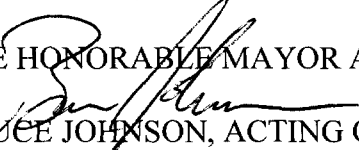


City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: OCTOBER 18, 2011

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM:  BRUCE JOHNSON, ACTING CITY MANAGER

SUBJECT: CONSIDERATION OF AN APPLICATION FOR A HAZMAT EQUIPMENT REPLACEMENT GRANT FROM THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT FOR HAZARDOUS MATERIAL DETECTION EQUIPMENT

ISSUE: Consideration of an application for a Hazmat Equipment replacement grant from the Virginia Department of Emergency Management for Hazardous Material Detection Equipment.

RECOMMENDATION: That City Council:

- (1) Approve the submission of a grant application (retroactive) to acquire 3 AreaRAEs and 28 GammaRAEs (described below); and
- (2) Authorize the Acting City Manager to execute the necessary documents that may be required.

DISCUSSION: The Fire Department is eligible each year for certain grant funding from the Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM) for having an operational Hazmat Team. VDEM provides this funding in response to chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and explosive devices (CBRNE). For the upcoming year, VDEM's funding award shared by localities has been reduced almost in half. As a result, they have asked each local jurisdiction to present a plan for grant funding requests this year. VDEM's guidance is that each proposal should be centered around equipment requirements for current programs, and training. Equipment to begin new programs is not permitted.

The Fire Department has proposed purchasing 3 AreaRAE detection devices, which would be used for detecting hazardous/toxic materials in the air. Currently the Department has only one such unit which, due to age, is becoming unreliable. The Department also proposes purchasing 28 replacement GammaRAE detection devices for radiological detection.

Currently the Hazmat team has only one AreaRAE system that is insufficient to monitor a vast area as would be required during a CBRNE event. Additionally, both the AreaRAE and GammaRAE detection devices that are in use now were purchased in 2003 and are failing and

unserviceable. By funding this proposal, it will allow the Hazmat team to return to full strength in these areas and close the gap caused by failing equipment.

Fire Department staff was notified of this grant opportunity on October 12, and given a submission deadline from VDEM of October 14. Due to these time constraints, staff was unable to bring this docket item to seek City Council approval in time to submit the grant. Working with the City Manager's Office, the Department submitted the application with the understanding that if City Council chooses to deny the application, the Department will withdraw the application.

FISCAL IMPACT: The grant total equipment cost is \$50,400. The total cost for the three AreaRAEs is \$28,000. The total cost for the 28 GammaRAEs is \$22,400.

There is no City cost match required for this grant and no personnel costs involved.

STAFF:

Kendel Taylor, Acting Director, OMB

Adam K. Thiel, Fire Chief

Denise Pouget, Assistant Fire Chief of Administration, Fire Department

Mayuri Middough, Fiscal Officer, Fire Department

Matthew Bosse, Fiscal Officer, Fire Department