

ORDINANCE NO. 15056

FILE OF CITY COUNCIL

BILL NO. 7 - 2013

INTRODUCED BY

JANUARY 16, 2013

AN ORDINANCE

Amending the 2013 Capital Fund Budget to provide for a supplemental appropriation of Two Hundred Twenty-Five Thousand Six Hundred Twenty-Five Dollars (\$225,625) as a result of a grant from the US Department of Homeland Security (FEMA) Assistant to Firefighters Grant, to the City of Allentown Fire Department to assist with the purchase and installation of the Ply-Mo Vent System for all existing City of Allentown Fire Stations.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ALLENTOWN:

SECTION ONE: That City Council authorizes an increase to the unappropriated balance of the Capital Fund in the amount of Two Hundred Twenty-Five Thousand Six Hundred Twenty-Five Dollars (\$225,625) reflecting reimbursement from the FEMA Grant.

SECTION TWO: That City Council authorizes a supplemental appropriation from the unappropriated balance of the Capital Fund in the following manner:

Fire Stations Ventilation System:

001-05-1695-1311-46	Other Contract Services	\$ 225,625
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SECTION THREE: That this Ordinance will take effect ten (10) days after final passage.

SECTION FOUR: That all Ordinances inconsistent with the above provisions are repealed to the extent of their inconsistency.

	Yea	Nay
Joe Davis	X	
Jeanette Eichenwald	X	
Jeff Glazier	X	
Cynthia Y. Mota	X	
Ray O'Connell, VP	X	
Peter G. Schweyer	X	
Julio A. Guridy, Pres.	X	
TOTAL	7	0

I hereby certify that the foregoing Ordinance was passed by City Council on February 6, 2013 and signed by the Mayor on February 15, 2013.



CITY CLERK

What Department or bureau is Bill originating from? Where did the initiative for the bill originate?

Fire

- **Summary and Facts of the Bill**

The Fire Department was awarded a FEMA grant in the amount of \$225,625.00 for the purchase and installation of a Ply-Mo vent system for all existing fire stations. We are asking council to appropriate \$225,625.00 from the

Un-appropriated balance of the capital fund until payment from FEMA is received. This work must be completed by December of 2013, however it is vital that we have this system installed as soon as possible to increase the safety to our firefighters and make our Stations a healthier environment in which to work. The funds will be reimbursed as soon as the project is approved by this Council and the funds are in place.

- **Purpose – Please include the following in your explanation:**

- **What does the Bill do – what are the specific goals/tasks the bill seek to accomplish**

To provide funding for the installation of the Ply-Mo Vent System with re-imbusement from FEMA

- **What are the Benefits of doing this/Down-side of doing this**

This project will fulfill our biggest need, satisfying our recent comprehensive needs analysis, as well as bring our department into compliance with NFPA 1500 section 9.1.6 relating to the exposure of firefighters to emissions.

The installed system we proposed will capture 100% of the exhaust emissions via direct connections to the vehicle exhaust pipes. A filtration system and fans will vent the emissions to the outdoors, which will meet the requirements in NFPA 1500-2007 edition, the National institute of Occupational safety and health (NIOSH), the US Department of Health (USDOH, the clean air act of 1990 and the Occupational safety and Health Administration (OSHA) requirements and recommendations. We see no down side to this project.

- **How does this Bill related to the City's Vision/Mission/Priorities**

The bill will create a healthier environment in all fire stations for all fire personnel.

- **Financial Impact – Please include the following in your explanation:**

- **Cost (Initial and ongoing)**

Initial \$237,000, Ongoing minor increase to electric bills.

- **Benefits (initial and ongoing)**

We currently spend more than \$2,220,984 annually for health benefits and insurance for our personnel. This number could grow higher with the potential for long term health conditions due to constant exposure to high levels of CO and cancer causing carcinogens. In order to comply with OSHA, we cannot continue to allow our personnel to be exposed to these dangerous fumes. Protecting the health of 125 firefighters for the Federal cost over a 20 year period translates to \$47 per year per firefighter – an amount which pales in comparison to the cost of long term health benefits! The protection of these personnel for such a limited investment provides a great cost/benefit ratio. The lifespan of our PPE, which currently hangs in the apparatus bays located directly adjacent to the apparatus exhaust, will be greatly extended.

Each time our vehicles are started, all of the gear is subjected to the black/blue diesel exhaust fumes and smoke. Our firefighters then don their PPE which really can't be considered personal "protective" equipment due to the PPE being coated in cancer causing carcinogens emanating from our apparatus.

After our vehicles start up, our apparatus bays must be manually ventilated by opening the doors which causes an effect on our utility bills in the winter months. Regardless of the time of year or the weather conditions, this is a completely unsafe condition that our staff should not have to be subjected to.

Additionally, we will see a financial benefit related to our building maintenance and equipment replacement. Our buildings will remain clean and soot free from harmful exhaust fumes. We will reduce our maintenance costs for heating filters, paint for our walls, and the replacement of ceiling tiles which are notorious for turning various shades of black after exposure to the diesel exhaust. Our crews who sleep inside the station will not be in danger of inhaling carbon monoxide in their sleep due to the amount of diesel emissions throughout the building.

With 118,032 citizens to protect, a project such as this at a Federal expense of only \$225,625 provides a great cost/benefit per resident. When taking into account the amount of citizens, divided by the cost of the project multiplied by an approximate 20 year equipment life expectancy, the cost per person per year equals to only \$0.08 (8 cents!) per resident throughout the span of this project! This cost analysis alone proves this project has a very favorable cost/benefit ratio.

- **Funding Sources – Please include the following in your explanation:**
 - **If transferring funds, please make sure bill gives specific accounts; if appropriating funds from a grant list the agency awarding the grant.**

Re-imbusement through FEMA \$225,625.00

- **Priority status/Deadlines, if any**

ASAP

Why should Council unanimously support this bill?

To create a healthier environment for All Fire Personnel and begin to realize the cost benefit.

- **Committee Action**
- **Public Comments**
- **Body/Text of the Bill**
- **Exhibits**
- **Vote**