

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: SEPTEMBER 9, 2009

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: JAMES K. HARTMANN, CITY MANAGER *J*

SUBJECT: SUBMISSION OF A GRANT APPLICATION FOR A TRAINING MINI-GRANT FROM THE VIRGINIA FIRE SERVICES BOARD

ISSUE: City Council consideration of a grant application in the amount of \$10,000 to the Virginia Fire Services Board (VFSB) for training equipment to be used at the Fire Department's Professional Development Center located at Lee Center.

RECOMMENDATION: That City Council authorize the City Manager to:

- (1) Submit this grant application to the VFSB in the amount of \$10,000 for the purchase of fire training equipment; and
- (2) Execute all the necessary documents that may be required.

BACKGROUND: In August 2000, the VFSB adopted a policy to administer mini-grants from the interest earned from the Virginia Fire Programs Fund. The purpose of these mini-grants is to fund training projects and programs to improve the educational efforts of fire service agencies throughout the Commonwealth. The grant provides a maximum of \$10,000 and is awarded to Virginia jurisdictions on a competitive basis.

DISCUSSION: The Fire Department's grant application requests monies to purchase two laptop computers, a portable sound system, a projection screen, and a forcible entry training aid. This equipment will be used for Firefighter-Rescuer training and career development provided by the Department's Professional Development Center.

The laptop computers are needed to run simulation software, which will train Firefighter-Rescuers in a simulated emergency environment. The software requires enhanced specifications, and the grant funding will be used to offset the cost of the software. Due to limited training space, Firefighters are often required to train at remote locations, and the portable sound system and projection screen will allow training to be provided at various sites. Finally, the forcible entry simulator is needed to provide hands-on

instruction for Firefighter-Rescuer recruits and tenured Firefighter-Rescuers, since forcible-entry training is a core competency skill that must be practiced continuously.

The Professional Development Center provides recruit and in-service technical and professional development training for Department personnel and schedules interjurisdictional meetings and exercises with other fire-service agencies in the Washington Metropolitan Area.

FISCAL IMPACT: This \$10,000 grant does not have a cash-match requirement; however, the VFSB requires grantees to electronically report, for three continuous years, injuries and loss of life or property caused by fire and similar hazards. The City is also responsible for the normal administrative costs associated with each grant, including financial and reporting oversight provided by the Fire Department, as well as the Office of Management and Budget, and the Finance Department.

STAFF:

Adam K. Thiel, Fire Chief

Andrew Snead, Assistant Fire Chief, Alexandria Fire Department

James Lynch, Administrative Division Chief, Alexandria Fire Department

Dwayne Bonnette, Battalion Chief, Chief Learning Officer, Alexandria Fire Department

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