

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: MARCH 1, 2010
TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL
FROM: JAMES K. HARTMANN, CITY MANAGER
SUBJECT: CONSIDERATION OF A RENEWAL GRANT APPLICATION TO THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES FOR AN AGGRESSIVE DRIVING/DUI INTERDICTION PROGRAM IN FY 2011

ISSUE: Renewal grant application to the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) for an aggressive driving and driving under the influence (DUI) interdiction program.

RECOMMENDATIONS: That City Council:

- (1) Approve the grant application to the Virginia DMV in the amount of \$49,783, which will provide funds to the Police Department to operate a DUI/aggressive driving interdiction program in the City;
- (2) Authorize the City Manager to execute all necessary documents that may be required; and
- (3) Because of severe City budget constraints, affirm that no additional City funds would be available to fund this program in FY 2011 or future years.

DISCUSSION: For the past twelve years the City has obtained a grant under this program to allow the Police Department to pay overtime for police officers to conduct high intensity patrol operations, targeting aggressive drivers whose behavior contributed statistically to automobile crashes and unsafe driving complaints. The targeted behaviors included right-of-way violations, stop sign violations, speeding and following too closely. In FY 2010 the approved grant was for \$42,125.00.

The new grant request is for \$49,783 for Federal FY 2010 (October 1, 2010 through September 30, 2011). The Police Department requests \$40,600 for overtime operations to combat aggressive driving and DUI violations. If approved, the Police Department will employ police officers on overtime status to deploy mobile and stationary patrols as methods to reduce the number of alcohol and aggressive driving related accidents in the City.

The Police Department also requests \$7,633 for five (5) Alco-Sensors and three (2) Laser speed detection devices to assist officers with their enforcement efforts; and \$1,550 for regional crash investigation and DUI enforcement training. The Alco-Sensors allow an officer to determine a person's blood alcohol content as part of the preliminary investigation for DUI offenses. The Laser speed detection devices are used to enforce speeding violations.

FISCAL IMPACT: To receive the DMV grant of \$49,783, the City must identify 20 percent matching funds, which may be in-kind. Since the City's share is an in-kind match of resources, there is no additional fiscal impact to the City in obtaining the grant. The proposed match is identified in the Police Department's operating budget for vehicle depreciation and maintenance costs. In addition, the City is responsible for the normal administrative costs associated with this grant. These costs include financial and reporting oversight provided by the administering agency, as well as by the Office of Management and Budget and by the Finance Department.

It should be noted that there are no additional monies in the City budget to continue these activities once the grant funds are expended.

If approved, notification is expected around August / September 2010.

STAFF:

Earl Cook, Police Chief

Dianne Gittins, Captain, Police, Sector Two Commander

Elisabeth Wheel, Division Chief, Police, Fiscal Management

Brenda D'Sylva, Fiscal Analyst, Police

Steve Elliott, Analyst, OMB

Bernard Caton, Legislative Director