

HUMAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

NOVEMBER 14, 2016

A meeting of the Human Affairs Committee was held Monday, November 14, 2016, at 7:02 p.m. in the Aldermanic Chamber.

Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire, Chairman, presided.

Members of the Committee present: Alderman June M. Caron, Vice Chair
Alderman Mary Ann Melizzi-Golja
Alderman Tom Lopez (Arrived at 7:05 p.m.)
Alderman Don LeBrun

Also in Attendance: Mr. Justin Kates, Emergency Management Director

PUBLIC COMMENT - None

COMMUNICATIONS

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN MELIZZI-GOLJA THAT THE RULES BE SO FAR SUSPENDED AS TO ALLOW FOR THE INTRODUCTION OF A COMMUNICATION RECEIVED AFTER THE AGENDA WAS PREPARED
MOTION CARRIED**

From: Justin Kates, Director, Office of Emergency Management
Re: DHS FY16 Homeland Security Grant Program Competitive Grant Applications

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN MELIZZI-GOLJA TO ACCEPT AND PLACE ON FILE
MOTION CARRIED**

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS – RESOLUTIONS

R-16-073

Endorsers: Mayor Jim Donchess
Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.
Alderman Mary Ann Melizzi-Golja
Alderman June M. Caron
Alderman Richard A. Dowd

RELATIVE TO THE ACCEPTANCE AND APPROPRIATION OF \$46,592 FROM THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE INTO POLICE GRANT ACTIVITY "2016 JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT (MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL)"

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN MELIZZI-GOLJA TO RECOMMEND FINAL PASSAGE
MOTION CARRIED**

R-16-078

Endorsers: Mayor Jim Donchess
Alderman Mary Ann Melizzi-Golja
Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire
Alderman Richard A. Dowd
Alderman June M. Caron
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.
Alderman Ken Siegel

RELATIVE TO THE ACCEPTANCE AND APPROPRIATION OF \$87,573 FROM THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE, DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY "STATE HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM" INTO FIRE GRANT ACTIVITY "2016 HAZMAT WIDE AREA MONITORING"

MOTION BY ALDERMAN MELIZZI-GOLJA TO RECOMMEND FINAL PASSAGE

ON THE QUESTION

Chairman Wilshire

Can you give us a little bit of background on these grants please, Mr. Kates?

Mr. Justin Kates, Emergency Management Director

Certainly, the program that is before you this evening, the wide area monitoring is intended for the Nashua Fire Rescue Souhegan Mutual Aide Response Team and that is a regional response team that provides Hazmat response services to a number of communities that surround Nashua all the way up to Bedford. This is to replace some equipment that we currently have on the equipment cache for the team and it has become out-of-date and also inoperable due to general wear and tear. This is going to be through the competitive grant application that homeland security provides each year, one of three that we are awarded. The purpose of this equipment is to allow us to distribute these hazmat meters across an area and they have the ability to radio back and communicate what the status of the air quality is within a certain location. We will typically use these if we go to an area where there is a wide-scaled plume and we will use that to basically get an idea where the contaminated area is and where we need to evacuate or shelter in place our citizens. It is also a no match grant for the city.

Alderman Lopez

Is there a Hazmat team on West Hollis and Nash right now?

Mr. Kates

I know they did have a fluid spill earlier this evening but I am not sure that the Hazmat unit was deployed to it.

Alderman Lopez

Would that be the kind of situation that this would be used for?

Mr. Kates

This would be for some type of contamination that's in the air. We just had an exercise that was a chlorine release from Jones Chemical in Merrimack and our team would be responsible for responding to something like that. Our equipment was not operable so essentially this will allow us to maintain the same capabilities that the other Hazmat teams in the state have so that we can at least be able to deploy those across a wider

area.

