

City of Alexandria, Virginia

## M E M O R A N D U M

DATE: OCTOBER 1, 2009

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: JAMES K. HARTMANN, CITY MANAGER 

SUBJECT: GRANT APPLICATION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY (DHS), FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY'S (FEMA) NATIONAL ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTER (AFG) GRANT PROGRAM, FIRE PREVENTION AND SAFETY GRANTS

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**ISSUE:** Consideration of a grant application to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), National Assistance to Firefighter Grant (AFG) Program, Fire Prevention and Safety Grants for purchase of a Fire Safety House to replace the current, unusable House.

**RECOMMENDATION:** That City Council:

- (1) Authorize the submission of the grant application (due October 23, 2009) in the amount of \$55,000; and
- (2) Authorize the City Manager to execute the necessary documents that may be required.

**BACKGROUND:** On September 21, 2009, DHS/FEMA opened the application period for the 2009 AFG Fire Prevention and Safety Grants Program. This Program provides Federal grant funding to localities for promotion of fire prevention and safety activities.

The Department proposes an enhancement to its fire prevention and safety public education programs through the purchase of a Fire Safety House. (The current Fire Safety House is in such poor shape as to be unusable.) The Fire Safety House can provide fire prevention and safety learning to City youth, to homeowners, and to the elderly.

**DISCUSSION:** The Fire Department has identified the need to enhance its fire prevention and safety learning by replacing its outmoded and unusable Fire Safety House with a safe, up-to-date house. The Fire Safety House is a modified house trailer that is outfitted to replicate a home and can demonstrate various fire scenarios. A Fire Safety House provides a hands-on learning tool to teach people of all ages what to do in the event of a fire. Lives could be saved because of the interactive training provided by a Fire Safety House. A Fire Safety House can also be used for:

- Automated External Defibrillator (AED) and CPR training;
- Prevention, health, and safety classes
- Fire and burn prevention and general fire safety training
- Injury prevention
- Recruitment campaigns
- EMT training
- CPR instruction and recertification
- Residential sprinkler awareness
- Fire extinguisher training for the general public
- General prevention and awareness for fire warning systems

The Fire Safety House would be a valuable resource for all City residents, as the House could be used to instruct the public on the importance of fire safety, fire prevention and severe weather preparation. The Department would use the Family Safety House to supplement the programs already provided to all schools within the City. This training could also be offered at the Station Open Houses, community fairs, school fairs, or other large functions that the Department might attend. The Fire Department would deliver hands-on training and education to children and their parents in the safe, controlled and realistic environment provided by the trailer.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** This grant requires a 20 percent match. City staff will administer 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 the Office of Management and Budget, and the Finance Department. The \$11,000 grant match will be paid out of the Fire Department's Fire Programs budget that is 100% supported by State funds. No City funds will be used.

**STAFF:**

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