to Mr. Corso, maintenance and repair costs would be the only additional operating expenditures for the proposed dive boat. Maintenance and repair costs, the value of which is unknown at this time, would be funded through equipment maintenance funds in SFFD's General Fund budget, subject to appropriation approval by the Board of Supervisors. Mr. Corso states that the dive boat would not result in additional staffing or increased overtime costs but would rather be an additional asset for normal SFFD operations. In the event of an emergency, on-duty crews from fire stations that have been trained on the use of the boat would staff the boat.

RECOMMENDATION

Approve the proposed resolution.