DEPARTMENT: Fire Protection

RECOMMENDED ACTION AND JUSTIFICATION:

Authorize the Fire Chief to submit a grant application for a fire safety trailer used for children and parents fire prevention education. The fire and life safety trailer is manufactured to meet the educational needs of children, adults, special needs individuals and is ADA compliant. There is NO Match required. A budget change notice has been submitted to reflect funding during FY 2003-2004.

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS:

The Board has approved grant applications to improve fire service delivery to the community in the past.

ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION:

Forgo an opportunity to deliver realistic training to children and the community.

Financial Impact? ( ) Yes (x) No Current FY Cost: $ 63678
Budgeted In Current FY? ( ) Yes ( ) No ( ) Partially Funded
Amount in Budget: $ 63678
Additional Funding Needed: $ 0
List Attachments, number pages consecutively
Source:
Internal Transfer
Unanticipated Revenue 4/5's vote
Transfer Between Funds 4/5's vote
Contingency 4/5's vote
( ) General ( ) Other

CLERK’S USE ONLY:
Res. No.: 03-031 Ord. No. 08
Vote - Ayes: 4 Noes: 0
Absent: 0
Approved ( ) Minute Order Attached ( ) No Action Necessary

The foregoing instrument is a correct copy of the original on file in this office.
Date: 2003
Attest: MARGIE WILLIAMS, Clerk of the Board
County of Mariposa, State of California
By: Deputy

COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER:
Requested Action Recommended
No Opinion
Comments:

Revised Dec. 2002
Request for Proposal
“Mobile Fire Safety Demonstration Project”

This Request for Proposal is designed to create a program and services that will address the following goal from First 5 of Mariposa County’s Strategic Plan. The goal is to:

- Improve families’ access to education, information and services that help them create safe, nurturing environments for children.

PROPOSAL DISCRIPITION:

The Commission requests that interested applicants submit a proposal to conduct mobile fire safety in-service trainings for children 0 to 5, their parents and those who provide services to children age 0 to 5, such as day care providers. The “Mobile Fire Safety Demonstration Project” proposal will include funding for the purchase of the mobile house or trailer to be used in the project as well as costs associated with providing such training. The Commission would like to encourage local fire safety agencies and advocates to apply.

The applicant should be prepared to demonstrate, and address the following requirements:

- Identification and purchase of fire safety demonstration trailer appropriate for training with children age 0 to 5, their parents and care givers.

- Work with parents and small children to create a home fire escape plan that can be practiced by the parents and the child. This should be an educational effort that informs parents of common risks related to fire safety, promotes the use of smoke detectors and alarms, identifies risk areas such as the use of portable heaters and smoking and helps practice a plan in the event of a fire.

- Work with day care centers and kindergarten classrooms to engage children in fire safety demonstrations and activities. This should include a proposed schedule for use of the mobile demonstration house, safety materials for caregivers, and the use of Fire Safety activity books and fire safety and prevention coloring books.

The California First 5 Commission has developed a Safe From The Start brochure as part of their kit for new parents. This brochure can be viewed
on the First 5 website at www.ccfc.ca.gov/pubs.htm. This resource is available in both English and Spanish and would be distributed to parents of children 0 to 5 as part of this project.

The deliverables that should result from the implementation of a successful proposal include:
- Purchase of the mobile fire safety demonstration trailer or house,
- Materials for use by care givers, parents and children age 0 to 5,
- Documentation of the number of trainings conducted, attendees list and the actual delivery of said trainings, and
- An evaluation of the project.

Release of the RFP. The Request for Proposal (RFP) packet is distributed to selected organizations invited by the Commission to submit a proposal based on their expertise.

Request for application deadline is 3-18-03. You may request an application by calling First 5 of Mariposa County at (209) 742-KIDS, or you may pick up an application at the Commission office @ 5065 Jones Street, Mariposa, CA 95338.

