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4-23-02*City of Alexandria, Virginia*

MEMORANDUM

DATE: APRIL 3, 2002

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: PHILIP SUNDERLAND, CITY MANAGER ^S

SUBJECT: SUBMISSION OF A GRANT APPLICATION TO THE FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY'S (FEMA) ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTERS GRANT PROGRAM

ISSUE: City Council consideration of a grant application, in the amount of \$89,943, for FEMA's Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program.

RECOMMENDATION: That City Council:

- (1) approve the submission of an electronic grant application to FEMA; and
- (2) authorize the City Manager to submit this application for Federal assistance.

DISCUSSION: The Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program, administered by FEMA through the United States Fire Administration, will provide \$360 million to municipally-based fire departments to enhance their ability to protect the health and safety of the public as well as the firefighting personnel facing fire and fire-related hazards. All of America's 32,000 paid, volunteer, and part-paid departments are eligible for grants under the Assistance to Firefighters Grant, which funds categories for fire operations and firefighter safety, fire prevention, emergency medical services, and firefighting vehicle acquisition. Awarded on a competitive basis, these grants will be awarded to fire departments that demonstrate financial need for assistance and how the costs expended under this program will benefit the firefighters' and/or public's safety.

The Fire Department proposes that the City apply for this grant to repair and upgrade the Burn Building, located at 805 South Payne Street. This building was constructed in 1981 for the purpose of training firefighters--to give them the opportunity to practice live fire-suppression skills and to perform rapid and safe lifesaving operations. During FY 1999, the City received State grant monies totaling \$104,000 to renovate approximately three-fourths of the Burn Building.

This new FEMA grant would complete the renovation of the facility, as well as repair doors and window frames damaged by fire since the building was partially renovated in FY 1999. Primarily, the monies will be used to replace the old fire-resistant panels with new high-temperature fireproof panels that will include temperature indicators to be monitored from a "safe area." These high-temperature fireproof panels help prevent injuries and control high temperatures shielding the facility from intense heat that can degrade the fire-resistant panels.

FISCAL IMPACT: The Assistance to Firefighters Grant is designed to cover 70 percent of the total project cost. The total cost to repair and upgrade the Fire Department's Burn Building is \$89,943. The Assistance to Firefighters Grant would cover 70 percent of the cost, or \$62,961, while funding through the Virginia Department of Fire Programs would provide the 30 percent City-share, or \$26,982. The Virginia Department of Fire Programs has authorized the Fire Department's use of the State's Aid-To-Localities grant monies to match this FEMA grant. Therefore, there is no direct cost to the City.

ATTACHMENTS: None. Although the grant's application must be submitted electronically and (by design) cannot be printed out, the "Narrative," the major part of the grant application, may be reviewed in the Office of Management and Budget, Room 3600, City Hall, during normal business hours.

STAFF:

Thomas Hawkins, Fire Chief
Christopher Leischner, Battalion Chief
Virginia Lester, Fiscal Officer