



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) 2012 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 \$1,298,500 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 Fire Department a \$1,298,500 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 Department, Virginia State Police, DC Metropolitan Police Department, Metro Transit Police,

County Manager:

BMD/mjs

County Attorney:

[Signature]

MNC

28. B.

Staff: Thomas Gardiner, Fire Department

Montgomery County Fire Department, Prince George's County Fire Department, and the Maryland State Fire Marshal. 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 will enable the NCR bomb squads to maintain a constant readiness for response. This grant will provide sustainment funding for the NCR Bomb Squads to improve upon current capabilities and equipment acquired with previous UASI initiatives to include bomb suit replacement. This equipment requires extensive maintenance and upgrades to remain viable for operational readiness. The upgrade to the Open Vision Video X-Ray System will allow squads to expand current capabilities to quickly assess suspicious items and take the appropriate mitigation actions. This request also includes equipment for the MD State Fire Marshal to bring them up to the level of operational readiness as the other bomb squads within the NCR.

FISCAL IMPACT: The Arlington Fire Department's share of this regional grant is \$48,000. These grant funds will be used in FY 2013 to purchase additional equipment and additional attachments for the robots (\$20,000), 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.