

From: [Irr, Steve - Fire Chief](#)
To: [Hank Green](#); [DeAnda, Paul - Somerton Fire Chief](#); [Rivera, Mark - Wellton Fire - YRCS Council Member](#)
Subject: FW: Reference: EMW-2014-FR-00369 Turndown letter
Date: Tuesday, October 27, 2015 12:10:21 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Chiefs,

Not that you need more disappointing news but our FEMA grant for radios was not funded. We are not sure how we are going to proceed moving forward but wanted to pass on this news for your future budget considerations.

Thanks,



Steve Irr
Fire Chief
City of Yuma
One City Plaza
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The City of Yuma Team is United for Yuma!

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From: firegrants@dhs.gov [<mailto:firegrants@dhs.gov>]
Sent: Monday, October 26, 2015 11:07 AM
To: Irr, Steve - Fire Chief
Subject: Reference: EMW-2014-FR-00369 Turndown letter

Stephen Irr
City of Yuma Fire Department
One City Plaza
Yuma, Arizona 85364

Reference: EMW-2014-FR-00369 Turndown letter

Activity: Equipment

Dear Assistance to Firefighters Grants (AFG) Applicant:

On behalf of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Grant Programs Directorate, I wish to thank you for applying for assistance under the Fiscal Year (FY) 2014 Assistance to Firefighters Grants (AFG) Program. Unfortunately, after careful consideration and review, we are unable to fund your application. We regret that the news could not be

more positive.

As you are aware, the AFG Program is among the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) and FEMA's most competitive grant programs. In FY 2014, FEMA received over 10,000 AFG applications, requesting more than \$1.9 billion in federal assistance. The large number of applications received and the finite amount of available funding resulted in many worthy applicants not being funded and underscores the highly competitive nature of this program.

Under the AFG program, each activity within an application receives a detailed, multi-level review. First, each activity receives a preliminary score based on the applicant's answers to the application questions. The application questions are developed based on the AFG program priorities, which are explained in the FY 2014 AFG Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA), previously known as the Program Guidance. The second phase was a review by a panel of fire service peers. Using the information that you provided throughout your application, the panelists assigned scores to four elements of your application narrative: (1) clarity of the project description, (2) impact on daily operations, (3) demonstration of financial need, and (4) realization of cost benefit. Each of the two phases of the review carried equal weight, i.e., each phase was worth 50 percent of the activity's overall score.

Given the high number of applications received, it is not feasible for us to provide a detailed account of how each individual application was rated in this notification. However, we can tell you that your application did not score well in the preliminary assessment. Please note that if you applied for multiple activities, you may receive a separate notice for each activity.

To further improve the competitiveness of future AFG grant requests, we recommend that you review the part of your application that answered specific questions about your proposed AFG activity. Compare the program priorities of the FY 2014 AFG Funding Opportunity Announcement with your answers to these questions. If your answers do not match well with the Program's higher priorities, your application may not score well competitively against other applications that more closely match AFG priorities. A full description of the application review process is included in the AFG Funding Opportunity Announcement.

There are several tools and resources available to help fire departments and volunteer interest organizations develop effective AFG grant applications. I encourage you to make use of these resources as you prepare your next grant request.

1. **AFG Website** (<https://www.fema.gov/firegrants>). The AFG Website offers a wealth of resources, such as the following:

- The AFG Notice of Funding Opportunity/Program Guidance, which explains funding priorities and criteria
- Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)
- Narrative Self-Evaluation Tool
- AFG Application Checklist
- Get Ready Guide
- Online tutorials with key information about preparing grant requests
- AFG E-Mail Alerts, biweekly e-mail messages to the AFG mailing list, which provides important announcements about new application periods, upcoming workshops, and other AFG program updates (to receive the AFG E-Mail Alerts, sign up on the AFG website)
- Grantee success stories

2. Toll-Free Help Desk(1-866-274-0960 or firegrants@dhs.gov). The AFG Help Desk staff members answer questions from applicants by telephone and by e-mail. Between application periods, they field general questions about AFG programs. During application periods, they provide technical assistance with the online application and answer questions about the AFG guidance. If additional assistance is needed, the Help Desk staff can refer questions directly to subject matter specialists.

If you would like to receive additional feedback for your FY2014 application, please submit your contact information via the following link <https://secure.firegrantsupport.com/turndown/>, and an AFG Subject Matter Specialist will contact you.

Thank you again for your dedication and commitment to the U.S. fire service.

Regards,

C. Gary Rogers
Director
Preparedness Grant Division
Grant Programs Directorate