


City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: JUNE 1, 2009

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: JAMES K. HARTMANN, CITY MANAGER 

SUBJECT: CONSIDERATION OF AN APPLICATION FOR GRANT FUNDS TO THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT FOR HAZARDOUS MATERIALS AND EMERGENCY EQUIPMENT TO SUPPORT THE NORTHERN VIRGINIA REGIONAL HAZARDOUS MATERIALS TEAM

ISSUE: Consideration of an application for grant funds to the Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM) for materials and equipment to support the Northern Virginia Regional Hazardous Materials Team.

RECOMMENDATION: That City Council:

- (1) Authorize the submission of the grant application (due June 15, 2009), not to exceed \$65,000; and
- (2) Authorize the City Manager to execute the necessary documents that may be required.

BACKGROUND: On April 15, 2009, VDEM announced the availability of the FY 2008 State Homeland Security Grant Program opportunity for local governments that support a HAZMAT Team. Funds for the Program are provided the State by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency. VDEM has informed the City that we are eligible to receive \$65,000 for the purchase of materials and equipment for the Northern Virginia Hazardous Materials Team. Team members are from the Alexandria Fire Department and the Arlington County Fire Department Hazardous Materials Teams. The quantity and type of materials and equipment to be purchased is guided by the level of funding received, and the priorities determined by the regional hazmat teams. These funds will assist the City and region to prepare for potential chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and etiological threats. Funds are evenly shared between the two Fire Departments.

The joint Alexandria-Arlington Northern Virginia Regional Hazardous Materials Team (TEAM) is one of the thirteen Virginia State-sponsored teams. The Team was established to not only support Alexandria and Arlington but also the Northern Virginia Region and other areas of the state, when necessary. The Team has identified the need to purchase additional equipment to enhance its response capability for a chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear event.

The City of Alexandria and the Fire Department have been designated by the state to manage the grant for the Team.

FISCAL IMPACT: This grant does not have a match requirement. City staff will be responsible for administering the grant. The City is also responsible for the normal administrative costs associated with this grant, including financial and reporting oversight provided by the Fire Department, as well as by the Office of Management and Budget and the Finance Department.

When the equipment requires or mandates replacement, the Fire Department will make every effort to pursue grant funds. If grant funds are not available, the Department will need to request supplemental funding in the context of the budget submission process.

STAFF:

Adam K. Thiel, Fire Chief

Denise Pouget, Assistant Fire Chief

Russell Middleton, Assistant Fire Chief

John North, Special Operations Chief, Fire Department

James Lynch, Administrative Division Chief, Fire Department

Virginia Lester, Fiscal Officer, Fire Department