EXHIBIT NO. 1

15
9-26-06

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: SEPTEMBER 18, 2006

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: JAMES K. HARTMANN, CITY MANAGER

SUBJECT: CONSIDERATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF $74,042 GRANT THROUGH THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE FOR THE TECHNOLOGY UPGRADE AND MODERNIZATION OF THE SECURITY AT THE ALBERT V. BRYAN U.S. COURTHOUSE

ISSUE: City Council consideration of acceptance of $74,042 grant through the Department of Justice for the technology upgrade and modernization of the security at the Albert V. Bryan U.S. Courthouse.

RECOMMENDATION: That City Council:

(1) Approve the submission of the $74,042 grant application to the Department of Justice; and

(2) Authorize the City Manager to complete the necessary paperwork.

BACKGROUND: The Albert V. Bryan U.S. Courthouse is located in the City of Alexandria, and in recent years, this federal Courthouse has held motions, hearings, trials, and sentencing for high-profile terrorist suspects, such as Zacarias Moussaoui, John Walker Lindh, and Ahmed Omar Abu Ali. The Alexandria Police Department and Alexandria Fire Department assist the U.S. Marshals Service and the Federal Protective Service in screening and securing the critical infrastructure during these high-profile proceedings. The Alexandria Sheriff's Office holds the federal prisoners in the Alexandria Detention Center.

The Albert V. Bryan U.S. Courthouse will likely continue to be the chosen venue by the federal government for these high profile cases, so there was a determination made in regard to a need to upgrade the technology and modernization of the security at the courthouse. Congressman James Moran obtained earmarked funds through the Department of Justice grant programs for such an effort.

DISCUSSION: There is a large cost associated with this City assistance to the federal agencies, and without federal financial support, the City would be unable to provide the necessary security and screening operations for these high-profile cases. The City requested grant funds to purchase equipment to enhance the security technology and modernization of the facility. Specifically, the City of Alexandria will purchase a portal radiological monitor to enhance the technology used to screen the visitors; encrypted radios to enhance the interoperability of the various agencies working at the facility during these high-profile events; and other related technology equipment.

The portal radiological monitor is a passive, non–intrusive means to detect alpha and beta radiological energy sources that pass near it. The system is very similar to a radio receiver, in that it responds to the presence of energy and alerts the operator to the energy. The 800 MHz encrypted radios would allow the federal agencies and local agencies working better together to operate on the same radio channels and frequencies. The federal and local agencies use different radio frequencies, and it has been a challenge to get all the partners with encrypted, interoperable radios. By purchasing the encrypted radios, they will be available and ready for use during high-profile proceedings. Additionally, the radios will provide a direct link from the federal agencies to local communication centers on a regular basis, in the event that something unexpected happens at the facility.

FISCAL IMPACT: The grant is for the amount of $74,042, and there is no City match with these grant funds.

The grant is administered by the Grants Coordinator within the City Managers Office and requires staff time from members of the Fire Department, Police Department, Finance Department, and Office of Management and Budget.

The grant paperwork was submitted, in order to meet the deadline of August 30, 2006, with the understanding that subsequent City Council approval would be required to accept this grant award.

STAFF:
Laura Pettus, Grants Coordinator, City Manager's Office
Bernard Caton, Legislative Director
John North, Battalion Chief, Fire Department
Tim Dickinson, Captain, Police Department
Eric Eisinger, Management and Budget Analyst