


City of Alexandria, Virginia

M E M O R A N D U M

DATE: FEBRUARY 27, 2008

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: JAMES K. HARTMANN, CITY MANAGER 

SUBJECT: APPLICATION FOR VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT GRANT FUNDS FOR THE AUTOMATIC EXTERNAL
DEFIBRILLATOR (AED) PROGRAM FOR THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE

ISSUE: Application for Virginia Department of Emergency Management Grant Funds for the Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) Program for the Sheriff's Office.

RECOMMENDATION: That City Council:

- (1) Authorize the submission of a grant (due March 15, 2008) for \$9,000 to the Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM), Office of Emergency Medical Services Consolidated Grant Program; and
- (2) Authorize the City Manager to execute the necessary documents that may be required.

BACKGROUND: The Virginia Department of Emergency Management, Office of Emergency Medical Services Consolidated Grant Program provides funding under the Rescue Squad Assistance fund for Innovative Special Projects. The Rescue Squad Assistance Fund (RSAF) Grant Program is a multi-million dollar grant program for Virginia non-profit EMS agencies and local jurisdictions. Items eligible for funding include EMS equipment, such as defibrillators.

In conjunction with the City's Public Access Defibrillation (PAD) program, the Alexandria Sheriff's Office obtained one automatic external defibrillator in February 2002 from the Fire Department and purchased another unit in 2004 utilizing Sheriff's Office funds. These two units are located on the first and third floor at the Alexandria Courthouse located at 520 King Street. The Sheriff's office contracted medical provider at the Alexandria Detention Center, located at 2001 Mill Road, maintains one automatic external defibrillator in the medical offices on the first floor.

Recently a citizen experienced an acute myocardial infarction at the Detention Center. It was fortunate this incident took place on the first floor, where staff was able to access the only defibrillator in the building. Consequently, it was determined that additional defibrillators should be acquired and placed in the Courthouse and the Detention Center so that one defibrillator is accessible on each floor of these buildings. The addition of these defibrillators will allow for

greater public access to these life-saving devices in the event a citizen experiences a cardiac emergency. The procedure will continue to be to call 911 and request the Fire Department to respond. The defibrillator would be used for the initial response before the Fire Department arrives.

DISCUSSION: The Alexandria Sheriff's Office provides annual training to all sworn staff (172 total) in CPR and the operation of the automatic external defibrillators. By having this number of trained first responders with adequate and immediate access to these medical devices, the chances of survival for any citizen in need of defibrillation are greatly increased.

The City of Alexandria Finance Department maintains a Unit Price Agreement with a vendor for automatic external defibrillators, which will expedite the purchase if the City is awarded the grant. The Alexandria Fire Department conducts annual inspections and maintains all of the defibrillators placed in City-owned facilities and has agreed to maintain any additional units procured by the Sheriff's Office under this contract.

FISCAL IMPACT: This grant has no match requirements. 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 Alexandria Sheriff's Office, as well as the Office of Management and budget, and the Finance Department.

STAFF:

Dana Lawhorne, Sheriff

Brian Grenadier, Lieutenant, Sheriff's Office

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