You also may obtain an application by e-mail – vfitzerf5mc@sti.net
MOBILE FIRE SAFETY DEMONSTRATION
PROJECT PROPOSAL

Submitted to:

First 5
Mariposa County

Mariposa County Children & Families First
Commission

Applicant:

Mariposa County Fire Department
Blaine Shultz
Fire Chief
Mariposa County Children & Families First Commission

FIRST 5
MOBILE FIRE SAFETY DEMONSTRATION PROJECT PROPOSAL

Application Cover Page

Applicant:

MARIPOSA COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT
Blaine Shultz, Fire Chief
mpsafire@yosemite.net

Post Office Box 162
5082 Bullion Street
Mariposa, CA 95338

209-966-4330 VOICE
209-966-0252 FAX

Amount Requested: $63,678
Duration of Funding: One Year
Geographic Area Served: The County of Mariposa
Ages Served: Children 0 to 5 years
Parents of Children 0 to 5 years
Secondary Service: Kindergarten and Grades One and Two
Parents of Kindergarten and Early School Children
Aged and Disabled Population

Number of Children or Families Served: 1200 children
2000 Adult Care Providers

This Proposal is intended to meet the Strategic Goal of the Commission in Improved Child Health and secondly, Comprehensive Child and Family Partnership Competencies.
INTRODUCTION

The Mariposa County Fire Department is pleased to offer our proposal to deliver Fire and Life Safety education services within the County of Mariposa. The risk of fire with its potential for injury and death for children was demonstrated on December 14, 1999 when we suffered our most recent fatality of a child due to fire. In addition, the mother succumbed to the products of fire while attempting to reach her four-year boy.

Significant collateral psychological damage to the firefighters, law enforcement personnel, and to others in service agencies that were present or involved with the fire were attributed to this tragedy. This loss was not the first in the history of the County but hopefully the last. We believe strongly in public education, and in the education of children and their parents in exit planning and drills, fire safety such as hazard identification and mitigation, the use of smoke detectors and proper use of fire as a tool.

PROGRAM SYNOPSIS

Public education is very important to the Mariposa County Fire Department. We are in need of a more modern educational approach that will allow us to deliver a comprehensive program to our community. In the past, we have accomplished public education with audio/video presentations, display boards, handouts and classes. These older methods proved valuable; however, they are short on realism and the "total picture and hands-on experience". The purchasing of the Fire and Life Safety Trailer will provide us with a tool that will have a greater impact in creating this much-needed element of realism.
The Mariposa County Fire Department plans on not only utilizing this life saving tool in our community but will provide access to the trailer to all public safety agencies in the Mariposa County area. As fire and public safety agencies we share a common goal of public education in the “all risk” emergency field: earthquake, fire, natural disaster, etc.

This Fire and Life Safety Trailer is American Disabilities Act (ADA) approved, 35 feet long and can be towed by a typical SUV or pick-up truck. The trailer will be customized to fit the needs of the community and will deliver a quality disaster preparedness/fire and life safety program to on-site locations. The trailer is fabricated to represent a house on wheels. It contains typical settings that you would find in an ordinary home: living room with fireplace, kitchen with appliances, bathroom, bedroom and a “control room”.

Basically after a lesson on “do’s and don’ts”, participants are shown (given a tour) the multiple hazards found in and around a common home, how to prepare for emergencies when they occur and how to access the 9-1-1 system through an internal programmed telephone system.

Then, once in the bedroom, a non-toxic smoke is introduced via vent to simulate a fire situation. As the artificial smoke enters the room participants better prepare themselves in the event of a fire. Since statistics have indicated people retain at least 70% of what they practice, and this is exactly what the trailer provides, and we feel confident in our mission. People also learn through “hands on” how to turn off utilities (gas, electric & heater) and what they can do to prepare their home before an earthquake strikes and how to secure cabinets, furniture, wall hangings, water heaters, etc. There will also be Disaster Preparedness home supplies, stored properly in the trailer for display.
Since children and the physically and mentally challenged are at a higher risk during fires and other emergencies, we have targeted these particular groups; however, the Fire & Life /Safety Trailer can and will meet the special needs of all persons.

