



## ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA

**County Board Agenda Item  
Meeting of December 13, 2008**

**DATE:** December 8, 2008

**SUBJECT:** Authorization for the County Manager to enter into reciprocal and contractual agreements with federal, state and local jurisdictions for emergency Fire Department operational support and services.

**C. M. RECOMMENDATION:**

Authorize the County Manager or his designee to enter into reciprocal and contractual Fire Department operational support and services agreements to the extent provided for in Virginia Code Sections 15.2-1724, 15.2-1727, 27-2, 27-2.1, 27-3, 27-4, 27-23.6 and to ratify any such existing agreements.

**ISSUES:** Fire Department operations support and services agreements are updated and renewed periodically. No issues have been identified.

**SUMMARY:** The County Manager or his designee should be authorized to enter into reciprocal and contractual Fire Department operational support and services agreements that allow the Fire Department to participate in multijurisdictional and multiagency partnerships in order to effectively meet regional threats and other events that are beyond the capabilities of individual jurisdictions to manage or control.

**BACKGROUND:** The County Board has periodically authorized the County Manager or his designee to enter into reciprocal support agreements with federal, state and local jurisdictions for Police Department operational support and services purposes for limited periods of time. Given the increasing number of such agreements for Fire Department services, the Fire Department seeks similar authorization in order to streamline the process.

The Fire Department has successfully used mutual support agreements, for decades, with other agencies and jurisdictions in a variety of contexts. These agreements typically take the form of memorandums of understanding and are limited in scope and purpose to address specific fire and emergency medical services, hazardous material and technical rescue services, and natural and man made disaster services that cut across jurisdictional boundaries. The Fire Department continues to find agreements an effective strategy and anticipates the continued creation and participation in fire service related agreements. A continuing authorization to enter into these agreements is in the best interest of public safety.

County Manager: \_\_\_\_\_

County Attorney: \_\_\_\_\_

Staff: James Schwartz, Fire Chief

**DISCUSSION:** The following are working examples of the types of cooperative agreements that the Fire Department participates in and are not all inclusive:

- **Northern Virginia Emergency Services Mutual Response Agreement:** This is an agreement between Arlington County, Fairfax County, the City of Alexandria, the City of Fairfax, Fort Belvoir and the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority to dispatch the closest available fire, rescue and emergency medical service units to an incident without regard to jurisdictional boundaries.
- **National Capital Region Mutual Aid Agreement:** This is an agreement endorsed by the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) Board of Directors that establishes the framework for providing mutual aid in times of emergency among federal, state and local governments in the National Capital Region.
- **METRO Rail, Transit Fire/Rescue Emergency Procedures Policy Agreement:** This agreement is a body of procedures developed by the regional Fire Chiefs of the Washington Metropolitan area along with the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) that outline the concepts used in emergency operations to ensure the safety of passengers, WMATA employees and fire/rescue personnel during emergencies involving the WMATA Rapid Rail Transit System.
- **Pentagon Force Protection Agency Memorandum of Agreement:** This is an agreement for the Fire Department to assist the Pentagon to perform its force protection, life safety, hazardous material, and chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear responsibilities. at the Pentagon Reservation.
- **Fort Myer Fire and Emergency Services Memorandum of Understanding:** This agreement between Arlington County and Fort Myer provides mutual aid in the protection of life and property from fire, hazardous materials, weapons of mass destruction, fire and emergency medical services.
- **Bomb Arson Tracking System Program Memorandum of Understanding:** This MOU between the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and the Fire Department enhances cooperation among City, County, State and Federal law enforcement agencies with regard to identifying the perpetrators of crimes involving the offenses of arson and the suspected criminal misuse of explosives.
- **Level III Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Agreement:** This is an agreement between Arlington County, the City of Alexandria and the Virginia Department of Emergency Management to establish and maintain a joint Hazardous Materials Emergency response team.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** None.

Subject: Cooperative Agreements with Federal, State and Local Jurisdictions