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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FEMA awards SAFER Grant to City of Pilot Point Fire Department

[PILOT POINT, Texas, Sept. 22, 2022] The Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Department of Homeland Security announced the award of a \$1.2 million Staffing For Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Grant to the Pilot Point Fire Department.

The purpose of the SAFER Grant is to provide funding directly to fire departments and volunteer firefighter interest organizations to assist in increasing the number of firefighters to help communities meet industry minimum standards. These standards include attaining 24-hour staffing to provide adequate protection from fire and fire-related hazards, and to fulfill traditional missions of fire departments.

The grant will cover three fiscal years of personnel and benefits packages for six additional employees, two per shift. This increased staffing will bring the department closer to meeting safety standards set forth by the NFPA (National Fire Protection Association).

"It's a major feat for the department," Fire Chief Heath Hudson said. "Full-time employees are an expensive addition and for us to get that funded for the next three years to increase our staffing is an amazing accomplishment."

The Pilot Point Fire Department has made great strides in recent years to accommodate the increase in demand for their services. In addition to the new fire station built on Washington Street, the department has also been making capital equipment purchases, including the purchase of a new ladder truck that is being custom built for the city, to work towards a lower ISO rating for the department, which gauges how prepared they are to protect the community.

"As we continue to look to the future, public safety remains at the forefront of our priorities," City Manager Britt Lusk said. "This grant will assist us to continue to grow responsibly without putting the financial burden on our current residents."

Although the City has been notified of the awarding of this grant, funding will not become available until March 2023. This will ensure the department adequate time to fill the positions and purchase equipment for the additional staff.

Mayor
Vacant

City Council

Place 1

Aaron Rocha

Place 2

Everett Cummings

Place 3/Mayor Pro Tem

Chad Major

Place 4

Elizabeth Jones

Place 5

Dean Cordell

Place 6

Andrew Ambrosio

City Manager
Britt Lusk

City Secretary
Lenette Cox

Finance Director
Michele Sanchez

Development Services
John Taylor

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