

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM
CITY OF SHORELINE, WASHINGTON

AGENDA TITLE:	Motion To Approve King County Office of Emergency Management Homeland Security Subgrant Agreement to Purchase 800 MHz Radios and Satellite Phones, and to Offset the Cost of Updating the Terrorism Annex
DEPARTMENT:	Police
PRESENTED BY:	Chief Tony Burt Gail Marsh, Emergency Management Coordinator Bethany Wolbrecht-Dunn, Grants Specialist

PROBLEM/ISSUE STATEMENT:

The City's emergency response capability was tested during the Nisqually earthquake on February 28, 2001. In the debriefing of this event, one of the challenges identified was the lack of 800 Mhz radios available for key City staff and subsequently, the failure of the system. To that end, City staff begin looking for grant funds that would be available to finance solutions to emerging emergency management challenges.

As part of the federal response to the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, funding is being made available to assist local jurisdictions in their emergency planning efforts. In April of 2004, the City applied for Department of Homeland Security State Homeland Security Grant Program Funding that is being funneled through the Washington State Military Department (Emergency Management Division) and King County Office of Emergency Management. In the application we applied for assistance in offsetting the costs of an update to our Terrorism Annex and to purchase ten (10), 800 Mhz radios and three (3) satellite phones.

The City of Shoreline currently has twenty-one (21) 800 Mhz radios assigned to City staff. These are primarily used operationally for the Customer Response Team (CRT), Public Works – Operations, and the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Maintenance team. While these are available for use in an emergency, we require additional capacity for key emergency operations staff as listed below.

- Emergency Management Coordinator
- City Manager
- City Attorney
- Deputy City Manager
- Department Directors
 - Human Resources
 - Public Works
 - Finance
 - Planning and Development Services

- Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services
- Communications and Intergovernmental Relations

The additional 800 Mhz radios will not solve the issue of having a back-up system in the event that the 800 Mhz system fails, similar to what happened during the Nisqually earthquake. That is why a redundant, but different, system is necessary. This grant will also allow us to purchase 3 satellite phones for communication in the even that other lines of communication (land-line, cellular, and 800 Mhz) have failed or cannot handle the volume of communication. These phones would be located at the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) at the Fire Department Headquarters, the Police Precinct (which is the back up EOC), and one would be a field phone.

The final aspect of this grant funding will allow us to offset the estimated \$10,000 it will cost the City of Shoreline to contract for an update to the Terrorism Annex section of our Emergency Operations Plan. This section is required by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), as is the overall Emergency Operations Plan, in order for the City to be eligible to receive FEMA funding in the event of a disaster.

The City competed with many other jurisdictions in King County and was one of 15 cities to receive funding. In addition to this funding, we have been successful in applying for \$37,500 in FEMA grant funding for the development of the City's Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan and \$21, 273 in Washington State Emergency Management Performance Grant funding to support the City's overall emergency operations program.

ALTERNATIVES ANALYZED:

- The preferred alternative is to accept the grant funds.
- The other option is to turn back the grant funds. This alternative is not preferred as we would have no other way to finance the purchase of these important items.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

- This grant award will provide \$54,817.79 in revenue for the City to purchase ten (10), 800 Mhz radios, three (3) satellite phones and to offset the costs of the update to the Terrorism Annex.
- There is a small ongoing cost for the phones, which is estimated to be \$6,000 and will be adsorbed by the Police's operating budget.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Council authorize the City manager to sign a contract with King County Office of Emergency Management for \$54,817.79 that will provide funding for an update to the Terrorism Annex and will purchase ten (10) 800 Mhz radios and three (3) satellite phones.

Approved By: City Manager  City Attorney ____