



Orange County Fire Authority  
**AGENDA STAFF REPORT**

Board of Directors Meeting  
September 25, 2025

Agenda Item No. 2C  
Consent Calendar

**Acceptance of 2025 Department of Homeland Security/Federal  
Emergency Management Agency's Urban Search & Rescue  
Preparedness Cooperative Agreement Funding**

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**Contact(s) for Further Information**

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**Summary**

This annual item is submitted for approval and acceptance of the 2025 Preparedness Cooperative Agreement funding from the Department of Homeland Security/Federal Emergency Management Agency's (DHS/FEMA) National Urban Search and Rescue (US&R) Program.

**Prior Board/Committee Action**

On September 10, 2025, the Budget and Finance Committee reviewed the proposed agenda item and directed staff to place on the Board of Directors agenda for approval by a 7-0 vote (Director C. Nguyen and Hasselbrink absent).

**RECOMMENDED ACTION(S)**

1. Approve and adopt the proposed Resolution to accept the Department of Homeland Security/Federal Emergency Management Agency's Grant Readiness Cooperative Agreement funding (*requires 13 affirmative votes*).
2. Approve a budget adjustment to the FY 2025/26 General Fund (121) budget increasing revenues and expenditures by \$1,404,311.00.

**Impact to Cities/County**

Not applicable.

**Fiscal Impact**

The fiscal impact includes new federal revenue of \$1,404,311.00 with corresponding proposed expenditures in FY 2025/26. This federally funded program is cost neutral to the OCFA, and the proposed adjustments to the FY 2025/26 budget will have no impact to cash contract city charges.

Increased Cost Funded by Structural Fire Fund:	\$0
Increased Cost Funded by Cash Contract Cities:	\$0

## Background

California Task Force Five (CA-TF5), located in Orange County and sponsored by the Orange County Fire Authority, is one of 28 National US&R Task Forces. CA-TF5 has used past Cooperative Agreement funds and activation reimbursements to equip and train the task force members for various missions including but not limited to: rescuing victims in collapsed structures, responding to natural disasters, and responding to attacks from weapons of mass destruction/terrorist attacks.

Currently, CA-TF5 maintains a response capability that includes an apparatus and equipment supply inventory worth approximately \$9 million. There is also a personnel cadre of over 220 members, composed of a civilian element of structural engineers, disaster search canines, physicians, firefighters from the participating agencies of Anaheim, Orange, and the OCFA.

DHS/FEMA has authorized initial funding of \$1,378,311.00 to the US&R Task Force for the administration of an approved National Urban Search and Rescue Response System. In addition to the initial funding that has been awarded to the US&R Task Force, an additional \$26,000 allocation has been awarded to CA-TF5 for the Task Force members that participate in and support the national program in leadership positions. Total grant funding for CA-TF5 is as follows:

<b>Grant Funding Component</b>	<b>Component Amount</b>	<b>Total Grant Funding</b>
<b><i>Base funding provided to each US&amp;R Task Force:</i></b>		
• Administration	\$509,361	
• Training (including travel expenses)	\$160,077	
• Equipment/Cache (acquisition, modifications)	\$72,100	
• Storage and Maintenance	\$662,773	
<i>Subtotal</i>		\$1,378,311
<b><i>Additional funding components provided to CA-TF5 only:</i></b>		
• Administration – Western Region Sponsoring Agency Chief	\$8,000	
• Administration – National Incident Support Team Leader	\$6,000	
• Administration – National Command Functional Group Leader	\$12,000	
• <i>Subtotal</i>		\$26,000
<b>Total Grant Funding Awarded to CA-TF5</b>		<b>\$1,404,311.00</b>

The Cooperative Agreement funding continues the development and maintenance of the National US&R Response System resources to be prepared to provide qualified, competent US&R personnel in support of all US&R activities/incidents under the Federal Response Plan. This Cooperative Agreement funding is available for use beginning October 1, 2025, through September 30, 2028.

## Attachment(s)

Proposed Resolution for Acceptance of FEMA US&R Cooperative Agreement

**RESOLUTION NO. 2025-XX**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE ORANGE COUNTY FIRE AUTHORITY ACCEPTING THE FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (FEMA) NATIONAL URBAN SEARCH AND RESCUE (US&R) PROGRAM COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT TO PURCHASE US&R EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES, MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR OF US&R EQUIPMENT, TRAINING, AND PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION**

WHEREAS, the Orange County Fire Authority is one of only 28 agencies in the country selected to participate in FEMA’s National US&R Response System; and

WHEREAS, OCFA entered into a tri-party agreement with FEMA and the California Governor’s Office of Emergency Services, who provide oversight and additional support for the program; and

WHEREAS, currently Orange County US&R California Task Force 5 maintains a response capability including apparatus and equipment supply inventory worth approximately \$9 million; and

WHEREAS, Orange County US&R California Task Force 5 maintains a personnel cadre of over 220 members that include a civilian element of structural engineers, disaster search canines, physicians, as well as firefighters from the participating agencies of Anaheim, Orange and the OCFA; and

WHEREAS, FEMA has authorized a funding award of \$1,404,311.00 which is available for use beginning September 1, 2025, through August 31, 2028, for preparedness issues related to the Urban Search and Rescue Program.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Board of Directors of the Orange County Fire Authority does hereby resolve to accept the FEMA US&R Cooperative Agreement to be utilized for such things as procurement of US&R equipment and supplies, maintenance and repair of US&R equipment, training and program administration. Additionally, these funds can be used for associated travel expenses for task force personnel to attend US&R-related training courses, exercises, and meetings, and for the management and administration of US&R activities. This includes expenses relating to task force maintenance, development, record-keeping, and correspondence.

PASSED, APPROVED and ADOPTED this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2025.

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XXXXXXXXXX,  
Chair, OCFA Board of Directors

ATTEST:

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MARIA D. HUIZAR, CMC  
Clerk of the Authority

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

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DAVID E. KENDIG,  
General Counsel