

EXHIBIT NO. 1

14
4-24-01

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: APRIL 18, 2001

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: PHILIP SUNDERLAND, CITY MANAGER *PS*

SUBJECT: SUBMISSION OF A GRANT APPLICATION TO THE FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY'S (FEMA) ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTERS (FIRE ACT) GRANT PROGRAM

ISSUE: City Council consideration of a grant application, in the amount of \$203,937, for FEMA's Fire Act Grant Program.

RECOMMENDATION: That City Council:

- 1) Approve the submission of this grant application to FEMA; and
- 2) Authorize the City Manager to submit an "Application For Federal Assistance," including all ancillary documents to complete this competitive grant application.

DISCUSSION: The Fire Act Grant Program, administered by FEMA through the United States Fire Administration, will provide \$100 million directly to fire departments to enhance their ability to protect the health and safety of the public as well as the firefighting personnel facing fire and fire-related hazards. All of America's 32,000 paid, volunteer, and part-paid departments are eligible for grants under the Fire Act, which will fund categories for firefighter training, wellness and fitness, vehicles, firefighting equipment, and personal protective equipment. Awarded on a competitive basis, these grants will be made to fire departments that demonstrate need, submit a benefit-risk analysis, and show the cost effectiveness of their proposed projects.

The Fire Department proposes that the City apply for this grant to replace 115 sets of self-contained breathing apparatus. This equipment allows firefighters to operate in an atmosphere that is contaminated with smoke or other products that are dangerous to life and health. Although the breathing apparatus now used by the Fire Department still meets OSHA safety standards, the new breathing apparatus, with technological improvements, would be a safer, user-friendly product.

Approximately 2,000 times each year, firefighters from Fairfax and Arlington Counties respond to mutual-aid calls in Alexandria. The purchase of new breathing apparatus would allow Alexandria firefighters to use the same breathing apparatus as Arlington and Fairfax and increase the safety of our firefighters.

The equipment now worn by Alexandria's firefighters is no longer the state-of-the-art equipment that it was when it was purchased during the 1980's. In addition, as exhibited by the Fire Department's request of \$29,000 in their proposed FY 2002 budget, the cost to replace apparatus parts and to maintain and upkeep this aging equipment continues to increase each year.

FISCAL IMPACT: The total cost to purchase 115 sets of self-contained breathing apparatus is \$291,339. The Fire Act Grant would cover 70% of the cost, or \$203,937 while the City would provide 30% matching funds, or \$87,402. Monies for the cash-match, totaling \$81,319 are budgeted in the Fire Department's proposed FY 2002 budget for breathing apparatus, including \$13,722 in the General Fund and \$67,597 in the Special Revenue Fund. An additional \$6,083 will need to be charged to the Fire Department's Fire Programs Fund Grant to make the 30% match of \$87,402 (the Virginia Department of Fire Programs has authorized the Fire Department's use of their state grant monies to match the Fire Act Grant).

ATTACHMENT: None. The grant application may be reviewed in the Office of Management and Budget, Room 3600, City Hall, during normal office hours.

STAFF:

Thomas Hawkins, Fire Chief
James T. Gower, Deputy Fire Chief
Mike Beckett, Fire Captain (Safety Officer)
Virginia Lester, Fiscal Officer