


City of Alexandria, Virginia

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5-25-10

MEMORANDUM

DATE: MAY 7, 2010

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: JAMES K. HARTMANN, CITY MANAGER 

SUBJ: AUTHORIZATION TO APPLY FOR A REIMBURSEMENT GRANT THROUGH THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, BUREAU OF JUSTICE ASSISTANCE, BULLETPROOF VEST PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM FOR THE ALEXANDRIA SHERIFF'S OFFICE

ISSUE: City Council authorization to apply for a reimbursement grant from the Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance, Bulletproof Vest Partnership Program for the Alexandria Sheriff's Office for bulletproof vests to be purchased from April 1, 2010 through September 30, 2012.

RECOMMENDATION: That City Council:

- (1) Authorize the City Manager to continue the City's participation as an applicant jurisdiction for the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Program to permit law enforcement agencies in the City to apply for reimbursement for bulletproof vests purchased from April 1, 2010 through September 30, 2012.
- (2) Authorize all City law enforcement agencies eligible under the requirements of the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Program to participate and apply for reimbursement under the City's comprehensive application in each year that federal funding is available for this program.
- (3) Authorize the City Manager to execute any necessary documents.

BACKGROUND: The Bulletproof Vest Partnership Program is administered by the United States Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance, and provides supplemental reimbursement funding for the purchase of approved body armor for state and local law enforcement agencies.

Since 1999, over 13,000 jurisdictions have participated in the BVP Program, with \$277 million in federal funds committed to support the purchase of an estimated 800,000 vests. Through the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Act of 2010, Public Law 111-117 has set aside \$30,000,000 for the matching grant program for law enforcement armor vests, as

authorized by Section 2501 of Title 1 of the 1968 Act. The amount of funding available to the jurisdiction is determined by the City population and fiscal need. Funds are awarded on a first-come, first-served basis and applications for the 2010 funding period are due by June 1, 2010. The application and reimbursement process is completed entirely over the Internet.

DISCUSSION: The Alexandria City Council authorized the City's participation in the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Program on May 25, 1999, (reference City Council docket item: <http://dockets.alexandriava.gov/icons/Fy99/052599rm/di11.tif>). The Alexandria Sheriff's Office and Alexandria Police Department have utilized the program in prior years, but have made no reimbursement requests since 2007, when the City was awarded \$17,856.96 in reimbursement funding. In addition to those vests requiring replacement, the BPV Program authorizes reimbursement for vests purchased by the locality for anticipated new hires, as determined by the agency based on historical records. The Alexandria Sheriff's Office has projected that approximately 130 ballistic vests will be replaced and/or purchased for anticipated new hires during City fiscal years 2011 and 2012.

It is the goal of the City of Alexandria Sheriff's Office to access any available reimbursement funding from the purchase of ballistic vests to mitigate, to the extent possible, the fiscal impact to the City of the purchase of this equipment required for the safety of staff.

FISCAL IMPACT: The current cost of ballistic vests under the City's contract for Sheriff's Office uniforms and equipment is \$570 per unit. The Sheriff's Office is responsible for budgeting for replacement vests within its annual operating budget. Although the reimbursement funds available may be minimal, it is the intent of the Sheriff's Office to participate in the BVP Program in order to seek reimbursement for vest purchases made in order to minimize the fiscal impact to the City, to the extent possible.

To date, the Alexandria Police Department, Alexandria Sheriff's Office, and Alexandria Fire Marshals Office are registered participants under the City's BPV Program application. Purchases of ballistic vests made by these agencies may be added to the City's application, however, the Sheriff's Office is listed as the grant administrator for the BVP Program and all receipts for reimbursement must be processed by the Sheriff's Office Fiscal Management Section through the on-line system. Reimbursement funds received from the BVP Program are deposited directly into the City's General Fund Account after acceptance and processing by the BVP Program Administrator.

STAFF:

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