



# BOSTON CITY COUNCIL

Committee on Public Safety  
Henry Santana, Chair

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## REPORT OF COMMITTEE CHAIR

June 12, 2024

Dear Councilors,

*Docket #0377, Message and order authorizing the City of Boston to accept and expend the amount of One Million Six Hundred Four Thousand Fourteen Dollars and Twenty Cents (\$1,604,014.20) in the form of a grant, for the FY24 Hazmat Grant, awarded by the Massachusetts Department of Fire Services to be administered by the Fire Department. The grant will fund the needs of the hazardous materials response teams, as specified in line item 8324-0000 and 8324-0050 of the FY24 General Appropriation Act, was sponsored by Mayor Wu and referred to the committee on February 28, 2024,*

*Docket #0378, Message and order authorizing the City of Boston to accept and expend the amount of One Million One Hundred Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars. (\$1,125,000.00) in the form of a grant, for the FY24 State Training Grant, awarded by Massachusetts Department of Fire Services to be administered by the Fire Department. The grant will fund the purchase of equipment and supplies, and to fund training initiatives for the Boston Fire Training Academy to ensure the department remains current in the firefighting services, were sponsored by Mayor Michelle Wu and referred to the Committee on February 28, 2024; and,*

*Docket #0910, Message and order authorizing the City of Boston to accept and expend the amount of Sixteen Thousand Eight Hundred Twenty-Five Dollars (\$16,825.00) in the form of a grant, for the FY2020-2021 Port Security Grant, awarded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency to be administered by the Fire Department. The grant will fund and support increased port-wide risk management and protect critical surface transportation infrastructure from acts of terrorism, major disasters, and other emergencies, was sponsored by Mayor Michelle Wu and referred to the Committee on June 5, 2024.*

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### **Information Gathered at the Hearing:**

A public meeting was held on Tuesday, June 11, 2024. We were joined by Councilors Erin Murphy, Ed Flynn, John Fitzgerald, Sharon Durkan, Benjamin Weber, and Gabriela Coletta Zapata.

The Committee on Public Safety and Criminal Justice heard testimony from Boston Fire Department (BPD) officials including: Kevin Coyne, Deputy Commissioner, Administration & Finance; Julie Byrne Devin, Procurement and Grant Management; and Shauna Lynch, Grant Manager. BFD officials gave the committee a breakdown and overview of how the monies are planned to be used in the Department.

Fire Commissioner Coyne testified on *Docket #0910*, a FY20-21 Port Security grant fund in the amount of \$16,825.00 awarded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to be administered by the Boston Fire Department to fund and support increased port-wide risk management and protect critical surface transportation infrastructure from acts of terrorism, major disasters, and other emergencies. Commissioner Coyne highlighted that these funds will be used for Ballistic Protection equipment.

Ms. Devin expounded on the use of the Port Security grant, explaining that it is a reimbursable grant. She indicated that the budget period runs from 9/1/2020 to 8/31/2024. She said that the grants had not gone through the appropriate channels therefore causing the delay in accepting the FY20 grant award of \$6,625.00 and FY21 grant award of \$10,200 totaling \$16,825.00. She indicated that these funds are requested for ballistics protection equipment (BPE) to support BFD's ability to enhance the protection of soft targets/crowded places in and around the port of Boston, both a national and a priority of the Captain of the Port (COPT). It was reported that the ballistics protection equipment purchased through this request would be distributed to the Active Safety Hostile Event Response Team (ASHER) trained fire companies located in strategic locations throughout the city, with a focus on those companies that would respond as the lead companies in the event of an active shooter or other terrorist event in or near a port. The BFD has 11 Active Shooter Hostile Event Response companies.

Ms. Devin discussed and reviewed *Docket # 0377* stating that the FY24 Hazmat grant funding in the amount of \$1,604,014.40 was awarded by the Massachusetts Department of Fire Services to be administered by the Fire Department. This grant would fund the needs of Hazardous Material Response teams, as specified in line item 8324-0000 and 8324-0050 of the FY24 General Appropriation Act. She stated that this grant was earmarked from the Massachusetts Department of Fire Services (DFS) and is reimbursable and was allocated in two different appropriations. She stated that the Massachusetts Department of Fire Services is authorized to administer non-discretionary grant funds under the General Appropriation Act, line item 8324-0000 (\$1,485,264,40) and 8324-0050 (\$118,750.00) contract which totals \$1,604,014,40. She explained that the original amount allocated was \$237,500.00, however due to 9C reduction was reduced by 50% to \$118,750.00. Ms. Devin indicated that this grant is only used for the Hazmat Response Team-related expenses and also for training that goes along with the procurement process in order for the team to do their job efficiently, safely and successfully.

Ms. Devin spoke on *Docket #0378*, a FY24 State Training grant in the amount of \$1,125,000.00 awarded by the Massachusetts Department of Fire Services to be administered by the Fire Department to fund the purchase of equipment and supplies, and to fund training initiative for the Boston Fire Training at the Moon Island Boston Fire Academy. Ms. Devin said that the money is used for training for the entire Fire Department. The grant budget period runs from 7/1/2023-6/30/2024. It was explained that a non-competitive grant provided to municipalities earmarked by the state legislature. She indicated that these funds were reduced by 50% per 9C reduction of the appropriation line item from \$2,250,000.00 to the current amount of \$1,125,000.00.

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**Recommended Action:**

The Chair of the Committee on Public Safety and Criminal Justice, to which the following was referred:

***Docket #0910, Message and order authorizing the City of Boston to accept and expend the amount of Sixteen Thousand Eight Hundred Twenty-Five Dollars (\$16,825.00) in the form of a grant, for***

*the FY2020-2021 Port Security Grant, awarded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency to be administered by the Fire Department. The grant will fund and support increased port-wide risk management and protect critical surface transportation infrastructure from acts of terrorism, major disasters, and other emergencies,*

*Docket #0377, Message and order authorizing the City of Boston to accept and expend the amount of One Million Six Hundred Four Thousand Fourteen Dollars and Twenty Cents (\$1,604,014.20) in the form of a grant, for the FY24 Hazmat Grant, awarded by the Massachusetts Department of Fire Services to be administered by the Fire Department. The grant will fund the needs of the hazardous materials response teams, as specified in line item 8324-0000 and 8324-0050 of the FY24 General Appropriation Act; and*

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submits a report recommending that these dockets ought to pass.

*Henry A. Santana*

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Committee on Public Safety & Criminal Justice