

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: DECEMBER 1, 2003

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

FROM: PHILIP SUNDERLAND, CITY MANAGER *PS*

SUBJECT: APPROVAL OF AN APPLICATION TO THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT TO REIMBURSE THE CITY FOR COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE HEIGHTENED STATE OF ALERT RESULTING FROM THE IRAQ WAR IN THE SPRING OF 2003

ISSUE: City Council consideration of an application to the State to reimburse the City \$62,474.20 for Fire and Police overtime costs associated with increased security measures at critical infrastructure sites during the first month of the Iraq War (March 17, 2003 - April 16, 2003).

RECOMMENDATION: That City Council approve the submission of this application for a reimbursement of \$62,474.20 to the Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM) for Fire and Police overtime expenditures.

DISCUSSION: As a direct result of the conflict in Iraq, alert levels and security measures were heightened throughout the United States in March 2003. To help alleviate the costs associated with these extra security measures, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security allocated monies to states to protect their critical infrastructure sites from March 17, 2003 through April 16, 2003. In an effort to appropriate these monies state-wide, VDEM asked jurisdictions to request reimbursements for expenditures, for this time period, associated with augmenting security at infrastructure sites. Our City's payroll reports show that additional overtime costs for both the Police and Fire Departments—to protect infrastructure sites—were documented from March 17, 2003 through April 16, 2003.

Protection of infrastructure sites, according to VDEM, is defined as (but not limited to) rail and highway bridges, tunnels, mass transit systems, public water and power systems, and chemical and natural gas facilities. Specific infrastructure sites protected by city police officers and firefighters are listed in the application. If any of these sites (or systems) were to be attacked, catastrophic loss of life and/or extreme economic loss would result.

The Police Department's expenditures included the mobilization of a special operations team consisting of specially trained personnel available for immediate response in the event of attacks. The Fire Department assembled an action team to protect the operations and security of the department by implementing security precautions and safety measures at fire facilities and for vehicle apparatus.

The Fire Department has submitted this request for reimbursement to the State in order to meet the deadline of October 31, 2003 with the understanding that subsequent City Council authorization would be required to accept this grant award.

FISCAL IMPACT: The amount requested for reimbursement is \$62,474.20 (\$58,994.40 for the Police Department and \$3,479.80 for the Fire Department).

STAFF:

Gary Mesaris, Fire Chief, Alexandria Fire Department
Charles Samarra, Chief of Police, Alexandria Police Department
Virginia Lester, Fiscal Officer, Alexandria Fire Department