


City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: APRIL 23, 2008

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: JAMES K. HARTMANN, CITY MANAGER 

SUBJECT: CONSIDERATION OF APPLICATION FOR GRANT FUNDS TO THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT FOR HAZARDOUS MATERIALS AND EMERGENCY EQUIPMENT TO SUPPORT THE NORTHERN VIRGINIA REGIONAL HAZARDOUS MATERIAL TEAM

ISSUE: Consider of application of for grant funds to the Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM) for hazardous materials and emergency equipment to support the Northern Virginia Regional Hazardous Materials Team.

RECOMMENDATION: That City Council:

- (1) Authorize the submission of the grant application (due May 15, 2008), not to exceed \$130,923; and
- (2) Authorize the City Manager to execute the necessary documents that may be required.

BACKGROUND: On April 14, 2008, the Virginia Department of Emergency Management informed the City that we are eligible to receive \$130,923 to support purchasing equipment for the Northern Virginia Hazardous Materials Team composed of the Alexandria Fire Department Hazardous Materials Team and the Arlington County Fire Department Hazardous Materials Team. The quantity and type of material and equipment to be purchased will be guided by the level of funding received, and the priorities determined by the regional hazmat teams. These funds will assist the City to prepare for potential chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and etiological threats.

DISCUSSION: The Northern Virginia Regional Hazardous Materials Team is composed of the Alexandria Fire Department Hazardous Materials Team and the Arlington County Fire Department Hazardous Materials Team. The combined team is one of the thirteen Virginia State sponsored teams. The team was developed to not only support Alexandria and Arlington but also the Northern Virginia Region and other parts of the State if necessary. The team has identified the need to purchase additional equipment to enhance our response capability for a chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear event.

The Alexandria Fire Department has been designated by the State to manage the grant for the team.

FISCAL IMPACT: This grant does not have match requirement. City staff will be responsible for administering 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.

When the equipment requires or mandates replacement, the Fire Department will make every effort to pursue grant funds. If grant funds are not available, the Department will need to request supplemental funding in the context of the budget submission process.

STAFF:

Adam K. Thiel, Fire Chief

John North, Special Operations Chief, Fire Department

James Lynch, Administrative Division Chief, Fire Department

Mark Penn, Emergency Management Coordinator

Karen Winey, Grants Coordinator