

City Council Agenda Item Memo

From: Ashley Rentsch, Finance Director

Council Meeting: August 11, 2026

Subject: Resolution 26-050 - Supplement the 2026 Budget for Volunteer Fire Assistance Grant

Presenter: Ashley Rentsch, Finance Director

Summary and Recommended Action:

Staff recommends approval of the proposed Resolution to supplement the 2026 Budget by \$7,000 for the receipt and expenditure of a Volunteer Fire Assistance (VFA) Grant awarded through the South Dakota Department of Public Safety, Wildland Fire Division.

Item Details:

The Brookings Fire Department has been awarded a \$7,000 Volunteer Fire Assistance (VFA) Grant through the South Dakota Department of Public Safety, Wildland Fire Division, to assist with the purchase of portable radios. The grant supports the acquisition of equipment that enhances emergency communications and improves firefighter safety.

The grant funding will be applied toward the purchase of five new portable radio packages, each consisting of a portable radio, charger, and spare battery. The total cost of the purchase is \$22,842, of which \$7,000 will be funded through the grant and the remaining \$15,842 will be funded through the City's Capital Budget.

This purchase represents the first phase of the Fire Department's long-term initiative to standardize its portable radio fleet. The department currently utilizes multiple manufacturers and models, creating operational challenges related to programming, training, maintenance, and replacement parts. Standardizing equipment will improve interoperability, simplify maintenance and training, and provide a safer and more effective emergency communications environment.

The Fire Department anticipates purchasing an additional twelve radio packages utilizing existing capital funding and has also applied for a State Homeland Security Grant to continue the standardization effort. The department expects the transition to be completed over the next two to three years, subject to grant funding and available capital resources.

Legal Consideration:

South Dakota Codified Law 9-21-9.1 authorizes municipalities to expend state, county, and federal grant funds received after adoption of the annual appropriations ordinance

without a budget amendment ordinance. The governing body must publish the purpose of the expenditure and the recipient in the City's official newspaper.

Strategic Plan Consideration:

- Fiscal Responsibility – The City of Brookings will responsibly manage resources through transparency, efficiency, equity, and exceptional customer service.
- Safe, Inclusive, Connected Community – The City of Brookings will create an environment for inclusive programs, gathering places, and events where the community can safely live, work and come together to participate in opportunities for learning, recreation and enjoyment.

Financial Consideration:

The City will receive \$7,000 in grant funding, which will be supplemented into the 2026 budget pursuant to SDCL 9-21-9.1. The remaining \$15,842 required for the purchase will be founded through the Fire Department's existing 2026 capital budget.

Supporting Documentation:

Resolution

Grant Agreement