

February 16, 2016, FEMA opened the Federal 2016 grant application period for the Port Security Grant Program (PSGP), which focuses on securing and guarding harbors and port areas for the protection of critical infrastructure from terrorism. The grant applications are due April 25, 2016. The purpose of the PSGP is to support increased port-wide risk management; enhance domain awareness; conduct training and exercises; expand port recovery and resiliency capabilities; further capabilities to prevent, detect, respond to and recover from attacks involving improvised explosive devices (IEDs) and other non-conventional weapons; and competitively award grant funding to assist ports in the implementation of the National Preparedness System (NPS) by supporting the building, sustainment, and delivery of core capabilities essential to achieving the National Preparedness Goal (NPG) of a secure and resilient Nation.

The City of Alexandria plays a vital role in ensuring that our waterways are protected against terrorism and other threats, particularly in light of its responsibility for providing fire and EMS protection for emergencies on the Woodrow Wilson Bridge and the thousands of Alexandria citizens and visitors who cross that structure each day. The City received a \$1,230,000 award from the FY 2010 PSGP to purchase a 50 foot fire boat with a pumping capacity of 7,000-8,000 gpm. This vessel was purchased to provide an all-hazards response vessel with state-of-the-art capabilities for providing preventive security capabilities and emergency response operations for fire, medical, rescue, and environmental hazard incidents along Alexandria's waterfront, on or around the Woodrow Wilson Bridge, and on or adjacent to the Potomac River.

The City contracted with MetalCraft Marine Inc. in Cape Vincent, NY to build the new fire boat in January 2012. The new fire boat was delivered to the City in September 2013. In May 2015, the annual manufacturer preventive maintenance and necessary warranty work began.

DISCUSSION: The new fire boat requires ongoing maintenance at prescribed intervals and other repairs to ensure systems are operating at optimal performance and accuracy. The systems needing maintenance include: HVAC, transmissions, engine, security system and fire pumps; a 15 kilowatt generator; a sophisticated electronics system; and the superstructure of the vessel. The annual maintenance expense will fluctuate based on the required service for a specific interval. Some periodic schedules call for inspections of parts, and the replacement of parts as needed. Other interval schedules require total rebuilds of wearable parts.

The City of Alexandria, as a member of the U.S. Coast Guard, National Capital Region (NCR), Area Maritime Security Committee (AMSC), is eligible to submit for a project in a nationwide competitive process to award the 2016 PSGP. Grant awards for public sector applicants require a non-Federal match (cash or in-kind) supporting at least 25 percent (25%) of the total project cost for each supported project.

The funding guidelines for the PSGP allow for maintenance and sustainment programs for maintenance contracts, warranties, repair or replacement costs, and user fees for active and future grant awards. The allowable maintenance costs are permissible up to the maximum of the grant's performance period of 36 months.

This year the Fire Department is requesting funding for three projects within the grant application:

1. **Maintenance:** The fire boat qualifies for maintenance and sustainment programs since the purchase funding is being provided through an active PSGP award. The City was awarded \$95,175 from the FY 2015 PSGP to cover the third year of replacement parts, maintenance and warranties through August 2017. The anticipated costs for parts and maintenance for this year is estimated at \$101,000.
2. **Training and Personal Protection Equipment (PPE):** Training is being requested to cover the cost to three essential maritime operation courses for the AFD active Marine Operation Team personnel. The courses include Captain License Operator of Uninspected Passenger Vessels (OUPV), Radar Observer

and the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Marine Radio. The PPE requested is for all-weather water operations and is essential for greater response capabilities of personnel in the maritime environment 365 days a year. The PPE equipment requested includes floatation jackets, floatation bib pants and cold water gloves. AFD is requesting new PPE to replace some of the existing PPE which is worn and fraying from use. The estimated cost of the three courses is \$59,609 and the PPE is estimated to cost \$10,080, for a total estimated cost of \$69,689.

3. Shock Mitigation Seats (Controls, Hardware, & Installation): The fire boat is in need of shock mitigating seats onboard AFD MOT All Hazard Response Vessel based in the Port of Alexandria. These seats have been proven and specified by other military and public response agencies, such as the U.S.C.G., on similar fast response type vessels. Shock mitigating seats have become the standard in the military and for similar vessels as the one used by AFD. The design of this seat addresses adverse health effects of exposure to vibration and shocks to personnel while in the seated position, which addresses International Organization for Standardization (ISO) regulations. The estimated cost of this proposal is \$29,000.

FISCAL IMPACT: The City is responsible for normal maintenance and repair costs for the fire boat. An award from this grant will provide a savings to the City for up to seventy-five percent (75%) of the maintenance and repairs costs. Maintenance and sustainment cost total an estimated \$101,000, with the City match totaling \$25,250. Training and Personal Protection Equipment cost are estimated to total \$69,689, with a City match totaling \$17,422. Shock Mitigation Seats cost is estimated to at \$29,000 with a City match totaling \$7,250. The total grant application represents \$249,611 with \$49,922 representing the City's required 25% match. As in previous years, the match amount is contained in the Fire Department's budget.

This grant has been awarded previously in 2010, 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2015.

ATTACHMENTS: None.

STAFF:

Debra Collins, Deputy City Manager
Robert Dubé, Fire Chief