

**CITY COUNCIL  
COMMUNICATION:**

**03-158**

**AGENDA:**

APRIL 7, 2003

**SUBJECT:**

GRANT APPLICATION  
BY FIRE  
DEPARTMENT

**TYPE:**

**RESOLUTION**  
ORDINANCE  
RECEIVE/FILE

**SUBMITTED BY:**

PHILLIP C.  
VORLANDER  
FIRE CHIEF

**ITEM** \_\_\_\_\_

**OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER  
CITY OF DES MOINES, IOWA**

**SYNOPSIS —**

The Des Moines Fire Department has prepared a grant application for submission to the United States Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program. The Fire Department is requesting funding to purchase a ClearCommand amplifier and a chemical and biological air purifying respirator adaptor for each firefighter's self-contained breathing apparatus face piece.

**FISCAL IMPACT —**

The total budget request for this program is \$140,300, with federal funding of \$98,210 and a required City match of 30 percent or \$42,090. The Fire Department's share, \$42,090, will be funded through the Fire Department's Capital Improvement Program (CIP) "Alarm/Egress Systems" account.

**RECOMMENDATION —**

**Authorization for the City Manager to direct the Fire Department to proceed with the filing of this grant application.**

**BACKGROUND —**

In its 2002 appropriation (Public Law 107-73), Congress gave FEMA the authority to carry out an initiative to provide assistance to firefighters. This assistance will be awarded directly to local fire departments on a competitive basis. Applications will be received from March 10th until April 11th, and must be developed around the issue of firefighter health and safety. Last year, the Fire Department was successful in obtaining a grant for Video Conferencing.

The grant money requested would provide for the purchase of a ClearCommand amplifier and a chemical and biological air purifying respirator adaptor for each firefighter's self-contained breathing apparatus face piece. Cities with populations in excess of 50,000, like Des Moines, are required to provide a 30 percent match.

The ClearCommand amplifier would significantly improve voice communications between the firefighters and victims, other firefighters, incident command, and Public Safety Dispatch. The

	chemical and biological air purifying respirator adaptors will provide the necessary respiratory protection needed in potential weapons of mass destruction and terrorism events for sustained rescue and emergency medical treatment of victims.
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