City of Bellevue

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA TOPIC

Resolution authorizing execution of Interlocal Agreement for eCore Access and Grant Implementation between City of Bellevue and City of Redmond.

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Bellevue Fire Department

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

ACTION

This Resolution will authorize an Interlocal Agreement between the City of Bellevue and the City of Redmond to implement the purpose of the FEMA Fire Prevention and Safety Grant and have each City's Fire Department share e-core access to rapid entry key lock boxes (Knox boxes) installed on buildings in their respective jurisdictions. This would expedite emergency response times for Bellevue and Redmond communities when Bellevue and Redmond firefighters arrive first in each other's jurisdictions as they respond to automatic aid calls.

RECOMMENDATION

Move to adopt Resolution No. 10409

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS

Knox boxes are secure, proprietary boxes installed on the outside of commercial and multi-family buildings with fire protection systems. They contain keys to the building to facilitate rapid firefighter access during emergencies while avoiding forced entry, which damages property. The City of Bellevue's Knox boxes utilize traditional mechanical keys.

The Bellevue Fire Department participated in the Knox Company's beta testing of an electronic Knox Box ("eLock" system) infrastructure in 2018. Recognizing the eLock system improves key security and auditing capabilities, the fire department decided to transition away from the current mechanical system.

To fund the transition from the current mechanical system to the eLock system, the Bellevue Fire Department applied for FEMA's Fiscal Year 2023 Fire Prevention and Safety grant in partnership with the Redmond Fire Department. The basis of the grant project is to fund the simultaneous transition of both municipalities and share eLock system access with each other to speed up response times in instances of mutual aid in commercial and multi-family residential spaces.

The Bellevue and Redmond Fire Departments share a jurisdictional border of 9.5 miles, responding to a combined 2,126 mutual aid calls in 2023, nearly 10% of the year's total call volume. Bellevue provided aid to Knox box equipped spaces in Redmond's jurisdiction 563 times in 2023. Redmond did the same

for Bellevue 948 times. Of those: 50 were cardiac arrest calls, 8 were strokes, and 22 were confirmed structure fires (14 of which were in multi-family residences). We can be sure that in all 80 of these calls, any time delays would have significantly impacted patient outcomes and extent of structure damage. Implementing eLock Knox systems in tandem with Redmond will allow both departments to share electronic key access to each other's boxes. If other neighboring fire departments implement this eLock infrastructure, they could also be programmed to be interoperable with the Bellevue and Redmond fire departments electronic keys. In conclusion, adopting this resolution to share Knox eLock access will improve emergency response in both Bellevue and Redmond while maximizing key security.

POLICY & FISCAL IMPACTS

Policy Impact
The execution of this interlocal agreement lies within the Fire Department's current policies and practices. No new policies are needed for this action.

Fiscal Impact
There is a 5.00 percent "soft match" required of awardees. City staff members' time spent programming and installing electronic key can be used as the 5.00% match as calculated by the hourly cost burden of each employee's wages and benefits.

Bellevue Fire Department personnel already maintain and utilize Knox equipment daily and have budget to procure minor parts for ongoing maintenance.

OPTIONS

1. Approve Resolution authorizing execution of Interlocal Agreement for eCore Access and Grant Implementation between City of Bellevue and City of Redmond.
2. Do not approve Resolution and provide alternative direction to staff.

ATTACHMENTS

Proposed Resolution No. 10409

AVAILABLE IN COUNCIL LIBRARY

Proposed Interlocal Agreement for eCore Access and Grant Implementation.