

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: NOVEMBER 2, 2004

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: PHILIP SUNDERLAND, CITY MANAGER *PS*

SUBJECT: RECEIPT OF A GRANT AWARD FROM VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT FROM THE STATE HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM

ISSUE: Receipt of a grant award in the amount of \$424,717 from the Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM) from the State Homeland Security Grant Program.

RECOMMENDATION: That City Council:

- (1) Accept the grant funds totaling \$424,717 from the VDEM to fund equipment for first responders to better prepare for potential acts of terrorism; and
- (2) Authorize the City Manager to execute all necessary documents that may be required.

BACKGROUND: The State Homeland Security Grant Program originates from the Department of Homeland Security and is a pass through grant to the Virginia Department of Emergency Management. VDEM awarded the grant funds on a per capita basis to the local jurisdictions for homeland security projects. The grant will provide money to improve the Emergency Operations Center (EOC), purchase various equipment, and enhance the emergency preparedness awareness campaign.

DISCUSSION: The projects selected for this grant were established by the City's Emergency Management Coordinating Council. In order to qualify for funding, the Office of Emergency Management completed the Initial Strategic Implementation Plan (ISIP), which outlined the scope of projects and the estimated costs. The grant money will afford a higher level of security to meet some of the equipment needs of the Police Department, Office of the Sheriff, Fire Department, and Department of Transportation and Environmental Services. Although the exact equipment to be purchased is still subject to approval by the Office of Domestic Preparedness (ODP), the City's application specifies \$133,500 for improvements to the Emergency Operations Center (EOC), \$266,217 in equipment to enhance local response and prevention capabilities (including communications equipment, an incident response vehicle, logistical support equipment, terrorist incident prevention equipment, search and rescue equipment, and explosive device mitigation and

remediation equipment), and \$25,000 to enhance the citizen emergency preparedness awareness campaign.

FISCAL IMPACT: The \$424,717 will be appropriated to the City's Office of Emergency Management (within the Fire Department's budget), which will manage the grant requirements among the four City departments purchasing equipment under this grant. There is no match funding necessary for this grant.

A copy of the electronically submitted grant application may be reviewed in the Office of Management and Budget, Room 3600, City Hall, during normal business hours.

STAFF:

Gary A. Mesaris, Fire Chief

Mark Penn, Emergency Management Coordinator

Laura Pettus, Emergency Management Analyst