


City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: MAY 16, 2005

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: JAMES K. HARTMANN, CITY MANAGER 

SUBJECT: GRANT AWARD FROM VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT - STATE HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM

ISSUE: Receipt of the grant award in the amount of \$131,734 from the Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM) from the State Homeland Security Grant Program.

RECOMMENDATION: That City Council:

- (1) Accept the grant funds totaling \$131,734 from VDEM to fund equipment for first responders to better prepare for potential acts of terrorism; and
- (2) Authorize the City Manager to execute all necessary documents that may be required.

BACKGROUND: The State Homeland Security Grant Program originates from the Department of Homeland Security and is a pass through grant to the Virginia Department of Emergency Management. VDEM awarded the grant funds on a per capita basis to the local jurisdictions for homeland security projects. The grant will provide money to improve the interoperable communications between agencies, purchase various technical rescue equipment, enhance the security at the Alexandria Detention Center, and purchase a barcoding system to track grant equipment.

DISCUSSION: In order to qualify for funding, the City's Office of Emergency Management completed the Initial Strategic Implementation Plan (ISIP), which outlined the scope of projects and the estimated costs. The grant money will be used to meet some of the equipment needs of the Police Department, Office of the Sheriff, Fire Department, and Health Department. Although the exact equipment to be purchased is still subject to VDEM and Office of Domestic Preparedness (ODP) approval, the City's application specifies \$30,000 for interoperable communication equipment, \$35,734 for equipment to enhance local response and prevention capabilities, \$40,000 for security measures at the jail, and \$26,000 for an inventory tracking system.

FISCAL IMPACT: The \$131,734 will be appropriated to the City's Office of Emergency Management (within the Fire Department's budget), which will manage the grant requirements among the four City departments purchasing equipment under this grant. There is no match funding necessary for this grant.

A copy of the electronically submitted grant application may be reviewed in the Office of Management and Budget, Room 3600, City Hall, during normal business hours.

STAFF:

Mark Penn, Emergency Management Coordinator

Laura Pettus, Emergency Management Analyst

Gary A. Mesaris, Fire Chief