



## LEGISLATIVE MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

**FROM:** Suzanne Sherman, City Manager

**THRU:** Richard E. Stover, Fire Chief

**DATE:** November 21, 2024

**RE:** Consideration of utilizing General Fund Undesignated Fund Balance to start up a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)

### SUMMARY:

At the RCM of August 13, 2024, council approved Palm Bay Fire Rescue's request to submit a grant application to the Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM) for the Citizen Corps Program FY 2025 (Part A) and to utilize matching funds in the amount of \$10,000. The purpose of this program is to support the disaster preparedness, training, and education needs of Floridians.

Also, at the RCM of August 13, 2024, council approved Palm Bay Fire Rescue's request for approval to submit a grant application to the Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM) for the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) FY2025 (Part B) and utilize matching funds in the amount of \$10,000. The purpose of this program is to support the disaster preparedness, training, and education needs of Floridians. Awards support efforts to engage citizens in all-hazards prevention, protection, response, and recovery and would be used for Planning, Organization, Training, Exercise Equipment, and Management and Administration.

Regrettably, Palm Bay Fire Rescue was not awarded the grants from FDEM for FY25. Palm Bay Fire Rescue requests approval to allocate funds from General Fund Undesignated Fund Balance in the amount of \$20,000 to start up the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT). This program is important for the community as it provides necessary training, education and disaster preparedness. Fire Rescue feels that the program would be beneficial to the community and would further enhance our disaster preparedness efforts.

### REQUESTING DEPARTMENTS:

Fire Rescue

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

The total fiscal impact of starting the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) is \$20,000. Upon City Council approval, funds will be transferred from General Fund Undesignated Fund Balance into the Fire Rescue's Emergency Management Division operating budget on the next scheduled Budget Amendment.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

Motion to approve the allocation of \$20,000 from General Fund Undesignated Fund Balance for the purpose of starting up a Community Emergency Response Team.