


City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: MARCH 7, 2006

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: JAMES K. HARTMANN, CITY MANAGER 

SUBJECT: SUBMISSION OF A RENEWAL GRANT APPLICATION TO THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES FOR AN AGGRESSIVE DRIVING/DUI INTERDICTION PROGRAM IN FY2007

ISSUE: City Council consideration of a renewal grant application to the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) for a ninth year of funding, in the amount of \$57,850, for the Police Department to operate an aggressive driving and driving under the influence (DUI) interdiction program.

RECOMMENDATION: That City Council:

- (1) approve the grant application to the Virginia DMV in the amount of \$57,850, which will provide funds to the Police Department to operate a DUI/aggressive driving interdiction program in the City; and
- (2) authorize the City Manager to execute all necessary documents that may be required.

DISCUSSION: In February, staff received the renewal application for its DMV grant program that funds local police agencies under the Transportation Safety Project grant program. The grant application must be submitted to DMV by March 31, 2006.

For the past eight years the City has obtained a grant under this program to allow the Police Department to pay overtime for police officers to conduct high intensity patrol operations, targeting aggressive drivers whose behavior contributed statistically to automobile accidents and unsafe driving complaints. The targeted behaviors included right-of-way violations, stop sign violations, speeding and following too close.

The new grant request is for \$57,850 for Federal FY 2007 (October 1, 2006 through September 30, 2007.) This grant money will be used for overtime operations to combat aggressive driving and DUI violations. The Police Department will employ mobile and stationary patrols as methods to reduce the number of alcohol and aggressive driving related accidents in the City. The grant money will also be used to purchase equipment to assist officers with their enforcement

efforts. Specifically, a request has been made for ten (10) Alco-Sensors and five (5) Laser speed detection devices. The Alco-Sensors will allow an officer to determine a person's blood alcohol content as part of the preliminary investigation for DUI offenses. The Laser speed detection devices are used to enforce speeding violations.

FISCAL IMPACT: To receive the DMV grant of \$57,850, the City must identify 20 percent matching funds, which may be in-kind. Since the City's share is an in-kind match of resources, there is no additional fiscal impact to the City in obtaining this grant. The proposed match is identified in the Police Department's operating budget for vehicle depreciation and maintenance costs.

In addition, the City is responsible for the normal administrative costs associated with this grant. These costs include financial and reporting oversight provided by the administering agency, as well as by the Office of Management and Budget and by the Finance Department.

It should be noted that there are no additional monies in the City budget to continue these activities once the grant funds are expended.

STAFF:

Charles E. Samarra, Police Chief

Michele Evans, Deputy City Manager

Captain David Huchler, Police, Patrol Division One

Amy Flenniken, Division Chief, Fiscal Management, Police

Alfred Coleman, Budget/Management Analyst, OMB