



**Council
Communication**
Office of the City Manager

Date

March 24, 2007

Agenda Item No. 38

Roll Call No. 08-

Communication No. 08-139

Submitted by: Phillip C. Vorlander.

Chief of the Fire Department

AGENDA HEADING:

Approving the application for United States Department of Homeland Security 2008 Assistance to Fire Fighters Grant.

SYNOPSIS:

The Des Moines Fire Department has prepared a grant application for submission to the United States Department of Homeland Security 2008 Assistance to Firefighters Grant program, a competitive process. The Fire Department is requesting funding for the purchase of Automatic Chest Compression Devices.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Amount: \$36,000.00 (20% required match of the total estimated project cost of \$180,000.)

Funding Source: 2009 Operating Budget, Fire Department, Organization FIR040700, Account 544030, page 163.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

American Heart Association (AHA) Guidelines for the performance of Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) stress the importance of maintaining circulation during cardiac arrest in improving patient outcomes. Performing manual chest compressions is difficult; quality varies between responders, and, in fact, deteriorates over time as a result of rescuer fatigue. Significant improvements have been made in the effectiveness of Automatic Chest Compression devices that are designed to overcome the problems encountered by both out-of-hospital and in-hospital health care personnel in that they provide sustained, quality compressions according to the AHA Guidelines without delays or interruptions. Additionally, manual CPR in a moving ambulance poses significant risk to the unsecured fire fighter, not only in the event of an accident, but musculoskeletal strain and damage from maintaining stability (this act of maintaining balance and position also results in less effective CPR).

The Des Moines Fire Department Medical Director has recommended the deployment of these devices in our system and this grant application seeks funding for the purchase of twelve (12) Automatic Chest Compression Devices in order to improve the quality of the care we provide our patients and, concurrently, enhance the safety of our personnel.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S): NONE

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S): NONE

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS:

If the Fire Department is awarded the grant, the City Council will be asked to approve the acceptance of the grant and authorization to purchase twelve (12) Automatic Chest Compression Devices.

For more information on this and other agenda items, please call the City Clerk's Office at 515-283-4209 or visit the Clerk's Office on the second floor of City Hall, 400 Robert D Ray Drive. Council agendas are available to the public at the City Clerk's Office on Thursday afternoon preceding Monday's Council meeting. Citizens can also request to receive meeting notices and agendas by email by calling the Clerk's Office or sending their request via email to cityclerk@dmgov.org.