

## City of Alexandria, Virginia

## M E M O R A N D U M

DATE: JUNE 19, 2008

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: JAMES K. HARTMANN, CITY MANAGER 8

SUBJECT: CONSIDERATION OF AN APPLICATION BY THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE FOR GRANT FUNDS FROM THE US DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, EDWARD BYRNE MEMORIAL JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT PROGRAM, TO IMPROVE SECURITY AT THE ALEXANDRIA COURTHOUSE

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**ISSUE:** Consideration of an application by the Sheriff's Office for grant funds from the U.S. Department of Justice, Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance grant program, to improve security at the Alexandria Courthouse.

**RECOMMENDATION:** That City Council authorize:

- (1) The submission of a grant (due July 8, 2008), for \$24,369, to the U.S. Department of Justice, Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program; and
- (2) The City Manager to execute the necessary documents that may be required.

**BACKGROUND:** On June 13, 2008, Judge Donald Haddock of the Alexandria Circuit Court was notified by the Supreme Court of Virginia that a grant opportunity was available, through the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs' Bureau of Justice Assistance, Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant for FY 2008, to support courthouse security efforts. The Sheriff's Office was then notified of this opportunity on June 16, 2008. These grant funds are formula based and, if awarded, \$24,369 will be available to the City.

The Alexandria Sheriff's Office provides security at the City's Franklin Backus Courthouse. In order to maintain the safety and integrity of all judicial proceedings and Courthouse users, the need exists to periodically upgrade the facility's security systems.

The Sheriff's Office has prioritized its needs based in large part on a security assessment conducted by the Virginia Judicial Security Initiative of the Virginia Sheriffs' Association dated June 2006.

**DISCUSSION:** If the grant funds are awarded, they will be used to procure the following security enhancement items:

- One “Garrett” model PD6500i walk through magnetometer (metal detector), used to effectively screen all entrants into Courthouse to ensure no weapons or other contraband items are introduced into the facility.
- Ten “Garrett Superwand” hand held metal detectors, used for direct searches of entrants into Courthouse, and remote screenings of persons at other secure locations as needed.
- A closed circuit camera and monitor systems installed in the juvenile courtroom holding areas. This would allow deputy sheriffs in adjacent courtroom(s) the ability to directly monitor in-custody defendants awaiting court appearances to increase safety and security.
- A card reader access system installed at doors leading from courtrooms to adjacent judges’ chamber areas. This will continue the trend to add to the building access control system for improved security and accountability.

**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.

When the equipment needs replacement, the Sheriff’s Office 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.

**STAFF:**

Dana Lawhorne, Sheriff  
Chief Tim Gleeson, Sheriff’s Office  
Captain Tony DiCesare, Sheriff’s Office  
Lieutenant John Kapetanis, Sheriff’s Office  
Karen Winey, Grants Coordinator