

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: MAY 21, 2002

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: PHILIP SUNDERLAND, CITY MANAGER ^{PS}

SUBJECT: CONSIDERATION OF A GRANT APPLICATION TO THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE FOR FUNDS TO IMPROVE THE CITY'S ABILITY TO RESPOND TO FUTURE TERRORISM OR OTHER EMERGENCIES

ISSUE: Consideration of a grant application to the U.S. Department of Justice for funds to improve the city's ability to respond to future terrorism or other emergencies.

RECOMMENDATION: That City Council:

- (1) approve the grant application to the U.S. Department of Justice for a total of \$8,000,000. There is no requirement for City matching funds, although some of the grant funds will be used to support public safety measures initiated at City expense following September 11. In addition, City funds will be required in the future to maintain some of the equipment that is being purchased; and
- (2) authorize the City Manager to execute all necessary documents that may be required to receive the grant and release the grant funds to the City for expenditure.

DISCUSSION: Following the terrorist attacks on September 11, Congress earmarked \$251 million for state and local public safety agencies to use for emergency preparedness equipment, training, and related purposes. The proposed grant application must be submitted for the City to begin making use of these funds, (which were appropriated to the City through the U.S. Department of Justice). Of the \$251 million total, \$8 million was designated for the City.¹

¹Of the \$251 million, \$62.5 million is going to the State of Virginia and Virginia localities, \$50.7 million to the State of New Jersey and New Jersey localities, \$39 million to the State of Maryland and Maryland localities, \$71.8 million to the State of New York and New York localities, \$5 million to the State of Pennsylvania, \$17.1 to the Salt Lake City Olympics, and \$5 million for a "CyberSecurity Initiative." The \$62.5 million awarded to Virginia was allocated as follows: \$16 million to Arlington; \$12 million to Fairfax County; \$8 million to Alexandria; \$4.3 million each to Loudoun and Prince William; \$1.5 million each to Fairfax City and Manassas; \$500,000 each to the Cities of Fairfax and Falls Church; and \$13.9 million to the Virginia State Police.

The City proposes to use these funds to substantially improve its ability to prevent or respond quickly to terrorist incidents within the City, and to assist neighboring jurisdictions in responding to terrorist incidents within their boundaries. Staff plans to purchase equipment and training for the City's public safety departments as follows:

1. The Police Department will purchase:

- specialized equipment and vehicles to allow it to respond quickly to any future terrorist incidents, including bombs and weapons of mass destruction (e.g., biological or chemical weapons), or other civil disturbances;
- protective clothing and related equipment to provide protection to officers who are working in or near any biologically or chemically contaminated areas, or areas with civil disorders;
- training for officers to teach them how to deal with weapons of mass destruction and other aspects of terrorism;
- new or upgraded communications equipment, including additional radios, digital encryption capability for police radios, a telephone citizen advisement system such as reverse-911, and portable computers for police vehicles;
- equipment and software to conduct records checks and other surveillance on suspected terrorists; and
- upgrades to the Department's Mobile Incident Command Vehicle (primarily to computer and communication systems).

2. The Fire Department will purchase:

- a ladder truck, a hazardous materials response vehicle, and a technical rescue response vehicle (for its Technical Rescue Team);
- portable radios for firefighters and portable computers for Fire Department vehicles;
- protective clothing for firefighters; and
- advanced training and monitoring equipment for hazardous material responders.

3. The Sheriff's Office will purchase portable radios for sheriff's deputies.

4. Upgrades benefitting all City public safety departments will be made to the City's Public Safety Radio System and Emergency Operations Center.

Staff estimates that most of the above equipment and training will be purchased within the next 12 months, although some purchases (e.g., upgrades to the Radio System) are expected to take 2 to 3 years to complete.

FISCAL IMPACT: The federal government has appropriated \$8 million for the City to address the above public safety needs. No local match is required, but City funds will be required in the future to maintain some of the equipment that is being purchased. These needs will be addressed in the context of future budgets.

ATTACHMENTS: None. The grant application may be reviewed in the Office of Management and Budget, Room 3600, City Hall, during normal working hours.

STAFF:

Bernard Caton, Legislative Director

Charles Samarra, Police Chief

Thomas Hawkins, Fire Chief

Amy Flenniken, Division Chief, Fiscal Management, Police Department

Virginia Lester, Fiscal Officer, Fire Department

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