

 <p style="text-align: center;">Council Communication Office of the City Manager</p>	Date: February 23, 2015
	Agenda Item No. 30 Roll Call No. <u>15-0315</u> Communication No. <u>15-067</u> Submitted by: John F. TeKippe, Fire Chief

AGENDA HEADING:

Approving a competitive grant application by the Fire Department to the Monsanto Fund for the purpose of funding two (2) multi-gas monitors for use by the Hazardous Material teams.

SYNOPSIS:

Approving a competitive grant application by the Fire Department to the Monsanto Fund for the purpose of funding two (2) MultiRAE portable six-gas monitors. The approximate total value of the two (2) monitors is \$5,552.00. The Fire Department was required to submit a preliminary, one (1) page letter describing the grant proposal; approval to proceed with the grant application was authorized by the Monsanto Fund representative on February 11, 2015. The grant application is competitive; however, if the grant application is awarded, there is no City matching fund requirement.

FISCAL IMPACT: NONE

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

The Hazardous Material team uses a variety of equipment to detect and analyze substances. Identifying the substance is one (1) of the first steps in evaluating hazard severity and determining the safest, most cost efficient method to mitigate or neutralize a given situation. Not surprisingly, meters that were state-of-the-art 10 years ago are becoming obsolete and in some cases unserviceable due to emerging and improved technology. The Des Moines Fire Department prides itself on providing outstanding emergency services, but our financial capacity to keep pace with new equipment using emerging technologies is limited. We are seeking approval to participate in the competitive Monsanto Fund grant process for funding to purchase two (2) MulitRAE six-gas monitors for both of the Des Moines Fire Department’s Hazmat teams.

If this project is approved, it will allow us to replace our existing meters that are 12 years old. Indications from the manufacturer is that technical support and availability of replacement parts for our existing meters will end in the future. These meters can potentially be used on every hazmat emergency that we respond to and would not only replace our existing portable meters, but in some cases they may replace additional, less reliable means of identifying certain chemicals (i.e. chlorine). While the Monsanto Fund provides the funding for this grant, and there are several Monsanto Company work sites within the seven (7) county region that the Des Moines Fire Department provides hazardous material service to, these monitors could be used in a variety of commercial, industrial, and business environments.

Since 1964, the Monsanto Fund has been the Monsanto Company's philanthropic arm to focus on their goal of strengthening both farming communities and communities where people live and work. These efforts focus on two (2) areas; providing basic educational support and meeting critical needs in communities. The critical needs focus includes supporting public safety and various other local needs.

The grant application is due on or before February 28, 2015.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):

Date: February 24, 2014

Roll Call Number: [14-0307](#)

Action: [Competitive](#) grant application by the Fire Department to the Monsanto Fund for funding of two organic compound monitors for use by the Hazardous Materials Team, \$8,000. ([Council Communication No. 14-062](#)) Moved by Hensley to adopt. Motion Carried 7-0.

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S): NONE

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS: NONE

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