

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: NOVEMBER 30, 2005

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: JAMES HARTMANN, CITY MANAGER *J*

SUBJECT: SUBMISSION OF A GRANT APPLICATION TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE SERVICES FOR A LAW ENFORCEMENT TERRORISM PREVENTION PROGRAM GRANT FOR THE POLICE DEPARTMENT

ISSUE: City Council consideration of a new grant award from the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) for a 2006 Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention Program Grant (LETPP) for equipment for the Alexandria Police Department.

RECOMMENDATIONS: That City Council:

- (1) Approve the grant award from the DCJS for a total of \$300,601 for one year, for which the Police Department will provide a match from seized asset funds up to \$250,000; and
- (2) Authorize the City Manager to execute all necessary documents to expend the grant allocation.

DISCUSSION: The proposed grant has been awarded under guidelines recently provided to Alexandria from the DCJS. Under this program, federal funds from the Department of Homeland Security are being passed through the State for distribution to local governments. The grant award acceptance package is due to Richmond on November 22, 2005, and was submitted pending City Council's approval of the grant.

In 2003, federal and State officials requested that public safety officials from all Virginia jurisdictions assemble and complete an online assessment for a State Homeland Security Assessment and Strategy. This input was used by the State to develop a State-wide Homeland Security Strategy. These two actions led to a formula basis for determining the disbursement of federal funds under the LETPP grant, and the funds have now been allocated to DCJS for distribution. The purpose of the grant is to develop capabilities for detecting, deterring, disrupting and preventing acts of terrorism.

The Police Department proposes to use the grant for two purposes. The first is to cover approximately 50 percent of the cost of a new incident command vehicle, which would include modern surveillance, technology and communications equipment, in the amount of approximately \$250,000. The remaining 50 percent of the cost of this new vehicle would be funded from the Police Department's seized assets account. (Seized asset funds are shared with local police departments that participate in federal narcotics cases involving seizures of money and property. Upon closure of the cases, the cash is returned by the federal government to the assisting local police departments.)

The second purpose is to modify the existing command bus with new or improved capability, up to \$50,061. The current bus, which was purchased in May 1998 using seized asset funds, would be used as a secondary vehicle to establish command posts for incidents requiring a large police response. Preliminary staff estimates are that a new command bus would cost approximately \$500,000. Upgrade or modifications to the existing command bus would cost approximately \$50,000.

FISCAL IMPACT: The estimated fiscal impact of the grant is \$300,061 in federal funds administered through the DCJS, for one-time equipment purchases. The grant would be used to help procure up to 50 percent of a new incident command vehicle in the amount of \$250,000, and to upgrade the existing command vehicle, in the amount of \$50,061. The City share of funding would come from the Police Department's accumulated seized assets in the amount of \$250,000. It should be noted that there are no City funds to replace this equipment once the grant expires.

STAFF:

Charles Samarra, Chief of Police
Michele Evans, Assistant City Manager
Al Tierney, Police Captain, Office of Intelligence
Timothy Dickinson, Police Captain, Special Operations
Amy Flenniken, Division Chief, Police Finance
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