



**CITY COUNCIL  
COMMUNICATION:**

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

**02-138**

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

**AGENDA:**

**SYNOPSIS -**

MARCH 18, 2002

The Des Moines Fire Department has prepared a grant application to the United States Fire Administration's Firefighters Grant Program. The Fire Department is requesting funding toward a video conferencing system that would be installed in the ten fire stations and used for simultaneous training.

**SUBJECT:**

GRANT  
APPLICATION FOR  
VIDEO  
CONFERENCING  
SYSTEM

**FISCAL IMPACT -**

The total budget request for this program is \$148,554, with federal funding of \$103,988 and a required City match funding of \$44,566. The Fire Department's share will be met utilizing funds from the Department's Capital Improvement Program (CIP) "Fire Equipment" account to provide the 30 percent City match funding.

**TYPE:**

RESOLUTION  
ORDINANCE  
RECEIVE/FILE

**RECOMMENDATION -**

**Authorization for the Fire Chief, or his Designee, to proceed with the filing of this grant application.**

**SUBMITTED BY:**

RON WAKEHAM  
FIRE CHIEF

**BACKGROUND -**

In its 2002 appropriation (Public Law 107-73), Congress gave the Federal Emergency Management Authority (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 1st until April 1st, and must be developed around the issue of firefighter health and safety. The grant money requested would be for the purchase, installation, and three-year maintenance of video conferencing equipment in the ten fire stations. The video conferencing system will be used to deliver training/education programs to the members of the Fire Department. The Fire Department has the support of the Information Technology Department and their authorization to utilize

the City's fiber optic local area network. Being a City with a population in excess of 50,000, we are required to provide a 30 percent match.

This equipment allows an interactive educational program to be provided to personnel in numerous outlying stations simultaneously. This system guarantees optimum response as personnel are instructed within their territory boundaries. The number of scheduled classes to include all personnel is likewise reduced, allotting more time for active hands-on training.

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