



**Grant
CITY OF AUSTIN
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION**

**AGENDA ITEM NO.: 15
AGENDA DATE: Thu 04/28/2005
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SUBJECT: Approve a resolution authorizing the application for \$32,602 in grant funding from the Department of Homeland Security Office of Domestic Preparedness for the purchase of Knox Key Retention Devices to be placed in Austin Fire Department emergency response fire/rescue apparatus. (Funding is available from the Department of Homeland Security, Office of Domestic Preparedness, Assistance to Firefighters Grants, for the grant period which will begin, if the grant is awarded, in Fiscal Year 2005-2006. An in-kind match of \$8,150 is required, and will be proposed in the Fiscal Year 2005-2006 Operating Budget for the Austin Fire Department.)

AMOUNT & SOURCE OF FUNDING: N/A

FISCAL NOTE: There is no unanticipated fiscal impact. A fiscal note is not required.

**REQUESTING Fire
DEPARTMENT:**

**DIRECTOR'S
AUTHORIZATION: Jim Evans**

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: Jim Evans, Acting Fire Chief, 974-4100; Phil Jack, Fire Marshal, 974-4100

PRIOR COUNCIL ACTION: N/A

BOARD AND COMMISSION ACTION: N/A

This project will replace the existing Knox key holders (Knox Key Retention device) currently located in Fire Department apparatus with a secure keyholder and audit device that is compatible with Knox boxes located on 1,650 locations in the Austin area.

A Knox Box is a device placed on certain building sites throughout the city which hold a secure key to a particular facility. To open the buildings Knox box and access the building key, AFD personnel must first retrieve a Knox box key from the retention device located on the fire apparatus. Then AFD emergency response personnel can gain entry into secure facilities, compounds, and gated complexes. Many of these facilities are clearly recognized as critical infrastructures. Key access is the quickest and safest means of gaining entry into a secure facility. It eliminates firefighter injuries associated with the use of forcible entry tools, and it provides for additional fireground personnel by not requiring additional personnel for forcible entry. These systems also provide rapid, damage-free entry to mitigate the incident as early as possible to significantly lessen property damage.

The Knox Boxes currently in use are in need of replacement. Currently the AFD Dispatch center transmits a signal to the unit which electronically opens the Knox keyholder. This mode, however, is not practical in all areas of the city where the signal is weak or entirely unreadable. This grant application requests funding to replace the existing Knox key holders (Knox Key Retention device) in the Fire Department apparatus with a compatible secure keyholder and audit device. It will also increase the total number of apparatus outfitted with key holders, to include Command-level officer vehicles and for replacement/reserve units.

RESOLUTION NO. 20050428-XXX

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

That the City Manager or her designee be authorized to apply for a grant from the United States Department of Homeland Security, Office of Domestic Preparedness in the amount of \$32,602 for the purchase of Knox Key Retention Devices for use by the Austin Fire Department.

ADOPTED: April 28, 2005 ATTEST: _____
Shirley A. Brown
City Clerk