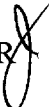


## City of Alexandria, Virginia

## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** MAY 18, 2010

**TO:** THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

**FROM:** JAMES K. HARTMANN, CITY MANAGER 

**SUBJECT:** GRANT APPLICATION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY, FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY'S NATIONAL ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTER GRANT PROGRAM, FOR THE PURCHASE OF A PORTABLE FIRE APPARATUS SIMULATOR

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**ISSUE:** Consideration of a grant application to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) National Assistance to Firefighter Grant (AFG) Program, for the purchase of a Fire Apparatus Simulator.

**RECOMMENDATION:** That City Council:

- 1) Approve the submission of the grant application (due May 28, 2010) for up to \$275,000; and
- 2) Authorize the City Manager to execute the necessary documents that may be required.

**DISCUSSION:** On April 3, 2010, the U. S. Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), opened the application period for the 2010 Assistance to Fire Fighters Grant (AFG) Program. This grant program allows localities to purchase equipment, hold training sessions, modify fire stations and facilities, or purchase firefighting vehicles.

The Fire Department needs a computer-based fire apparatus simulator to provide driver training, prevent vehicular accidents, and improve firefighter safety. Nationwide, many fire departments have acquired simulators and are providing mock-up training to improve driving skills for Fire and EMS employees who drive emergency apparatus.

Firefighters and Paramedics who drive emergency apparatus encounter unexpected conditions during emergencies and even during non-emergency responses. In Alexandria, fire apparatus drivers encounter heavy vehicular and pedestrian traffic when navigating narrow streets, crossing congested intersections, and steering through busy communities. Simulator training will

emphasize specific conditions that will help improve employee driving for the Fire Department's recruit-school trainees, for drivers taking in-service training (all Firefighters-Rescuers), and for drivers needing to improve their driving skills.

Improving driving skills will ensure the safety of both Fire and EMS employees and the surrounding public. Vehicle accidents can be reduced and prevented, when drivers are repetitively trained using simulators designed specifically for emergency responders.

If the grant were to be awarded, this apparatus simulator will be made available to our response partners across the Northern Virginia Region to promote joint training opportunities that mirror our currently mutual aid response activities.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** This grant requires a 20% match by the City. The grant requires the use of non-federal funds for the match. The Fire Department will use Virginia Fire Programs grant funds as the match. As a result, there is no impact on the City General Fund. City staff will 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 Fire department, as well as the Office of Management and Budget, and the Finance Department.

**STAFF:**

Adam K. Thiel, Fire Chief

Dwayne Bonnette, Battalion Chief Learning Officer, Alexandria Fire Department

James Lynch, Administrative Division Chief, Alexandria Fire Department

Virginia Lester, Fiscal Officer, Alexandria Fire Department