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5-27-08City of Alexandria, Virginia

M E M O R A N D U M

DATE: MAY 19, 2008

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: JAMES K. HARTMANN, CITY MANAGER 

SUBJECT: CONSIDERATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF A FUNDING ALLOCATION
FROM THE NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION (NCR) URBAN AREA
SECURITY INITIATIVE (UASI) IN THE AMOUNT OF \$92,000

ISSUE: Consideration of accepting funds in the amount of \$92,000, available to the City for a two year period, from the Northern Virginia Regional Commission through the District of Columbia (DC) Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency on behalf of the National Capital Region Urban Area Security Initiative. These funds will support the Northern Virginia Emergency Response System (NVERS), formerly known as the Metropolitan Medical Response System (MMRS).

RECOMMENDATION: That City Council authorize the City Manager to:

- (1) Accept the funding through the Urban Area Security Initiative in the amount of \$92,000; and
- (2) Execute all the necessary documents that may be required.

BACKGROUND: The Northern Virginia Regional Commission had received \$930,000 in Urban Area Security Grant funds from the United States Department of Homeland Security to support the continued development and implementation of the Northern Virginia Emergency Response System (NVERS). These funds were allocated by the NCR Chief Administrative Officers (CAOs) and the Senior Policy Group (SPG) in August 2007 and were to be administered by the DC Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency. The investment area justifications and project plans were developed by various Metropolitan Washington Council of Government (COG) committees during meetings in December of 2006 and January of 2007.

DISCUSSION: Alexandria was notified by the DC Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency on May 9, 2008 that the City is eligible to receive a total of \$92,000 from this funding to be made available over a two year period. These funds will be used to purchase equipment for our medical support vehicle and to develop Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for the City Departments to ensure that our new response plans and our existing policies are fully aligned.

Our medical support vehicle was the first vehicle of its kind purchased in the National Capital Region. Since then our response partners in the region have acquired similar vehicles and have placed a standard inventory of equipment on their vehicles. The \$17,000 allocated for this effort will allow Alexandria to purchase the equipment to standardize our Medical Support Vehicle to support the regional efforts.

After development of our MMRS response plans, we need to work with City departments to align our new plans and our existing policies and procedures. The additional \$75,000 will be used for a contractor to support the development of appropriate Standard Operating Procedures for City departments to use in the event of medical emergency responses included in the plan.

FISCAL IMPACT: There is no match requirement for these grant funds. City staff will administer the grant.

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 request supplemental funding in the context of the budget submission process. Once written, maintenance of the Standard Operating Procedures will be the responsibility of the affected City Departments.

STAFF:

Adam K. Thiel, Fire Chief

Mark Penn, Emergency Management Coordinator

Karen Winey, Grants Coordinator