



**BACKGROUND:** The State Homeland Security Program is a grant program run by VDEM. The State Homeland Security Program (SHSP) is one of the six grant programs in the FEMA grant system. This year's State Homeland Security Program may allot additional funding for regional swift water and flood rescue teams, under their competitive grant process. The Alexandria Fire Department is part of the statewide and regional water rescue response program. The Alexandria Fire Department Team works side by side with the water rescue programs from the City of Fairfax and Arlington County to provide a statewide response Team. Funds for the program are provided by the National Preparedness Directorate, U.S. Department of Homeland Security under the Homeland Security Grant Program.

This grant has a two-year window for utilization beginning in October of 2021, ending in June of 2023. The monies are preliminarily set to fund personal protective equipment replacement and support equipment, to meet a minimum equipment standard established by VDEM, based on FEMA resource typing.

The Fire Department would be using these funds to purchase water rescue dry suits, boots, personal floatation vests, rope rescue equipment, a generator and night vision optics. All of which assist the department in meeting the required tools and equipment inventory set by the commonwealth to operate safely in water rescue environments.

**DISCUSSION:** These funds will assist the City Water Rescue Team in meeting and maintaining the VDEM inventory and training standards. This will help ensure the team has adequate equipment and training to meet the minimum capabilities to meet State and Federal standards.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** The Fire Department is requesting acceptance of grant funds up to the amount of \$33,500 to enhance the preparedness abilities of our water rescue team members to effectively respond to and mitigate flood and water rescue related threats. This grant will fund specialized equipment to assist with flood rescue as it relates to our urban setting. City staff will administer the grant. The City is also responsible for the normal administrative costs associated with this grant, including financial and reporting oversight provided by the Fire Department. There is no cash match requirement.

**STAFF:**

Debra Collins, Deputy City Manager  
Corey Smedley, Fire Chief