

## City of Alexandria, Virginia

## MEMORANDUM

DATE: MARCH 14, 2005

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: JAMES K. HARTMANN, CITY MANAGER 

SUBJECT: POLICE DEPARTMENT'S APPLICATION FOR THE JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT PROGRAM FOR FY 2005

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**ISSUE:** Notification of a renewal grant application to the U.S. Department of Justice for the Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program, in the amount of \$72,131 in federal funds and \$7,213 in local matching funds.

**RECOMMENDATION:** That City Council authorize the submission of the grant application.

**DISCUSSION:** On March 1, Police staff received an email notification that the federal FY 2005 grant application on-line process is open through the U.S. Department of Justice's web site. Alexandria's share of funding was predetermined by the grantor agency. Staff will complete the application, and the renewal grant should be awarded before October 2005.

The federal Local Law Enforcement Block Grant (LEBG) program was first funded in FY 1997. For seven years we have participated in this grant program. The JAG grant would, if approved, enable enforcement by the Police Department's Part I Crimes Task Force. This group addresses auto thefts and other serious crimes in Alexandria, and has significantly lowered the rate of auto thefts in Alexandria since its inception in March 1996. In 1995, a total of 1,183 auto thefts occurred in Alexandria. In 2004, total auto thefts were 635, a reduction of 46 percent over 9 years.

The federal share of funds is used for overtime to fund the Part I Crimes Task Force. The City share of the grant is used to lease undercover vehicles for the task force officers under an existing rental vehicle agreement. The total grant requested will be \$79,344, and will be used to fund police officer overtime for Part I Crimes Task Force in an amount not to exceed \$72,131 (the federal share of 90 percent). Undercover rental vehicles for task force members to use for surveillance will cost approximately \$7,213 (the required local share of 10 percent, funded from budgeted Police operating funds in FY 2006).

**FISCAL IMPACT:** In the event of a grant award, the federal government would provide \$72,131, or 90 percent, to fund the overtime required for the Part I Crimes Task Force. The City share of \$7,213, or ten percent, would provide for the costs associated with the rental of undercover vehicles for task force officers under an existing vehicle rental agreement. The City share of this grant would be funded from the FY 2006 Police operating budget.

**STAFF:**

Charles Samarra, Chief of Police  
Amy Flenniken, Division Chief, Police