

DATE ISSUED: July 31, 2002 REPORT NO. 02-185

ATTENTION: Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee
Agenda of August 7, 2002

SUBJECT: Homeland Security First Responders Initiative Update

REFERENCE: Governmental Relations Department Memo dated May 17, 2002

SUMMARY

THIS IS AN INFORMATION ITEM ONLY. NO ACTION IS REQUIRED ON THE PART OF THE COMMITTEE OR THE CITY COUNCIL.

BACKGROUND

During the Rules Committee meeting of June 5, 2002, Governmental Relations reported on Homeland Security funding initiatives. One of the resulting actions of the Rules Committee was to direct the City Manager to return to the Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee with a list of priority projects that would qualify for funding. This report provides an update on:

- Federal and State planning surrounding the allocation of funding, and
- Efforts to identify items that would qualify for funding under this initiative.

DISCUSSION

Funding Allocation at the Federal Level

President Bush has sent to Congress a \$3.5 billion request in the 2002-2003 Federal budget to provide grants to state and local governments to strengthen the response capabilities of the nation's "first responders". The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) was identified as the agency responsible for implementing a procedure to distribute resources to the States and local governments.

Funding will be made available for four major categories of activities:

| Category | Description |
|-----------|---|
| Planning | Support State and local governments in developing comprehensive plans to prepare for and respond to a terrorist attack |
| Equipment | Allow State and local first responder agencies to purchase a wide range of equipment needed to respond effectively to a terrorist attack, including personal protective equipment, chemical and biological detection systems, and interoperable communications gear |
| Training | Provide resources to train firefighters, police officers, and emergency medical technicians to respond and operate in a chemical or biological environment |
| Exercises | Support a coordinated, regular exercise program to improve response capabilities, practice mutual aid, and assess operational improvements and deficiencies |

Distribution formulas have not been finalized; however, consensus is forming around an approach similar to the following:

- Block grants to states based on population, with a floor for small states
- 75% of funds must be passed through to local governments
- 25% to state governments, with the option to distribute all/part of their share to local governments
- 25% local match requirement

Funding Allocation at the State Level

The President has proposed that each state develop a statewide funding plan. Governor Davis is in the process of developing a plan for California. The Governor’s draft plan would distribute the funds in accordance with federal guidelines by retaining 25% of its total share to the state, and distributing the remaining 75% to the 58 counties or *operational areas*. Funds will be allocated for spending in the four categories identified above (planning, equipment, training, and exercises).

Additionally, the Governor’s draft plan discusses the creation of an “Operational Area Council” in each county, consisting of 5 members:

- County Public Health Officer
- County Fire Chief Association Representative
- Municipal Fire Chief (to be selected by the Operational Area Fire Chiefs)
- County Sheriff
- Chief of Police (to be selected by the Operational Area Police Chiefs)

Note that the City can have at most 2 seats of 5 on the Operational Area Council; it is likely that the City will have one representative. Under this plan, the City of San Diego is at risk for

receiving its proportional share as estimated above if the Operational Area Council determines that other cities in the County have a greater need for funding.

The Operational Area Council will be responsible for producing the following:

- A comprehensive plan to prepare for and respond to a terrorist attack.
- Table-top exercises based on the comprehensive preparedness/response plan.
- Necessary training based on needs assessments developed during table-top exercises.
- A list of equipment purchased in order to carry out the emergency plan and additional equipment needs not met with available funds.
- Measurable outcome goals.

The draft plan further recommends funds be distributed to local first responder entities by the Operational Area Council as specified below:

- Fire Services 25%
- Police Services 25%
- Emergency Medical Services 25%
- Discretionary 25%

Funding Allocation at the Local Level

It is *estimated* that the San Diego region would be entitled to the following allocations based on California's 10% share of Federal population, San Diego County's 8.3% share of statewide population, and the City's 43% share of county population:

| | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------|
| National Funding | \$3.5 billion |
| California's funding share | \$350.0 million |
| 75% to regions | \$262.5 million |
| 25% State share | \$87.5 million |
| San Diego County funding share | \$21.8 million |
| City of San Diego share | \$9.4 million |

Again, assuming proportional distribution of these funds from the 4 categories of activities anticipated in the 2002-03 budget, San Diego's share would be allocated as follows:

| | |
|------------|-------------|
| Planning: | \$282,000 |
| Equipment: | \$5,358,000 |
| Training: | \$2,914,000 |
| Exercises: | \$658,000 |

Although not currently accounted for in federal and state draft planning documents, distribution of funds should provide additional funds for municipalities under "special circumstances", which would include: proximity to international border crossings, high concentrations of defense facilities including nuclear powered vessels, and proximity to nuclear power plants.

Identification of Items Qualifying for Funding

In anticipation of funding, staff has conducted an initial data call to identify items that would qualify under the First Responders Initiative. The following departments submitted prioritized lists of requirements that could qualify under this initiative:

- Police Department
- Fire Department
- Water Department (biological/chemical contamination detection)
- Information Technology & Communications (Public Safety communications)

Approximately \$34.5 million in items that could qualify under this initiative has been identified. Because of the sensitive nature of the information gathered, a summary of the items is presented as follows. Police and Fire Departments requested equipment and training that improve their capability to respond to casualties (\$27.1 million). The Information Technology & Communications Department provided inputs that enhance communications capability for first responders (\$1.2 million). Water Department identified systems that would improve their ability to detect biological or chemical contamination of the water system (\$250,000). Planning efforts range from specific events through City-wide coordination for emergency preparedness (\$5 million). Exercises have been identified that range from departmental level through to the interagency level (\$891,000).

CONCLUSION

As both Federal and State organizations develop plans to distribute the President's First Responder funding, it is imperative that the City remain actively involved in discussions that will determine the distribution of the funds. Our objective is to gain a proportionate share of the funding based on population. Staff will provide updates as the funding picture evolves.

When final funding levels have been determined and the application process is in place, staff will prepare submissions under the First Responders Initiative.

Respectfully submitted,

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