



ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA

**County Board Agenda Item
Meeting of November 15, 2008**

DATE: October 22, 2008

SUBJECT: FY 2008 Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) Sub-grant

C. M. RECOMMENDATION:

1. Authorize the County Manager to accept \$4,472,000 in non-competitive grant funds from the Government of the District of Columbia, Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency.
2. Authorize a temporary grant funded position (1.0 FTE) in the Police Department to provide needed staffing to administer the grant program. An additional existing Student Aide position will provide accounting support to the grant and will be covered with grant funds.

ISSUES: The Arlington County Police Department will administer a U.S. Department of Homeland Security sub-grant award with the purpose of developing a license plate recognition program for the National Capital Region (NCR). A temporary grant-funded Lieutenant position is necessary to serve as the project director. Additionally, an existing Student Aide position will provide accounting support for the grant and will also be paid for with grant funds. All funds awarded pursuant to this sub-grant will be expended.

SUMMARY: The NCR Homeland Security Program has awarded ACPD with \$4,472,000, in UASI funding in order to provide law enforcement agencies within NCR with license plate recognition (LPR) technology. The technology is part of a comprehensive plan to sustain an integrated effort to prevent and protect against terrorist incidents. The sub-grant period of performance is September 1, 2008, through August 31, 2010, and the ACPD will function as the local administrative agency responsible for coordinating the purchase and distribution of equipment to sub-recipients. A temporary grant-funded Lieutenant position is necessary to serve as the project director. Additionally, an existing Student Aide position will provide accounting support for the grant and will also be paid for with grant funds. All funds awarded pursuant to this sub-grant will be expended.

BACKGROUND: The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has made a significant investment in homeland security in the NCR through the distribution of UASI funds. The FY 2008 UASI sub-grant, which is made available through the U.S. Department of Homeland

County Manager: _____

Staff: M Douglas Scott, Chief of Police

Security (DHS), was awarded to the Police Department by the NCR Senior Policy Group and Chief Administrative Officers. These funds address the unique planning, organization, equipment, training, and exercise needs of high-threat, high-density Urban Areas, and assists them in building an enhanced and sustainable capacity to prevent, protect against, respond to, and recover from acts of terrorism. As the State Administrative Agent for the NCR, the District of Columbia provides management of the sub-grant funds.

DISCUSSION: The goal of the NCR License Plate Recognition Program is to provide law enforcement agencies located within the NCR with an additional tool to enhance homeland security and prevent acts of terrorism aimed at disrupting security in the region. The sub-grant period of performance for this grant is September 1, 2008 - August 31, 2010. The ACPD will serve as the project manager for this initiative and aid in the purchase and distribution of approximately 200 LPR Systems to the local law enforcement agencies which will be the sub-recipients of the grant. As project manager, the ACPD will review project requirements, determine vendors, arrange product demonstrations, recommend selection, request bids, manage the budget, document purchases, arrange delivery, and maintain records for payment of vendors and other financial disbursements related to this sub-grant. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the ACPD and those agencies assigned equipment will specify that maintenance will be the responsibility of the agency assigned the equipment and will further state that all equipment is to be properly maintained or returned to the project manager who will reassign the equipment when deemed cost effective. The anticipated lifespan of the equipment is 3-8 years depending on the amount of use and type of storage facility. An extended three-year maintenance warranty will be purchased for all LPR equipment using grant funds.

As a recipient of the grant, ACPD will have access to 3-6 LPR systems during the two-year grant period and will retain the equipment once the grant period has expired. ACPD is responsible for absorbing the maintenance costs of the units after the grant period. At this time, ACPD does not have plans to incur any costs to repair or replace the LPR systems once the grant period has expired.

The National Capital Region License Plate Recognition Program is an in-depth, intelligence-driven counter terrorism program designed to improve the security of the NCR through the surveillance of critical infrastructure locations and the identification of potential terrorists. The LPR system deployment can be at a predetermined fixed location or as a mobile unit, and it will automatically "read" license plate registration numbers comparing them to a predefined watch list including information from the FBI's Terrorism Watch List, NCIC/VCIN stolen vehicle and stolen license plate reports, and other official intelligence resources. The LPR system uses image-processing technology to identify vehicles via license plates. When a match is found a signal is activated notifying a police officer of the detected vehicle and at the same time providing information about the vehicle. At this point a vehicle can be stopped or its presence at a particular location stored in a computer database allowing law enforcement to generate additional investigative leads.

Currently there are only a few law enforcement agencies within the NCR actively using License Plate Recognition technology. These systems operate independently with no capability to share information. This project will expand the use of LPR technology within the NCR and require

Subject: FY 2008 Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) Sub-grant

participating agencies to implement LPR technology into their everyday counter-terrorism enforcement efforts. Initially, these systems and jurisdictions will work independently.

FISCAL IMPACT: The National Capital Region (NCR) has been awarded a \$4,472,000 non-competitive grant that Arlington County will administer for all participating regional jurisdictions. Under the terms of the grant, Arlington will be compensated up to \$670,800 in administrative costs associated with the management of the grant funds.

Grant funds have been awarded for the purchase of license plate recognition (LCR) technology. No local match is required for these grant funds. In order to properly administer these grant funds a temporary grant funded position (1.0 FTE) is required. In addition, an existing student aide position will be used to provide support in the accounting and other administrative functions necessary for the grant's management. It is projected that the total personnel cost to administer the grant over the two year grant period will not exceed \$280,000. All personnel and non-personnel expenditures necessary to administer the grant will be covered by the \$670,800 grant management expenditure allowance under the terms of the grant.

All costs associated with the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) grant will be charged to fund 794 which has been in place for several years and is specifically used for UASI grant funds. No appropriation of funds is required.

Note: The NCR encompasses the District of Columbia and parts of Maryland and Virginia, including the cities of Alexandria, Fairfax, Falls Church, Manassas, and Manassas Park and the counties of Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun and Prince William in Virginia and the counties of Montgomery and Prince George's in Maryland, which include the municipalities of Bowie, College Park, Gaithersburg, Greenbelt, Rockville, and Takoma Park.

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