Many other fire departments have recognized the need to deliver full service education to the public, specifically the children and have received overwhelming responses during events and demonstrations with their trailer. Based on the verbal and written response solicited at their events, they are confident that participants leave with a better understanding of preparedness for their home in the event of a disaster. Participants also leave with the knowledge of how to prevent a potential home fire from occurring, how to escape safely, access the 9-1-1 system and lessen a fire’s impact should one occur.

- Public Education/Relations Programs

As just one of many examples of our public education campaign, every year during Fire Prevention Week Mariposa County Fire and our partners, the Forest Service, the Park Service, and the CDF interacts with every student in the Mariposa County School District from pre-school through grade two (2). Each class is given a thirty (30) minute fire safety lecture and students are given a fire safety packet that consists of a fire safety coloring book, color crayons, 911 sticker, stick on badge, sucker, erasers, pencils and litter-bags. All in all, we reach over 660 students with these important fire safety messages on a one-on-one basis.

PREVENTION AND SELF SUFFICIENCY

This public education tool will graphically demonstrate how the public should prepare and react in the event of fire. It will serve as an aid to minimize the chance of injuries and prevent loss of life and property. The Fire and Life Safety Trailer and staff will show people how to identify fire hazards, how to take preventive measures and implement emergency preparedness. It will also demonstrate how to safely escape during a fire and access the 911 emergency systems. Collaboration with the Mariposa County Sheriff and John C Fremont Hospital in the use of this platform can only serve to enhance the message and education in the areas of public safety and particularly the children.
ASSESSING NEEDS

The Mariposa County Fire Department serves the County of Mariposa through 12 fire stations located within the communities of the County. Further, through contractual agreement, the communities with Yosemite National Park are served in a cooperative program. The department serves the communities of Lake Don Pedro, Coulterville, Greeley Hill, Hunters Valley, Hornitos, Catheys Valley, Mt. Bullion –Airport, Fish Camp, Midpines, Mormon Bar-Bridgeport, Bootjack, Lushmeadows-Jerseydale, Mariposa, Ponderosa Basin, and El Portal. Within Yosemite National Park, the communities of Foresta, El Portal, Yosemite Valley, and Wawona share in this service.

The department has researched this project for three years, made direct contact with fire departments that have acquired and used the Fire and Life Safety Trailers and through cooperation with these agencies have developed use agreements, lesson plans and educational materials designed to reach the target audience. The following points were established as factors, which caused concern to the Mariposa County Fire Department, and are herein established and submitted as the “Statement of the Problem”.

STATEMENT OF PROBLEM

Fires

FIRE.... It kills without regard to age, race or sex. And, it kills quickly. The toxic fumes and gases associated with fires can kill just as quickly as the flames themselves. Each year, thousands of U.S. citizens lose their lives in fires, or as a result of injuries sustained in fires.

FIRE.... Also maims without regard to age, race or sex. Each year, hundreds of thousands of people are hurt in fires with a third of those needing intensive care. Those requiring reconstructive surgery may undergo 150 or more operations. A person burned over sixty percent (60%) of his/her body faces a fiscal impact that can average $175,000.00 plus 12 years of rehabilitation.

The loss of life and property due to effects of fire in residential occupancies of this Nation is catastrophic. The United States continues to have one of the worst fire death records of the industrialized world. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (F.E.M.A.), states in their national statistics
on life and property loss, the following information. Fires in American homes have taken a high toll of life and property losses. In 1993 alone residential fires were responsible for 5,000 deaths, 125,000 fire related injuries and over 8 billion dollars in property destroyed. Of the total overall national fire loss, including commercial properties, residential fires accounted for 80 percent of all fire deaths, 65 percent of all fire related injuries and 46 percent of structural property losses.

The victims of these alarming death toll statistics have been disproportionately children, the elderly and the physical and mentally handicapped. Children under six (6) years of age make up about seven percent (7%) of the population, and they account for approximately seventeen percent (17%) of fire deaths.

RAISING AND DEPLOYING RESOURCES

We have developed a system to ensure adequate staffing and equipment sharing by making this trailer available to public safety agencies in Mariposa County.

