

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: SEPTEMBER 26, 2003

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 FIRE PROGRAMS TO PURCHASE A ROOFTOP SIMULATOR FOR FIRE OPERATIONS TRAINING

ISSUE: City Council consideration of a grant application, in the amount of \$8,000, to purchase a rooftop simulator, which will train firefighters to open vertical ventilation holes in roofs for containment of fires and mitigation of damage on commercial buildings and at shopping centers.

RECOMMENDATION: That City Council:

- (1) Approve this grant submission to the Virginia Department of Fire Programs; and
- (2) Authorize the City Manager to submit this application for State assistance.

DISCUSSION: The Fire Department's rooftop operations during a fire impose dangerous hazards: smoke conditions and the potential for roof collapse. Training firefighters to carefully and effectively undertake rooftop operations is a high priority, and this grant will provide monies to purchase a useful tool--a rooftop-simulator--to prepare firefighters for rooftop firefighting operations they will inevitably experience during their careers. This specialized training will be useful to firefighters, allowing them to observe hazardous conditions and to practice skills that will be required when carrying out rooftop firefighting operations.

FISCAL IMPACT: There is no match requirement for this \$8,000 competitive grant. However, the estimated cost, including the set-up of the simulator is \$10,000. Since the state looks favorably upon local effort, the Fire Department proposes to spend \$1,500 to \$2,000 from its Training Division for bricks, mortar, and props to support the rooftop simulator. Monies are available in the Fire Training Division's FY 2004 operating budget.

The Fire Department will submit this grant to the State in order to meet the deadline of September 30, 2003 with the understanding that subsequent October 14 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:

Gary Mesaris, Fire Chief

Thomas Harrell, Battalion Chief /Fire Department Training Officer

Virginia Lester, Fiscal Officer, Alexandria Fire Department