


City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: JANUARY 17, 2012

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: RASHAD M. YOUNG, CITY MANAGER 

SUBJECT: ACCEPTANCE OF A FUNDING ALLOCATION FROM THE NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION URBAN AREA SECURITY INITIATIVE (UASI) FOR POLICE DEPARTMENT EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION EQUIPMENT AND FOR FIRE DEPARTMENT DIGITAL VEHICULAR REPEATER SYSTEMS TO ENHANCE IN-BUILDING COVERAGE BY THE CITY'S PUBLIC SAFETY RADIO SYSTEM

ISSUE: City Council consideration of accepting \$77,250 of funding, for a period ending September 30, 2012, from the United States Department of Homeland Security through the District of Columbia (D.C.) Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency on behalf of the National Capital Region Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI).

RECOMMENDATION: That City Council:

- 1) Authorize the City Manager to accept the funding through the Urban Area Security Initiative in the amount of \$77,250; and
- (2) Authorize the City Manager to execute all the necessary documents that may be required.

BACKGROUND: The National Capital Region (NCR) received \$59,392,477 in 2010 from the United States Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to support the regional efforts to prepare for, and respond to, disasters including terrorism. These funds were allocated by the NCR Chief Administrative Officers (CAOs) and the Senior Policy Group (SPG) in July 2010. The investment-area justifications and project plans were developed by various Metropolitan Washington Council of Government (COG) committees during meetings in December, 2009. The investment justifications were then sent to DHS as a grant application on behalf of the entire NCR.

DISCUSSION: Alexandria was notified on June 2, 2011 by the D.C. Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency that the City is eligible to receive a total of \$77,250 to support our response programs. Since June City Staff worked to develop a project management plan for this grant that included the purchase of equipment allowed under the grant guidance, which is needed by the City public safety agencies, and was coordinated with our regional partners. The 2010 grant ends on September 30, 2012.

These grant funds are being made available as a result of Alexandria's continued efforts with our regional partners to have a coordinated and effective response to any incident that may involve Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) or any other major emergency. Alexandria has participated for several years with Northern Virginia jurisdictions to plan, equip, train, and exercise our response systems for incidents that may involve chemical, biological, nuclear, or radiological agents.

The grant funds will be used to procure emergency notification equipment to be used by the Police Department from their vehicles in the event of a chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, or explosive incident and to procure digital vehicular repeater systems for the Fire Department to enhance in-building coverage of the public safety radio system.

The Police Department has identified the need for emergency notification equipment for calls that involve the types of incidents described above. The Fire Department has identified the need for mobile repeaters to improve the coverage of the City's public safety radio system inside buildings. Currently there are a number of buildings where we need to enhance the capability of the City's portable radios used in emergencies. The mobile repeaters will improve radio transmissions in such buildings.

FISCAL IMPACT: There is no match requirement for these grant funds. City staff will administer the grant.

STAFF:

Earl Cook, Police Chief
Adam K. Thiel, Fire Chief
Mark Penn, Emergency Management Coordinator
Michele R. Evans, Deputy City Manager