



ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA

County Board Agenda Item Meeting of March 18, 2017

DATE: March 8, 2017

SUBJECT: Acceptance and appropriation of a State Homeland Security Program (SHSP)/ Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI) Bomb Squad Sustainment grant from the District of Columbia Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency on behalf of the Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM).

C. M. RECOMMENDATION:

1. Authorize the County Manager or his 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 \$64,000 in funds from the District of Columbia Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency (101.374900) to the Fire Department (101.34301.) for purchase of Bomb Squad equipment.

ISSUES: The District of Columbia Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency (DCHSEMA) on behalf of the Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM) has awarded the Fire Department a \$64,000 SHSP/UASI grant for the purchase of a wireless remote system for the ACFD Bomb Squad's small platform robot and three x-ray sources for use with existing x-ray systems.

SUMMARY: This is a new grant awarded to the Fire Department, which will provide funding for the improvement of current capabilities and equipment for bomb squad response operations. This equipment purchase will allow the Fire Department's Bomb Squad to remain viable for operational readiness by replacing outdated and inoperable equipment and increasing x-ray capability.

BACKGROUND: The Arlington County Bomb Squad is trained to respond to threats from Person Borne Improvised Explosive Devices (PBIED); Vehicle Borne Improvised Explosive Devices (VBIED); Standoff Weapons; Weapons of Mass Destruction (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

County Manager:

MJS/JHS

County Attorney:

[Signature] *[Signature]*

Staff: Sadia Sattar, Arlington County Fire Department

(RCIED) and Tactical Situations. When operating in high-threat environments in response to the above listed threats, bomb squad technicians are required to utilize x-ray diagnostics technology in order to determine the exact type of device and how to best render it safe. In addition, robotic technology allows bomb squad technicians to conduct diagnostic and render safe procedures remotely, reducing technician time over target and exposure to hazardous devices.

DISCUSSION: The Arlington County Fire Department will purchase one wireless remote system for the squad's existing small platform robot and three x-ray sources (to replace one which is not working and two additional sources for increased response capability), for a total of \$64,000.

FISCAL IMPACT: The grant amount is \$64,000. These grant funds will be used in Fiscal Year (FY) 2017 and FY 2018 to purchase one wireless robot remote system and three x-ray sources. The grant fully covers the cost of these items and no County funds will be required. There is no fiscal impact to the County.