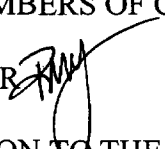


City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: APRIL 18, 2012

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: RASHAD M. YOUNG, CITY MANAGER 

SUBJECT: CONSIDERATION OF AN APPLICATION TO THE FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (FEMA) GRANT PROGRAM FOR A FIRE PREVENTION AND SAFETY GRANT.

ISSUE: Consideration of a grant application for the Fire Prevention and Safety (FP&S), Assistance to Firefighters (AFG) grant program, U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Federal Emergency Management Agency.

RECOMMENDATION: That City Council:

- (1) Approve the submission of the grant application (due April 27, 2012); and
- (2) Authorize the City Manager to execute the necessary documents that may be required.

BACKGROUND: On April 2, 2012, FEMA opened the grant application period for the 2011 AFG FP&S grant program. The FP&S is a competitive multi-million dollar matching grant program for US governmental and non-profit agencies and organizations to provide financial assistance based on demonstrated need. The primary goal of this program is to financially assist governmental and non-profit agencies to provide fire safety and prevention goals to varying communities.

DISCUSSION: The Alexandria Fire Department (AFD) is committed to promoting fire prevention and life safety issues within the community. One way to continue to ensure the safety of Alexandria's citizens is to consistently investigate each fire in the City to determine the cause and origin. The AFDs team of dedicated Fire Marshals and their thorough identification of fire origins and causes keep arsonists at bay within the City limits and can also help identify potential product/system failures that can prevent future fires. To continue to ensure the Fire Marshals are able to do their jobs to the best of their abilities, the AFD has identified a need for a Fire Investigations Trailer, and associated tools and equipment to assist Fire Marshals in their post fire investigations. The trailer would be used to assist Fire Marshals to better investigate the origin and cause of fires in the City of Alexandria since they will be equipped with the necessary tools they require. Investigations of such incidents require a systematic approach, knowledge of

basic fire science as well as the proper tools and equipment. Alexandria Fire Marshals are trained in advanced fire science and investigations.

The City is also committed to educating its citizens on fire safety. To ensure this is done in the best manner possible, the AFD has to ensure that fire personnel are well versed in their area of expertise. For this reason, the AFD is also requesting Public Fire Educator training for personnel.

FISCAL IMPACT: The AFD is requesting a Fire Investigations Trailer to the value of \$50,000, tools and equipment to the value of \$13,043 and training in the amount of \$15,000. If awarded, the AFD will be responsible for the twenty (20) percent match equaling \$15,609. These funds will be paid out of the AFD's Virginia Department of Fire Programs annual allotment. 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 City was awarded a grant from this program in 2010.

STAFF:

Adam K. Thiel, Fire Chief