

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: OCTOBER 8, 2003

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: PHILIP SUNDERLAND, CITY MANAGER 

SUBJECT: CONSIDERATION OF GRANT APPLICATIONS TO THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT FOR DOMESTIC PREPAREDNESS EQUIPMENT FOR THE FIRE DEPARTMENT, POLICE DEPARTMENT AND OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF

ISSUE: City Council consideration of three grant applications to the Virginia Department of Emergency Management for domestic preparedness equipment for the Fire Department, Police Department and Office of the Sheriff.

RECOMMENDATION: That City Council:

- (1) Approve the submission of the grant application to the Virginia Department of Emergency Management for funding in the amount of \$100,586 for the Office of Domestic Preparedness Equipment Program Grant (Part I);
- (2) Approve the submission of the grant application to the Virginia Department of Emergency Management for funding in the amount of \$315,519 for the Office of Domestic Preparedness Equipment Program Grant (Part II);
- (3) Approve the submission of the grant application to the Virginia Department of Emergency Management for funding in the amount of \$84,439 for the U.S. Department of Justice/Office of Domestic Preparedness State Domestic Preparedness Equipment Support Program; and
- (4) Authorize the City Manager to execute all documents that may be required.

DISCUSSION: Approximately one year ago, the Virginia Department of Emergency Management was tasked with the responsibility of allocating federal monies to better prepare Virginia's jurisdictions to deal with terrorist acts involving weapons of mass destruction. The allocation of monies to each jurisdiction was based on an established formula plus an added amount based on population. Specifically, these grant monies were designated to first responders—firefighters and law enforcement officers—to mitigate the costs of enhancing security

at critical infrastructure facilities during hostilities with Iraq as well as future periods of heightened threats. The funding for each of these grants could be spent on specific equipment or commodity areas targeted by the Federal government. Each grant, as a result, specified and limited the types of equipment that could be purchased by the City.

An ad hoc work group, with City employees from the Police and Fire Departments and the Office of Sheriff, was set up to review each grant's allowable commodity areas and to recommend items to be purchased. The agencies discussed their unmet needs and were pleased that most of their highest priorities were on the State's list of approved purchases--on at least one of the three grants.

The equipment that each agency proposes to purchase is shown on Attachment 1, which provides a chart for each grant. These charts reflect the work group's overall focus on improving the City's public-safety preparedness, as well as requesting equipment that will benefit each member's agency. While breathing apparatus was the highest priority for the Fire Department and Office of Sheriff, communications equipment represented a higher priority for the Police Department (e.g., radios and mobile data terminals). With concerns about protecting their first responders, the Police plan to purchase personal protective gear and body armor, and the Fire Department requested chemical protective garments. The canine modular training for the Police Department's canine unit would help to test and sharpen the abilities of the explosive-detector dogs. All three departments hope to receive personal dosimeters, which detect the presence of radioactivity. Finally, the Fire Department's Emergency Medical Services Division requested medical supplies and a trailer, which would allow emergency rescue technicians to easily retrieve and quickly transport a cache of supplies to a mass casualty incident.

FISCAL IMPACT: No match requirements are required for the three grants totaling \$100,586, \$315,519, and \$84,439. The City, however, is responsible for the normal administrative costs associated with each grant. These costs include financial and reporting oversight provided by the Fire Department, as well as the Office of Management and Budget and the Finance Department.

The Fire Department has submitted the three grant applications to the State in order to meet the deadline of September 30, 2003, with the understanding that subsequent City Council authorization would be required to accept these grant awards.

The three grant applications sent to the Virginia Department of Emergency Management may be reviewed in the Office of Management and Budget, Room 3600, City Hall, during normal business hours.

ATTACHMENT:

1. Three Equipment Grants - Proposed Purchases

STAFF:

James H. Dunning, Sheriff

Gary Mesaris, Fire Chief

Charles Samarra, Chief of Police

Art Dahlberg, Director, Code Enforcement Bureau, Alexandria Fire Department

Virginia Lester, Fiscal Officer, Alexandria Fire Department

Three Equipment Grants–Proposed Purchases
 (To combat and deal with terrorist attacks involving weapons of mass destruction)

Chart 1-Office of Domestic Preparedness Equipment Program Grant (Part I)–\$100, 586

Departments	Description	Cost
FIRE DEPARTMENT	Cascade System for Firefighting Breathing Apparatus ¹	\$ 58,000
	Emergency Medical Supplies–to be transported/distributed throughout the City	\$ 29,044
SHERIFF OR LAW ENFORCEMENT	Fit Tester for air masks	\$ 13,542
	GRANT TOTAL ALL	\$100,586

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¹A cascade system is used for refilling air bottles (breathing apparatus). This system includes an air compressor that fills very large air bottles (where air is stored), piping (that sends air to a fill station) and a fill station(where the bottles that are worn by firefighters are refilled with air).

Chart 2-Office of Domestic Preparedness Equipment Program Grant (Part II) – \$315,519

FIRE DEPARTMENT		POLICE DEPARTMENT		OFFICE OF SHERIFF	
Description	Cost	Description	Cost	Description	Cost
30 Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA)	\$ 90,000	5 Portable Radios	\$ 25,000	20 Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA)	\$ 60,000
50 LANX Garments	\$ 30,000	4 Mobile Display Terminals	\$ 35,700	25 SCBA Kits	\$ 20,000
10 Personal Dosemeters ²	\$ 3,900	10 Personal Dosemeters	\$ 3,900	200 Batteries/175 Battery Chargers (for 800 MHZ system)	\$ 20,000
		8 Photo Ionization Detectors (PIDs)	\$ 14,400		
		Canine Modular Training	\$ 3,000		
		6 Ballistic Shields	\$ 8,400		
		Guides, Handbooks, Job Aids	\$ 1,219		
TOTAL FIRE	\$123,900	TOTAL POLICE	\$ 91,619	TOTAL SHERIFF	\$100,000
GRANT TOTAL ALL					\$315,519

²Dosemeters are small devices (the size of a pager) that are used to detect radiation. They can be hand-carried or strapped to a belt. They will make a loud noise when exposed to radiation.

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Chart 3—U.S. Department of Justice/Office of Domestic Preparedness
 State Domestic Preparedness Equipment Support Program – \$84,439

Departments	Federal Fiscal Year 2000		Federal Fiscal Year 2001		Federal Fiscal Year 2002	
FIRE DEPARTMENT	Personal Dosemeters (11 @ \$390)	\$ 4,370.34	Radiological Monitor for Haz Mat Team	\$13,473.41	Medical Supply Trailer Medical Supplies	\$ 5,000.00 \$ 1,654.30
POLICE DEPARTMENT	Personal Dosemeters (11 @ \$390)	\$ 4,370.32			Body Armor	\$ 7,200.00
OFFICE OF SHERIFF	Personal Dosemeters (11 @ \$390)	\$ 4,370.32			Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA)	\$44,000.00
	TOTAL— FFY 2000	\$13,110.98	TOTAL— FFY 2001	\$13,473.41	TOTAL— FFY 2002	\$57,854.30
GRANT TOTAL ALL						\$84,439