


City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: MAY 25, 2010

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: JAMES K. HARTMANN, CITY MANAGER 

SUBJECT: CONSIDERATION OF A GRANT APPLICATION TO THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE FOR THE PURCHASE OF A FORENSIC FIELD VEHICLE FOR THE CRIME SCENE INVESTIGATIONS (CSI) UNIT IN THE POLICE DEPARTMENT

ISSUE: Consideration of a grant application to the U.S. Department of Justice for the purchase of a forensic field vehicle for the Crime Scene Investigations (CSI) unit in the Police Department.

RECOMMENDATIONS: That City Council:

- (1) Approve the grant application to the U.S. Department of Justice in the amount of \$140,000, which will provide funds to the Police Department to purchase a forensic field vehicle in the Crime Scene Investigations (CSI); and
- (2) Authorize the City Manager to execute all necessary documents that may be required.

DISCUSSION: The U.S. Department of Justice is offering funding under the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Technology Program for the purchase of a forensic field vehicle for the Crime Scene Investigations (CSI) unit in the Police Department. This grant was received through Congressman Moran's office with the U.S. Department of Justice administering the funds. A forensic field vehicle is needed to provide CSI with the ability to respond to major crime scenes involving multiple units of the department or other agencies. This vehicle will be specially designed for CSI operations and configured and equipped to accommodate every need of the forensic investigator. It will house all supplies and equipment that would be present in the CSI office, including lasers and other specialized equipment that otherwise could not be brought into the field.

FISCAL IMPACT: No City match is required to receive grant funds. However, 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 the Finance Department. The City is also responsible for minor regular vehicle maintenance costs.

STAFF:

Earl Cook, Police Chief

Charles Bailey, Commander, Police, Crime Scene Investigations

Elisabeth Wheel, Division Chief, Police, Fiscal Management