

**CITY COUNCIL
COMMUNICATION:**

03-498

AGENDA:

OCTOBER 6, 2003

SUBJECT:

REGIONAL
GEOGRAPHIC
INFORMATION
SYSTEM

TYPE:

RESOLUTION
ORDINANCE
RECEIVE/FILE

SUBMITTED BY:

ERIC A. ANDERSON
CITY MANAGER

ITEM _____

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

SYNOPSIS —

On the October 6, 2003 Council agenda is a roll call that authorizes the City Manager to submit an application for federal assistance to access funds from the Fiscal Year (FY) 2003 Byrne Discretionary Grant to develop the Des Moines Regional Geographic Information System (GIS). Iowa's Congressional delegation secured \$993,500 in federal funds for this regional GIS to enhance homeland defense and emergency response capabilities. Federal funds will be spent to obtain training and equipment to develop the system. Michael Armstrong, Director of the City's Information Technology Department, and Ellen Walkowiak with the City's Office of Economic Development are coordinating the activities for this project.

FISCAL IMPACT —

The total project budget is \$993,500, which will be federally funded. No matching funds are required or provided.

RECOMMENDATION —

Approval.

BACKGROUND —

This two-year project will begin to develop a regional GIS centered in Des Moines. The system will provide data, information, and visualization tools to enhance the ability of personnel within the Des Moines area to protect critical infrastructure, respond to natural and man-made emergencies, and provide essential protective services to residents of the region.

Emphasis will be placed on developing the technical infrastructure, establishing telecommunications links among the regional Emergency Operating Centers, and installing appropriate hardware and software to incorporate data from multiple sources into a seamless system. Training will be obtained to develop and maintain the system.

First responders, emergency managers, utility and business representatives, and non-profit organizations involved in emergency response will participate in the project to ensure that sufficient data will be collected and that it will be disseminated in a useful form. Existing data will be used and improved wherever possible.

	<p>The project will enable emergency service personnel, other government employees, volunteers, representatives from state and federal agencies, and the public to access a region-wide, reliable, and current source of geospatial information to enhance decision-making and to manage resources more effectively.</p>
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