



## ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA

### County Board Agenda Item Meeting of March 12, 2011

**DATE:** February 24, 2011

**SUBJECT:**

Approve an increased contract authorization of \$180,000 to Contract No. 448-09 with Whiting-Turner Contracting Company for the Fire Station No. 3 construction to add installation of the firefighter alarm, dispatch and lighting system.

**C. M. RECOMMENDATION:**

Approve an increase of a not-to-exceed amount of \$180,000 to Contract 448-09 between the County Board and Whiting-Turner Contracting Company for the construction of Fire Station No. 3 at 4100 Old Dominion Drive to provide funds for the installation of the alarm, dispatching and lighting systems for a total project authorization of \$5,214,400.

**ISSUES:** County Board approval is needed to increase the contract amount.

**SUMMARY:**

An increase in the contract authorization is requested to provide funds for the installation of the same alarm and dispatching system that is installed in the County's existing ten fire stations. The overall cost of Fire Station No. 3 is unchanged; this request reallocates funds previously allocated for the alarm and dispatch system supplier to the construction contract for the same scope of work.

**BACKGROUND:**

The construction contract for Fire Station No. 3 was authorized in December, 2009 for a total contract amount of \$5,034,400. At the time of award, the design and pricing for the firefighter's alarm and dispatching system, provided by Westnet, Inc. in the County's existing ten fire stations, was not complete. The Westnet proprietary system was selected by the County in 2000 and has been installed in all County fire stations. The system is linked to the County's Computer Aided Dispatch system such that individual fire fighters at the selected fire station are notified which apparatus to use in responding to an alarm.

**DISCUSSION:**

County Manager: *BMD/mjs*

County Attorney:

Staff: George May, DES

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The installation of the alarm and dispatch system was originally planned to be done by Westnet. However Westnet's installer is no longer licensed in Virginia. Having Whiting-Turner manage the acquisition and installation of the system as part of its construction of the fire station is recommended as the most expeditious and cost effective means to complete the construction by the planned completion date of May, 2011. The County previously negotiated the purchase price of the system with Westnet and Westnet will offer the same price to Whiting-Turner.

The system planned for Fire Station No. 3 includes both the alarm and dispatching system and the corridor and apparatus bay light fixtures. These LED fixtures change their normal white light output to red upon a night-time alarm, preserving the firefighter's night vision.

The cost of the Westnet alarm, dispatching and lighting system, including installation, is approximately \$290,000. The authorized contingency for the construction contract was \$539,400; construction is now about 70 percent (70%) complete with \$279,400 of the contingency allocated for approved or pending change orders. The remaining contingency of \$260,000 is insufficient; an increased authorization of \$180,000 will provide funds for the change in construction scope with a contingency reserve of \$150,000 for the remainder of the construction program.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** Funds for the Fire Station No. 3 alarm, dispatching and lighting system are available from IDA Bond Account 340.480001.43563.FST3.111A.0000.