



ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA

**County Board Agenda Item
Meeting of June 13, 2009**

DATE: May 15, 2009

SUBJECT: Appropriation of a Virginia Wireless E-911 Services Board grant funds for equipment to enhance the Emergency Communication Center's (ECC) capabilities and personnel training.

C. M. RECOMMENDATION:

Appropriate, in FY 2010, \$92,463 from the Virginia Wireless E-911 Services Board (101.365200) to the Office of Emergency Management (101.32020) for equipment to enhance ECC's capability and staff training.

ISSUES: This is a grant program which requires application submissions annually for approved program areas. This is Arlington's first award and there is no guarantee of future awards.

SUMMARY: In addition to the annual allocation of funding to offset local jurisdiction costs associated with wireless 911 calls, the Virginia Wireless E-911 Services Board provides an opportunity to receive a limited amount of funding for technology upgrades and capacity enhancement. Arlington County is awarded this grant of \$92,463 in FY 2010 to enhance the current technology within ECC and to improve the overall personnel training program. The grant will be available to the ECC starting July 1, 2009.

BACKGROUND: The Virginia Wireless E-911 Services Board provides annual grants to Communications Centers throughout the state to assist in the enhancement of technology and staff capacity.

DISCUSSION: This grant will fund the following priorities:

Technology:

- Upgrade of technology in the ECC's watch-desk in order to allow communication with other public safety agencies using enhanced telecommunications systems.
- Increase the capability to communicate and coordinate with surrounding Public Safety Answering Points (PSAP) through the use of video conferencing.

County Manager: _____

County Attorney: _____

Staff: John Crawford, Commander Emergency Communication Center

Training/Education:

- Enhance the existing career development training program maintaining a high level of proficiency in the field of emergency management through conference attendance and related emergency communication training outside of the County through leaders in the E-911 industry such as The Association of Public Safety Communications Officials-International and The National Emergency Number Association.
- To build the level of readiness and efficiency through education and training of ECC supervisory staff on Emergency Management.

FISCAL IMPACT: There will be an annual cost of \$1,275 to have comprehensive maintenance and support coverage on the additional video system equipment that will be purchased for the video conferencing. The Office of Emergency Management will reallocate within its budget to cover this additional cost.