SUSTAINING AND IMPROVING PREPAREDNESS

This Fire and Life Safety Trailer will help to increase the level of preparation for the people of the community by showing them how to prepare and then respond in the event of a disaster.

The trailer will be scheduled throughout the year at schools, fairs and other special community events.

Professional journals prepared by other departments support the trailer’s life saving validity by citing reports of children who have gone through a fire safety trailer program and then were able to apply what they learned when tragedy struck.

LAUNCHING COMMUNITY DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

The Mariposa County Fire Department has a vision in which all members of the public know how to prepare and how to react in the event of various emergencies. In order to reach the people throughout the community, this trailer will be taken to schools, community events and other places of public
assembly. The trailer will allow us to demonstrate, and let people practice fire preparedness drills and become the preferred platform for public safety projects for allied agencies.

DEVELOPING COMMUNITY RESOURCES

The Fire and Life Safety Trailer can be transported to many locations, allowing us to perform training to various audiences with appropriate safety information.

REASSESSING, EVALUATING AND SUSTAINING PREPAREDNESS

The trailer provides that participants will be better prepared for a disaster based on the fact that people will learn and retain at least 70% of what they practice during a teaching session. The trailer will enhance this learning process.

After the informational segment, participants will practice a live, hands-on fire drill, activate the 9-1-1 emergency systems, learn how to turn off utilities (gas, electric & water), be shown how to properly secure water heaters, install cabinet latches and view disaster preparedness supplies.

CRITERIA

TARGET AUDIENCE/DIRECT BENEFICIARIES:

1. children (0 to 5, pre-school to grade 6)
2. Physically and mentally challenged (special needs audiences)
3. Special needs groups
4. The Community at large

TYPES OF PROGRAMS:

Disaster preparedness activities with an emphasis on:

1. Prevention
2. Mitigation
PRIORITY PROGRAM ACTIVITIES:

Community education will teach people specific skills through "hands on" learning. We feel strongly that given the appropriate information people will make the right choice to prepare their home thus reducing injuries and property damage form earthquakes and fires.

CROSS-CUTTING THEMES:

1. High impact on populations at risk; as stated, targeted audience would primarily be the 0 to 5 year children, pre-school and school age children who suffer the highest risk, by age group.

2. High visibility: Since this is a trailer, we intend to have the agency's names and a message/mission statement on the exterior. The trailer will be on public display while being used to conduct "hands on" training. It is highly visible and will heighten public awareness. Public service announcements are planned with local media to announce when and where the trailer will be in service for demonstrations and presentations.

3. Any fire or public safety agency in the Mariposa County area can request the Fire and Life Safety Trailer.

4. Literature specific to the issue of Fire and Life Safety will be provided.

OBJECTIVES

To form a strong community coalition and educate the general public with special emphasis on young children through an actual hands on learning experience. Due to the practice application of the Fire and Life Safety Trailer, learned behavior can be observed. Participants will be asked what they learned from an actual earthquake and fire drill with realistic smoke conditions.

To attain the above objectives will provide the following:

Objective 1. Fire safety preparedness lectures geared to the age group present.
Objective 2. Instructors will provide demonstrations on the following criteria:

  a. Accessing the 9-1-1 emergency system
  b. Turning off utilities (gas, water & electrical) in case of fire or other emergency.
  c. How to secure your home from becoming hazardous during a fire.
  d. Demonstrate disaster preparedness supplies
  e. How to prevent fires in and around the home
  f. Overview of fire protection equipment (smoke detectors, fire extinguishers, fire sprinkler systems, etc.)
  g. How to plan your escape in the event of a home fire
  h. Demonstrate how to physically escape during a home fire
  i. Demonstrate kitchen safety

Objective 3. Question and answer period on what was taught.

Objective 4. Students will have the opportunity to practice what they learned.

Objective 5. Students will be given fire safety literature upon completion objectives 1-4.

WORKPLAN

Currently the Mariposa County Fire Department participates in numerous public safety/disaster preparedness programs. We are joined by the USDA Forest Service, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection and the Yosemite National Park Fire Department in K through 2 fire safety education annually. Number of children contacted exceeds 600.

