


City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: JANUARY 14, 2011

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: JAMES K. HARTMANN, CITY MANAGER 

SUBJECT: CONSIDERATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF A GRANT AWARD FROM THE RSAF (RESCUE SQUAD ASSISTANCE FUND) GRANT PROGRAM, COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH FOR ACQUISITION OF A MEDSTAT MINI-AMBULANCE FOR THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

ISSUE: Consideration of a grant award from the RSAF (Rescue Squad Assistance Fund) Grant Program, Commonwealth of Virginia, Department of Health

RECOMMENDATION: That City Council:

- (1) Accept the grant awarded by the Virginia Department of Health; and
- (2) Authorize the City Manager to execute the necessary documents that may be required.

DISCUSSION: On August 1, 2010, the Virginia Department of Health opened the grant application period for the 2010 RSAF (Rescue Squad Assistance Fund) Grant Program. The RSAF is a multi-million dollar matching grant program for Virginia governmental and non-profit Emergency Medical Services (EMS) agencies and organizations to provide financial assistance based on demonstrated need to purchase EMS equipment and vehicles and provide funds for EMS programs and projects. City Council approved submission of an application for a RSAF for acquisition of a MedSTAT mini-ambulance on September 14, 2010.

The pathway of the Woodrow Wilson Bridge was designed primarily for pedestrian foot traffic. As a result, the Alexandria Fire Department's (AFD) EMS vehicles are not able to gain adequate access to the pathway and are unable to provide effective emergency medical services to injured parties on the overpass in the event of a medical emergency. The pathway provides a margin of approximately four inches for our standard emergency vehicles to turn around and transport patients to medical facilities. Time taken for Department personnel to try to maneuver an oversized vehicle on a pathway on which it was not designed to travel results in lost treatment time to the detriment of injured parties. This small margin also increases the probability of damage to Department vehicles and, therefore, costs to repair vehicles increase. These issues can be resolved by a smaller medical vehicle for easier access to the pathway. A MedSTAT mini-ambulance can travel at up to 40 miles per hour with all-wheel drive and has a completely

enclosed compartment for patient protection, heating and air conditioning that is capable of holding a full size stretcher with the option of securing a second patient. Without such a vehicle, patients now have to be lying supine on a backboard of a stretcher or gator leaving them facing upward and fully exposed to the elements. Vehicles like this have proven themselves useful in many areas of the country as a means to move casualties during a multiple patient incident. The mini-ambulance can also be used for special events within the City to complement the EMS Bike Team.

FISCAL IMPACT: The AFD has been awarded \$29,119.50 toward the purchase of the mini-ambulance. There is a 50/50 required cost share associated with this grant award. (The City had applied for a 20 percent match based upon need; the Virginia Department of Health did not accept that premise and awarded the City a 50/50 grant). AFD vehicle depreciation funds will be used to fund the 50% cost share, which is now \$29,119.50 instead of the originally assumed \$11,648. City staff will administer the grant. The City is responsible for the normal administrative costs associated with this grant, including financial and reporting oversight provided by the Fire Department. This item will be depreciated over a seven-year lifespan.

STAFF:

Adam K. Thiel, Fire Chief

James Lynch, Chief, Administrative Services, Fire Department

Brian Hricik, EMS Operations Manager, Emergency Medical Services, Fire Department

Mayuri Middough, Fiscal Officer, Fire Department