


City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: JUNE 1, 2011

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM:  BRUCE JOHNSON, ACTING CITY MANAGER

SUBJECT: CONSIDERATION OF A GRANT APPLICATION TO THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY, PORT SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM

ISSUE: Grant application to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Port Security Grant Program (PSGP).

RECOMMENDATION: That City Council:

- (1) Approve the submission of a grant application (due June 20, 2011); and
- (2) Authorize the Acting City Manager to execute the necessary documents that may be required.

BACKGROUND: On May 24, 2011, DHS announced the availability of funds from the FY 2011 Port Security Grant Program to strengthen homeland security preparedness and the security of critical infrastructure. The PSGP is one of five grant programs that constitute the DHS Fiscal Year (FY) 2011 focus on transportation infrastructure security activities. The PSGP is one tool in the comprehensive set of measures authorized by Congress and implemented by the Administration to strengthen the Nation's critical infrastructure against risks associated with potential terrorist attacks.

DISCUSSION: PSGP funds, available to state, local and private sector partners, are intended to support increased port wide risk management, enhanced domain awareness, training and exercises, expansion of port recovery and resiliency capabilities; and further capabilities to prevent, detect, respond to, and recover from attacks involving improvised explosive devices (IEDs) and other non-conventional weapons. These funds will assist the City and region to prepare for potential threats. The Alexandria Fire Department (AFD) proposes to apply for:

- Specialized water Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for members of its Marine Operations Team (MOT);
- Training classes for MOT personnel;
- A more sophisticated radar system for the new fireboat that will be purchased using FY 2010 PSGP funds; and,

- One floodwater rescue boat and trailer to replace the two older AFD Zodiac pontoon boats.

The rescue boat is a smaller boat that will be able to fit into smaller spaces and shallow water to search for chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and enhanced explosive (CBRNE) threats on the Potomac.

FISCAL IMPACT: The AFD is requesting equipment and training in the value of \$734,000. 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. There is no cash match requirement.

The City has applied for and has been awarded this grant in 2010.

STAFF:

Adam K. Thiel, Fire Chief

James Lynch, Chief, Administrative Services, Fire Department

John North, Special Operations Battalion Chief, Fire Department

Mayuri Middough, Fiscal Officer, Fire Department