

**ORDINANCE No. 2020-23**

**AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF LEON VALLEY, TX, CITY COUNCIL AMENDING THE GENERAL FUND BUDGET OF THE CITY OF LEON VALLEY, TEXAS MUNICIPAL BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2019-2020 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$96,250 TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR THE LEON VALLEY GENERAL FUND FOR THE PURCHASE OF ADDITIONAL BUNKER GEAR; PROVIDING FOR REPEALER, SEVERABILITY AND SAVING CLAUSES; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

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**WHEREAS**, the City of Leon Valley passed their FY 2019-2020 Budget on August 6, 2019; and

**WHEREAS**, City Council approved the budget for the General Fund for FY 2019-2020; and

**WHEREAS**, staff has determined that funding should be added to the FY 2019-2020 General Fund Budget to purchase a second set of bunker gear for our 27 firefighters; and

**WHEREAS**, it is necessary to adjust the General Fund Budget by \$96,250 for FY 2019-2020; and

**WHEREAS**, Texas Local Government Code Section 102-0120 provides that a municipality is not prohibited from making changes to a budget for municipal purposes; and

**WHEREAS**, the Leon Valley City Council now desires to amend the General Fund Budget for FY 2019-2020 in the amount \$96,250 to purchase additional bunker gear;

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LEON VALLEY, TEXAS, THAT:**

**SECTION 1:** The Texas Commission on Fire Protection increased its requirements for firefighter safety, with concerns for bunker gear as a leading cause of sickness among firefighters. The two major issues are - the cancer risk posed by contaminated bunker gear and using wet gear which could cause severe burns when heated.

The Texas Commission on Fire Protection is requiring all regulated fire department to decrease exposure to contaminated bunker gear. Contaminated bunker gear is considered bunker gear that has been exposed to the byproducts of combustion. This includes vehicle fire, house fires, commercial fires and outside fires. Firefighters exposed to these contaminants are more susceptible to job acquired cancers. The Commission requires our department to bag contaminated gear at the scene and not allow firefighter to use again until the gear has had gross decontamination, complete washing and air drying. Firefighters are required to clean themselves with cancer wipes

immediately upon removing their bunker gear. Contaminated bunker cannot be carried in the passenger compartment of any vehicle carrying firefighters. This entire decontamination and drying process takes 48-hours and only following this can on-duty firefighter use the gear again.

The second issue is wet bunker gear. Once gear is used and it becomes wet, the gear cannot be used for interior fire attack. Wet bunker gear when exposed to extreme heat produces steam. Firefighters exposed to this steam will be burned inside their own bunker gear. These steam burns can cause third-degree burns over 85% of the body.

Purchasing a second set of bunker gear for our 27 firefighters is the solution that all of the surrounding departments are using to resolve this critical issue, including the City of San Antonio. Bunker gear has a 10-year expiration date per the Texas Commission on Fire Protection and a true usable life of about 5-years due to use. Currently, the Leon Valley Fire Department spends approximately \$5,000 per year on maintenance and required testing.

**SECTION 2.** The FY 2019-2020 General Fund Budget of the City of Leon Valley is hereby amended to increase the budget by the amount of \$96,250 to provide funding for 27 sets of new bunker gear.

**SECTION 3.** The financial allocations in this Ordinance are subject to approval by the Finance Director. The Finance Director may, subject to concurrence by the City Manager or the City Manager's designee, correct allocations as necessary to carry out the purpose of this Ordinance.

**PASSED, ADOPTED AND APPROVED** by the City Council of the City of Leon Valley this the 19th day of May 2020.

**APPROVED**



**CHRIS RILEY**  
MAYOR

Attest:

  
**SAUNDRA PASSAILAIGUE, TRMC**  
City Secretary



Approved as to Form: City Attorney