


City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: SEPTEMBER 9, 2008

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: JAMES K. HARTMANN, CITY MANAGER 

SUBJECT: CONSIDERATION OF A GRANT APPLICATION FOR A TRAINING
MINI-GRANT FROM THE VIRGINIA FIRE SERVICES BOARD

ISSUE: Consideration of a grant application Virginia Fire Services Board (VFSB) for training equipment to be used at the Fire Department's Professional Development Center (Lee Center).

RECOMMENDATION: That City Council authorize the City Manager to:

- (1) Submit this grant application to the VFSB which is due on September 30, 2008, in the amount of \$9,484 for the purchase of fire training equipment; and
- (2) Execute all the necessary documents that may be required.

BACKGROUND: In August 2000, the VFSB adopted a policy to administer mini-grants from the interest earned from the Virginia Fire Programs Fund. The purpose of these mini-grants is to fund training projects and programs to improve the educational efforts of fire service agencies throughout the Commonwealth. The grant provides a maximum of \$10,000 and is awarded to Virginia jurisdictions on a competitive basis.

DISCUSSION: The grant application requests monies to purchase a heat monitor for the burn building, two rescue manikins, a smoke machine, and one laptop computer for the Fire Department's Professional Development Center. A heat monitor must be used to track thermal conditions during live fire training; the rescue manikins will help firefighters practice firefighter carries and search drills; and the smoke machine will enable firefighters to perform search and rescue evolutions in a realistic setting. Last year, the Professional Development Center received monies from this mini-grant to purchase two laptop computers, but one more laptop is still needed.

The Professional Development Center provides recruit and in-service training for Fire and EMS personnel, reserves classrooms for other City departments, and schedules interjurisdictional meetings and exercises with other fire-service agencies in the Washington Metropolitan Area.

FISCAL IMPACT: This grant does not have a cash-match requirement; however, the VFSB requires grantees to electronically report, for three continuous years, injuries and loss of life or property caused by fire and similar hazards. The City is also responsible for the normal administrative costs associated with each 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:

Adam K. Thiel, Fire Chief

Andrew Snead, Assistant Fire Chief

Wayne Bryant, Lieutenant, Assistant Training Officer

Virginia Lester, Fiscal Officer, Fire Department

Karen Winey, Grants Coordinator, City Manager's Office