



## ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA

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

**DATE:** May 21, 2009

**SUBJECT:** Accept and manage a regional \$5,638,000 FY 08 Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI) Bomb Squad Enhancements subgrant from the National Capital Region (NCR) Senior Policy Group and Chief Administrative Officers.

**C. M. RECOMMENDATION:**

Accept and manage the regional FY 08 Urban Areas Security Initiative Bomb Squad Enhancements subgrant from the National Capital Region (NCR) Senior Policy Group and Chief Administrative Officers (794.91261).

**ISSUE:** Acceptance of the UASI Bomb Squad Enhancements grant will provide substantial funding to the County for bomb squad equipment and training including replacement of an existing response vehicle and acquisition of a new second response vehicle. The acquisition, through the grant funding, of these two vehicles will require on-going financial resources from the County for allocating future replacement costs and for ongoing maintenance of the vehicles.

**SUMMARY:** The UASI Bomb Squad Enhancements grant provides primary and secondary response vehicles, operating equipment and advanced training for eight Fire and Police Bomb Squads in the NCR. The County's estimated share of the federal grant resources is \$385,097.00.

**BACKGROUND:** In 2007, the Department of Homeland Security, Office of Bombing Prevention, conducted a Unit Level Capability Analysis of the NCR Bomb Squads. The analysis identified common deficiencies and concluded that NCR Bomb Squads that serve as the first responders to incidents involving Improvised Explosive Devices (IED) do not have adequate resources to obtain response vehicles, equipment and advanced training. The analysis also concluded that these deficiencies affect the safety of the public, emergency responders and the bomb technicians.

**DISCUSSION:** The goal of this grant is to strengthen protection and response to IED incidents to specific Bomb Squads in the NCR by eliminating common deficiencies identified in the Unit Level Capability Analysis. Bomb Squads benefiting from this grant are Arlington County Fire Department, Loudoun County Fire Department, Prince Georges County Fire Department, Montgomery County Fire Department, Virginia State Police, Fairfax Police Department, Washington D. C. Metropolitan Transit Police Department and the District of Columbia Police

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

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

Staff: James Schwartz, Fire Department

Department. The grant will be used by the NCR to purchase, distribute and place in service bomb response vehicles; chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and explosive (CBRNE) detection, mitigation and response equipment; personal protective equipment and communications systems; small size robotic platforms and digital radio controls to existing platforms; and training. A summary of Arlington County Bomb Squad enhancements is provided in the table below. The grant would fully fund the initial estimated cost. County funding would be required in subsequent years for on-going maintenance, operation and replacement of the vehicles.

<b>Bomb Squad Enhancements for Arlington County</b>	<b>Estimated Cost</b>	<b>Estimated On-going New Cost Beginning 2011</b>
Primary response vehicle	\$150,000	\$10,441
Secondary response vehicle	\$40,100	\$14,500
Bomb suit communications	\$14,000	-
Upgrades to existing robot	\$3,125	-
Advanced electronic training	\$27,200	-
Advanced operations training	\$134,672	-
Train/trainer – IED awareness	\$16,000	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$385,097</b>	<b>\$24,941</b>

**FISCAL IMPACT:** This grant provides funding to replace the current bomb unit primary response vehicle in FY 10 instead of the FY 12 scheduled replacement date. The impact to the County is an estimated \$10,441 yearly increase in County Auto Fund charges for maintenance and replacement costs. The grant also provides funding to add a new secondary response vehicle. The impact to the County is an estimated \$14,500 yearly increase in County Auto Fund charges for maintenance and replacement costs. New funds totaling \$24,941 will be requested in the FY 11 proposed budget, or funds will be reallocated within the Fire Department from lower priority programs.