

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: SEPTEMBER 12, 2002

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: PHILIP SUNDERLAND, CITY MANAGER *PS*

SUBJECT: SUBMISSION OF A GRANT APPLICATION TO THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT TO CONDUCT A REGIONAL TERRORISM RESPONSE EXERCISE INVOLVING ALEXANDRIA'S HAZARDOUS MATERIALS (HAZ MAT) RESPONSE TEAM

**ISSUE:** City Council consideration of a grant application, totaling \$10,000, to the Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM) to conduct a regional terrorism response exercise involving Alexandria's Haz Mat Response Team.

**RECOMMENDATION:** That City Council:

- (1) approve this grant award, totaling \$10,000, from the VDEM; and
- (2) authorize the City Manager to execute all documents that may be required.

**DISCUSSION:** The Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM) agrees to pass a one-time grant to the City for the purpose of conducting a terrorism field response exercise involving personnel and equipment of the Haz Mat Team. VDEM will assist in developing the exercise scenario and coordinating with State and federal agencies that may be involved. The City of Alexandria is responsible for all local coordination with adjacent jurisdictions.

Alexandria's Haz Mat Team is one of the Commonwealth's 13 regional teams that will take part in these exercises. The goals of these regional exercises will be to identify and address any shortfalls associated with State and local plans, the organizational response structure, and/or local and regional protocols. Lessons learned from these exercises should help the Commonwealth and its 13 regional teams to:

- ▶ update local and state terrorism plans;
- ▶ develop future training initiatives;
- ▶ enhance response procedures; and
- ▶ identify and prioritize resource needs.

Since 1988, Alexandria's Haz Mat Team has been a state-contracted team, responding to hazardous materials incidents throughout Northern Virginia. The Haz Mat Team was established in 1983, due to Alexandria's rising number of emergency calls that were requiring the handling of hazardous materials. In 1983, the Haz Mat Team averaged approximately 100 haz mat calls per year. During FY 2002, the Haz Mat Team responded to 411 haz mat calls.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** There is no match requirement for this one-time grant. The exercise must take place by November 30, 2002. In addition, Fire Department staff must conduct a critique following the exercise, prepare an after-action report, and provide documented expenditures to the VDEM no later than December 13, 2002.

The Fire Department has submitted the letter of agreement to the State in order to meet the deadline of September 16, 2002, with the understanding the subsequent City Council authorization would be required to accept this grant award.

**ATTACHMENTS:** None. This 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

Joseph Hoffmaster, Battalion Chief/Haz Mat Team Commander, Alexandria Fire Department

Virginia Lester, Fiscal Officer, Alexandria Fire Department