



## ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA

### County Board Agenda Item Meeting of September 15, 2012

**DATE:** August 28, 2012

**SUBJECT:** Acceptance and appropriation of a National Capital Region (NCR) Fiscal Year (FY) 2011 Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) Bomb Squad Sustainment grant from the District of Columbia Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency.

#### C. M. RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Authorize the County Manager or her designee to enter into an agreement(s) associated with this grant, subject to approval as to form of the agreement by the County Attorney.
2. Accept and appropriate in FY 2013 \$488,000 from the District of Columbia Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency (794.374900) to the Fire Department (794.91261) for maintenance and replacement of bomb squad equipment.

**ISSUES:** The District of Columbia Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency has awarded the Arlington Fire Department a \$488,000 regional UASI Bomb Squad Sustainment grant for maintenance and replacement of bomb squad equipment within the NCR.

**SUMMARY:** There are currently nine accredited state/local bomb squads within the NCR. Existing threats, realistic response times, transportation issues, access issues, infrastructure, mass transit, recent trends and attacks require maintaining the current number of bomb squads. Between 2006 and 2009 the NCR invested \$13.4 million in bomb squad equipment and training. All bomb squads except for the Maryland State Fire Marshal's office meet the minimum equipment capability established by Metrotech (NCR Bomb Squads). Advanced training remains a challenge due to scheduling and procurement of necessary courses. The procured equipment requires extensive maintenance and some of the equipment is near the end of its useful life.

**BACKGROUND:** The NCR currently has nine accredited bomb squads, including the Arlington County Fire Department, Fairfax County Police Department, Loudoun County Fire

County Manager:

*BMD/mjs*

County Attorney:

*[Signature]*

*MNC*

**28. A.**

Staff: Thomas Gardiner, Fire Department

Department, Virginia State Police, DC Metropolitan Police Department, Metro Transit Police, Montgomery County Fire Department, Prince George's County Fire Department, and the Maryland State Fire Marshals. Existing threats, realistic response times, traffic issues, access issues, infrastructure, mass transit, and recent trends and attacks require maintaining this number of squads. Additionally, the National Response Plan defines specific response times required for bomb squads; at this time, the distribution of the bomb squads in the NCR is sufficient to meet the required response times.

The NCR bomb squads will continue the process for developing the capacity to mitigate explosive related incidents as the threat(s) evolve. Currently, perceived threats include Person Borne Improvised Explosive Devices (PBIED); Vehicle Borne Improvised Explosive Devices (VBIED); Standoff Weapons; WMD devices that either are an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) or contain an IED; Water Borne Improvised Explosive Devices or Maritime issues (WBIED); Radio Controlled Improvised Explosive Device (RCIED) and Tactical Situations.

**DISCUSSION:** This grant provides funding for maintenance of existing equipment and to begin the replacement of expired equipment (equipment that will exceed its useable life). This will be accomplished through phases. At the onset this will include one (1) bomb suit per bomb squad each year; this will allow for staggering expiration dates for future replacement. There will be several bomb suits that will need to be replaced in 2015-2016 due to the large acquisition at the onset of the equipment purchases. Existing digital X-Ray equipment will be upgraded as well with this funding.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** The Fire Department's share of this regional grant is \$45,700. These grant funds will be used in FY 2013 to purchase additional equipment, upgrades to the equipment trailer and upgrades to the large response vehicle (\$17,700), and to purchase a new bomb suit ensemble (\$28,000). The grant fully covers the cost of these items and no County funds will be required.