



ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA

**County Board Agenda Item
Meeting of July 11, 2009**

DATE: June 8, 2009

SUBJECT: Acceptance and appropriation of a \$100,000 grant from the Pennsylvania State University Electro-Optics Center (Penn State EOC) to help identify, develop and test new technologies for use by first responders.

C. M. RECOMMENDATION:

Accept and appropriate a \$100,000 grant from the Penn State EOC (101.344900) to the Fire Department (101.34401) to help identify, develop and test new technologies for use by first responders.

ISSUE: There are no issues associated with accepting this grant.

SUMMARY: The Penn State EOC has developed new technology and equipment for the U.S. Armed Forces. They want the Department's assistance in identifying which of the new technologies developed can be further tailored and adopted for use by first responders (Fire and Police).

BACKGROUND: The Penn State EOC has an alliance of over 350 universities and science and technology companies throughout the United States. They have received contracts and grant funding for research and development of new technology for the U.S. Armed Forces. Several of the new technologies have been identified to be invaluable to first responders throughout the Country. Much of the new technology is already in existence however it hasn't been tailored to use by first responders. The Penn State EOC would like to use Arlington County Fire Department as a location to identify, develop and test these technologies for use by first responders. In return Arlington County would get the latest equipment, at no cost, to use and evaluate for first responder application.

DISCUSSION: A team made of up of members from the Fire and Police Department first responders consisting of representatives from technical rescue, special weapons and tactics (SWAT), bomb squad, HAZMAT and firefighting would be available to participate in meetings, occasional trips to a research facility and testing of the new technology. The team would be involved in activities related to user needs, evaluation of technology usefulness, and capability gaps as it relates to first responder user needs. This would include, but is not limited to,

County Manager: _____

County Attorney: _____

Staff: James Schwartz, Fire Department

technologies associated with firefighting gear such as thermal protection systems, safety alert systems and vision systems; firefighting equipment such as chemical sensors, infrared or other sensor cameras/systems; police equipment such as sniper equipment, surveillance and search and rescue systems; hazardous materials spill response and immediate or onsite medical assistance.

Other operational activities of the team would include evaluating an item under first responder conditions for example testing a fire-proof glove during a training exercise, evaluating a camera on a police mission, comparing a night sight during a SWAT exercise and attending a meeting or demonstration to provide user expertise towards development of an item for potential first responder usage.

FISCAL IMPACT: There is no financial impact to the County from accepting this grant. The grant funds will be used for travel and personnel expenses, including any callback expenses necessary to backfill for staff when they are involved in grant activities. All expenses incurred by the departments will be fully reimbursed under the grant. The performance period of the grant is expected to be one year.