



ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA

**County Board Agenda Item
Meeting of October 13, 2007**

DATE: September 6, 2007

SUBJECT: Approval of participation in the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) sponsored FY 2006 Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention Plan – Computer Evidence Recovery Unit Program.

C. M. RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Authorize the County Manager to accept up to \$25,000 in non-competitive grant funds from the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) under an FY 2006 Department of Homeland Security grant program.
2. Contingent upon approval, appropriate up to \$25,000 in grant fund revenue from the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) (101.364900) to the Police Department (101.31202) for costs associated with the DCJS program in FY 2008.

ISSUES: Should the County accept up to \$25,000 in State Grant funds from the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services under a program that will enhance the Police Department's Computer Forensic Unit?

SUMMARY: The Police Department was awarded up to \$25,000 in Department of Homeland Security grant funds, passed on to Arlington County through the Virginia Department of Emergency Management, to be used to enhance the Police Department's capabilities in the area of computer forensics. These funds will be used to purchase equipment that will assist in the gathering of evidence related to investigations where electronic devices are present and need to be properly documented.

BACKGROUND: The Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention Program (LETPP) grant provides federal funds to assist state and local law enforcement agencies in their endeavor to prevent and respond to potential acts of terrorism. As Virginia's Criminal Justice Planning Agency, the Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS), is the designated administrative agency for making these funds available to law enforcement through state and local units of government. Funding for the Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention Program comes from the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and through the Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM).

County Manager: _____

County Attorney: _____

Staff:

The Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention Program provides funding assistance to law enforcement agencies to enhance their capabilities for detecting, deterring, disrupting and preventing acts of terrorism. Awards are designed to provide assistance to all state law enforcement agencies, police departments, and sheriffs' offices within county or city boundaries including all incorporated or unincorporated towns, regardless of whether or not they have primary law enforcement responsibilities.

DISCUSSION: Over the past several years, the Police Department has become increasingly involved in multi-jurisdictional investigations dealing with suspected terrorist activities. As a result, the Department's Computer Forensic Unit has seen a significant increase in its workload related to processing the electronic evidence gathered from these investigations. The equipment purchased with the awarded funds will provide the Computer Forensic technicians the ability to process and document electronic evidence in a more efficient and expedient manner. The Police Department intends to purchase the following items with the awarded funds:

ITEM	DESCRIPTION	COST PER UNIT	NUMBER OF UNITS	TOTAL COST
Mac Pro Workstation	A device that will be added to the Computer Forensic Work Area. This will enable investigators to examine Apple computers in a more efficient manner	\$6,786	1	\$6,786
MacBook Pro	A laptop computer that will serve as a "field laptop" for search warrants and on-site imaging where apple computers are encountered	\$2,553	1	\$2,553
Forensic Evidence Recovery Device (F.R.E.D.) System	This will function as a primary workstation for a newly assigned Forensic Evidence Tech. and will be added to the Computer Forensic Work Area. The cost includes equipment and associated training	\$8,144	1	\$8,144
Universal Power Supply (UPS Systems)	Protects computers against power surges/power failures	\$309	3	\$927
HardCopy 2	A field device that will allow investigators to perform on-site imaging on the larger capacity drives that are routinely encountered	\$1,319	1	\$1,319
Portable Hard Drives	Data storage devices that will be used in conjunction with the HardCopy 2 during on-site investigations	\$150	4	\$600

Buffalo Drive Array	On-site storage drive that will be used when encrypted volumes or large data servers are encountered	\$888	1	\$888
DVD/CD Disk Repair	A device that will be used to clean and repair discs with stored evidence image files and for problematic discs encountered during the imaging process	\$615	1	\$615
Complete Package Wmware Workstation (v.6)	Software that will allow examiners to duplicate a suspect drive in the work area or out in the field. Provides the ability to run EnCase forensic images in a virtual environment	\$195	3	\$585
Color Laser Printer	Printers will be added to the Computer Forensic Work Area for the production of high quality images for investigative purposes	\$1229	2	\$2,458
TOTAL:				\$24,875

FISCAL IMPACT: Under this award the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) will provide up to \$25,000 in grant funds. There is no local match required.