

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: MAY 16, 2005

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: JAMES K. HARTMANN, CITY MANAGER *JKH*

SUBJECT: SUBMISSION OF A GRANT APPLICATION TO THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, OFFICE OF COMMUNITY ORIENTED POLICING, FOR EQUIPMENT FOR THE POLICE DEPARTMENT

ISSUE: City Council consideration of a new grant application to the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS), for a 2005 Technology Program Grant for equipment for the Alexandria Police Department.

RECOMMENDATIONS: That City Council:

- (1) Approve the grant application to the U.S. Department of Justice for a total of \$394,000 for one year, for which there is no required City match; and
- (2) Authorize the City Manager to execute all necessary documents.

DISCUSSION: The proposed grant would be submitted under the federal COPS 2005 Technology Program. Congressman James Moran notified the Police Department in February 2005 that he had requested \$394,000 to be earmarked for Police equipment. The grant application package must be submitted by June 1, 2005.

The purpose of the 2005 Technology Program is to advance community policing and crime prevention efforts. The grant is restricted to one-time equipment purchases and cannot be used for staffing or overtime. The Police Department proposes to use the grant for the following equipment.

- *10 Mobile Computers* and necessary software (\$80,000). This purchase would provide some spare mobiles to immediately swap out damaged or broken units and maintain continuity in field operations.
- Cellular Phone Tracking Equipment. (\$187,000). Enables the precise location of a cellular user if the phone number is known. The US Marshals use such a system and have had success in locating suspects quickly.
- *Crime Analysis Arc View Plus Software* – 2 licenses requested (\$10,000). This software interfaces with the City's Geographic Information System and will be used for mapping and spatial analysis. The Police Department uses mapping information on a daily basis to guide targeted crime intervention and prevention efforts. The software also maps the X/Y land coordinates of cellular phone users by reading the data provided by cellular tracking systems.

- *Crime Analysis Link Analysis Software* – 1 license requested (\$5,000). This software will link the existing Records Management System with the current Police crime analysis database. It provides data searches on suspects, locations, vehicles, financial activity and other variables that will help police officer establish relationships among suspected criminals.
- *Mobile Vision In-Car Cameras*. 3 cameras are requested (\$13,000), including installation. In-vehicle cameras enable recording of patrol officers' interactions with persons suspected of an offense.
- *Automated Tag Reader* (\$30,000). This equipment would be used to identify stolen cars by the Patrol divisions. The technology enables officers to read in license plates to their computer from moving vehicles and determine whether vehicles are stolen or are otherwise not legally on the road.
- *Digital Fingerprint Live scan*. (\$17,000). This system will enable electronic transmission of fingerprints taken by the Police Department. Currently fingerprint cards are mailed to the central State Police office for search and matching to known offenders. Digital images can be transmitted over computers and enable much faster identification of suspect fingerprints and quicker apprehension of criminals in the City and the region.
- *Digital Cameras* (\$22,000). Approximately 72 digital cameras are requested to equip each Patrol division with 24 cameras to photograph suspects, crime scenes and crime victims with much better resolution and faster transmission capability than film cameras.
- *Seaport Foundation* (\$30,000). At Congressman Moran's request, funding is requested for the Seaport Foundation. This organization is run through a cooperative grant with the City's Court Service Unit. The Foundation develops job skills by training juvenile delinquents as boat building apprentices. With these funds, the Police Department would financially sponsor youth identified by police officers as at-risk for entry into the program.

FISCAL IMPACT: The estimated fiscal impact of the grant is \$394,000 in federal funds for one-time equipment purchases. No City match is required. It should be noted that there are no City funds to replace this equipment once the grant expires.

STAFF:

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 Michele Evans, Assistant City Manager
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