

City of Alexandria, Virginia

## MEMORANDUM

DATE: FEBRUARY 11, 2008

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

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

SUBJECT: APPLICATION FOR GRANT FUNDS FOR HAZARDOUS MATERIALS  
EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS (HMEP) TRAINING

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**ISSUE:** Grant application for funds to support hazardous materials technician training in the Fire Department.

**RECOMMENDATION:** That City Council:

- (1) Authorize the submission of the grant application (There is no grant application due date, and funding decisions will be based on availability of funds), not to exceed \$12,900; and
- (2) Authorize the City Manager to execute the necessary documents that may be required.

**BACKGROUND:** The Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM) has asked for applications for the Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness Grant Program. This program provides funds for localities to plan and train for hazardous material emergencies. There is a 20% match requirement for this grant.

This grant is designed to improve the capability of Alexandria to plan and train for the full range of potential risks when dealing with the array of hazardous materials regardless of the source. Hazardous materials may be in every day items such as battery acid for batteries, or rarer materials such as ammonia nitrate traveling via train through Alexandria. The Fire Department has been charged with the responsibility to deal with every type of potential hazardous risk the City may face.

**DISCUSSION:** Alexandria's Fire Department has operated a Hazardous Materials Response Team with 6 fire fighters on the team. The team is trained in accordance with Virginia State and Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) requirements. Due to attrition (retirements, promotions, transfers, etc), training new fire fighters in Hazardous Materials Response is ongoing. If the grant funds are awarded 18 fire fighters could receive this funding. In addition senior members of the Department also receive special Hazmat Training.

If approved, these grant funds will be used to pay for the instructor and material costs for a hazardous materials technician class, to take place in April, 2008

**FISCAL IMPACT:** This grant has a 20% match requirement not to exceed \$2,580 which will be allocated from the Fire Department Operating account. City staff will be responsible to administer the grant. The City is also responsible for the normal administrative costs associated with this grant, including financial and reporting oversight provided by the Fire department, as well as the Office of Management and Budget, and the Finance Department.

**STAFF:**

John North, Special Operations Chief Fire Department  
Adam K. Thiel, Fire Chief  
Karen Winey, Grants Coordinator