

City of Alexandria, Virginia

CM Report (e)  
4-8-03

MEMORANDUM

DATE: APRIL 29, 2003  
TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL  
THROUGH: PHILIP SUNDERLAND, CITY MANAGER *PS*  
FROM: RICHARD J. BAIER, P.E., DIRECTOR, T&ES *RJB*  
SUBJECT: SNOW AND ICE REMOVAL SEASON COSTS

It was noted by weather experts that 2002-2003 was one of the harshest winters on record. Normally, the City receives approximately 20 inches of snow. That number doubled this year as the City received a snow accumulation of 40 inches. There were 17 separate snow events that required the use of City and contractor crews, equipment, and materials.

For the past season, expenses for T&ES snow operations exceeded budget; however, anticipated reimbursement from the Virginia Department for Emergency Management will reduce the City's unbudgeted expenses. FY '03 expenses and budget for T&ES snow operations were as follows:

Total snow expenses	\$1,337,102
Snow operations budget	<u>289,904</u>
Gross overexpenditure	\$1,047,198
Anticipated reimbursement	<u>220,000</u>
Net overexpenditure	\$827,198

Due to the severe weather conditions this year, the City, along with other jurisdictions in the State, have been authorized by the Virginia Department for Emergency Management to submit a request for reimbursement of expenses incurred for snow removal and emergency protective measures during the time period of February 15 through February 28. Each jurisdiction is permitted to submit eligible expenses incurred for any single consecutive 48-hour period. T&ES has determined that the City's 48-hour period began on February 19 at 12:01 a.m. and ended February 20 at 11:59 p.m. Eligible expenses include labor costs (overtime and social security on the overtime), contract labor costs, equipment, materials, etc. During this 48-hour time period, T&ES had approximately \$244,500 in expenditures that will be included in the City's application for reimbursement. Other City agencies, which incurred snow removal costs, are developing their expenditures for this same 48 hours in order to complete the application. After the application is received by the Virginia Department of Emergency Management, and expenditures have been verified as eligible for reimbursement, the City will most likely be reimbursed 75% by the Federal Emergency Management Agency and 15% by the State. According to FEMA

regulations, the City will be responsible for the remaining 10% of the costs. Since only a 48-hour period will be reimbursed, about \$220,000 of T&ES's total February 15-28 costs are expected to be reimbursed. Similarly, 90% of the snow costs incurred by other departments during this two week period are expected to be reimbursed.

If you need additional information, please contact me at 703-838-4966.

cc: Michele Evans, Assistant City Manager  
Mark Jinks, Assistant City Manager  
Ed Mandley, Director, General Services  
Sandra Whitmore, Director, Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities  
Laura Triggs, Comptroller, Finance