Our current work plan is to secure the funds necessary to purchase a trailer that would meet the needs to educate the public on earthquake preparedness and fire prevention that would specifically address Prevention and Mitigation.

We plan to purchase a Fire and Life Safety Trailer. Props will be added such as: gas meters, electrical panels, water main shut off valves, water heater that is secured to prevent falling, cabinet locks, etc. A host of fire protection equipment will also be installed that will include smoke detectors,
fire extinguishers, telephone to interact with a 9-1-1 operator, fire alarms and more.

Schedule procedures will be developed and kept by our organization. The trailer would be made available to any Mariposa County public safety agency.

We would reach our audience through Public Service Announcements utilizing multi-media formats through paid and non-paid advertisements, through schools, fairs and other special community events.

We have targeted that 100% of Mariposa County pre and grammar schools will be introduced to the Fire and Life Safety Trailer in the first year of operation.

STAFFING

This grant request is not a requisition of money for staffing. All staffing will be done utilizing career and volunteer fire service personnel and will be the responsibility of the host agency utilizing the trailer.

A minimum of 3 persons are needed to give presentations and conduct the tour/drill.

A training program will be set up to “train the trainers” typically this session will not last more that four (4) hours. We envision thirty percent of all Mariposa County Fire Department personnel will be trained to conduct all the activities the trailer has to offer within the first year’s operation.

SUSTAINABILITY

Through participating public safety agencies we will foster a needed and desired preparedness tool for the community. The Fire and Life Safety Trailer fits the Fire Services’ requirements for public education. With minor effort, the trailer can be modified to meet the special needs of the audience. When trends change preparedness themes, so can the trailer.

This Fire and Life Safety Trailer will allow us a long lasting stable platform to promote disaster preparedness and fire safety programs in a most efficient, cost-effective manner.

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EVALUATION STRATEGY

By encouraging and soliciting verbal responses, we will evaluate the effectiveness of the trailer. Numerous other fire departments experience has been nothing but praise from the community in general, the children and their parents after “hands-on” tours and public displays of their trailer.

In a school setting, an evaluation report will be requested from each teacher, this will further our efforts to meet special needs groups.

Fire service personnel will be required to provide evaluations after they give presentations.

This information will be collected and presented to the Mariposa County Fire Chief and the Chiefs Association during their monthly meetings. The Association will in-turn make appropriate recommendations. These recommendations will provide continuing evaluation and ways to implement program improvement.

BUDGET

We are seeking a grant of $63,678.00 to purchase and outfit a Fire and Life Safety Trailer. We are seeking funds from the FIRST 5, Mariposa County with this one time only request.

The trailer can be pulled by most pickup trucks outfitted with a proper hitch that is common with Mariposa County Fire Department. Storage and maintenance of this trailer would be facilitated by Mariposa County Fire Department.

Funds for public education literature to be given away will be the responsibility of the agency utilizing the trailer. It should be noted that the American Red Cross has offered to provide free public education literature for all agencies for use in conjunction with the trailer.
MOBILE FIRE SAFETY DEMONSTRATION PROJECT BUDGET:

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BUDGET DISCUSSION

This grant request is submitted as a one time only request to establish this program and while the Department will provide significant time as in-kind, the grant administration agency do not require a match. We will however provide an annual summary of operating detail with contact and in-kind contributions.
PROGRAM SUPPLIES  $8500
Cost of booklets/coloring books, small plastic fire helmet, crayons and stick on badges comprise this expenditure. The quantity of these supplies is estimated to last for three years.

MOVEMENT COST  $1140
The fleet policy for the County of Mariposa establishes a per mile cost to operate fire vehicles to move the trailer. We expect to move the Fire safety Trailer to 38 sites during the first year of operation.

FIRE SAFETY TRAILER  $54038
The unit is provided with the features accepted as critical to the educational component as well as special educational features identified as “Weather Smart”. These features include fire, earthquake and severe weather simulations to provide a broad spectrum of educational opportunities.