



Council
Communication
Office of the City Manager

Date	April 23, 2007
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Agenda Item No.	38
Roll Call No.	07-
Communication No.	07-243
Submitted by: Phillip C. Vorlander.	
Chief of the Fire Department	

AGENDA HEADING:

Approving the Application for the United States Department of Homeland Security Assistance to Fire Fighters Grant

SYNOPSIS:

Recommend approval of the resolution authorizing the Chief of the Fire Department or his designee to submit an Assistance to Fire Fighters Grant application for the purchase of 14 thermal imaging cameras

FISCAL IMPACT:

Amount: \$29,540 (20% match of total \$147,700 – Federal grant = \$118,160)

Funding Source: 2008 Operating Budget, Organization FIR040700, Account 544030, page 162.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

The United States Department of Homeland Security's Assistance to Firefighters Grant program provides for an 80/20 funding arrangement that supports improvements in several areas, one of which is equipment to improve fire fighter safety. The Des Moines Fire Department proposes to submit an application requesting funding to purchase fourteen (14) thermal imaging cameras to equip those fire companies that are not currently outfitted with this technology. Firefighters are at significant risk in low or no visibility situations, as well as to hidden fires in structures and confined spaces. Thermal imaging technology provides for the more ready detection of structural dangers and intentionally created traps intended to cause harm to personnel. Thermal imaging technology also enhances the effectiveness of firefighter search efforts to locate people, including trapped or injured firefighters, in structure fires and other low to no visibility environments, and thus will significantly aid in search and rescue operations. Thermal imaging cameras are also a very useful data gathering tool at hazardous material events to determine liquid levels and temperatures in vessels and will provide much needed information to protect firefighters and citizens.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S): NONE

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S): NONE

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS:

If the Department is awarded the grant, the City Council will be asked to approve the purchase of the thermal imaging technology.