MOTION CARRIED

R-16-079

Endorsers: Mayor Jim Donchess
Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire
Alderman Mary Ann Melizzi-Golja
Alderman Ken Siegel
Alderman June M. Caron
Alderman Richard A. Dowd
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.
Alderman Tom Lopez

RELATIVE TO THE ACCEPTANCE AND APPROPRIATION OF \$61,900 FROM THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE, DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY "STATE HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM" INTO POLICE GRANT ACTIVITY "2016 TACTICAL AND HAZMAT ROBOT"

MOTION BY ALDERMAN MELIZZI-GOLJA TO RECOMMEND FINAL PASSAGE

ON THE QUESTION

Mr. Kates

Like the wide area monitoring that is for the Hazmat team it's going to have an application for a number of city departments. This will be deployed by the police department but can be utilized for a special reaction team call outs, hazardous devices unit call outs and also for the Hazmat team that the fire department maintains. The purpose of this robot, many of you have probably seen at different outreach events, the bomb robot that the hazardous device u-nit for the Nashua Police Department has, a very large device, has been a staple of the bomb team's capabilities for a number of years. That robot has been continuously maintained and updated with the newest technology. This is going to be a smaller robot, what we call man-transportable so it can be carried around unlike the bomb robot which requires its own truck to drive it around. This could be used in a small home and it will allow us to prevent an officer from having to go into a dangerous situation first. The origin of this grant funding is for terrorism, however it has a multi-use so we can use this for any type of incident that the special reaction team would be called out for and the other thing that we are seeing quite a bit of is how can we use this for hazardous materials incidents as well. We can basically strap a meter onto this thing and take it into a structure without sending any of our crews in. This is going to be a great capability for us and it's a no-match required grant which will be maintained by the police department and be able to be deployed by any city department across the region.

Chairman Wilshire

Do you have any idea of the life expectancy of this kind of robot?

Mr. Kates

It will probably be 10 to 15 years. The robot that we have for the bomb team currently is getting to that 15 year range. There has already been one overhaul with it so that's it's been refreshed. As long as it's maintained I think it will have a good life expectancy.

Alderman LeBrun

Has an RFP already gone out on this?

Mr. Kates

For this it's likely going to be a sole source because there is a specific device that the police department is looking for that is compatible with the Hazmat metering devices that we currently have. It's got a specialized mount on it so that it will allow us to use the items from the first grant that we approved. We have gone through probably 15 different vendors that have a man-transportable sized robot and the one that has been looked at for this specific grant appears to be able to meet all of the requirements of both the fire department as well as the police department.

Alderman LeBrun

Have you looked into a local company?

Mr. Kates

I don't believe any of the ones that we looked at were from a local company.

Alderman LeBrun

There is a local company in Nashua that makes those devices.

Mr. Kates

I would be interested in that. Can you give me some information because I would like to see if they have something that has that same capability? If we can buy local it's always better.

Alderman LeBrun

Okay.

Chairman Wilshire

Alderman LeBrun, would you share the name of that company?

Alderman LeBrun

I can't think of the name of it but it's over on Simon Street.

MOTION CARRIED

R-16-080

Endorsers: Mayor Jim Donchess
Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.
Alderman Mary Ann Melizzi-Golja
Alderman June M. Caron
Alderman Richard A. Dowd

RELATIVE TO THE ACCEPTANCE AND APPROPRIATION OF \$49,364.76 FROM THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE, DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY "STATE HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM" INTO EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT GRANT ACTIVITY "2016 INFLATABLE SHELTER"

MOTION BY ALDERMAN MELIZZI-GOLJA TO RECOMMEND FINAL PASSAGE

ON THE QUESTION

Mr. Kates

This is probably the most interesting one. Our police department maintains a mobile command post that we can deploy to an incident. It doesn't have to be a police department incident; it could be fire, police or anything. It was purchased with homeland security funds a number of years ago. It was the first generation of mobile command posts. One of the challenges that we have seen with that vehicle is that it's very small. It's large on the outside but when you get in it it's very cramped especially when you have a number of command staff in there to manage some sort of an incident. We've had a number of incidents recently where we have recognized in our after action reports that we need some ability to provide some space indoors for the folks who are managing these incidents. One of the solutions we looked at was having an inflatable tent that we could deploy when there is an emergency situation. The problem with that is that is if you just have a separate tent it requires the communications infrastructure that the mobile command post has. We were able to find a device that will connect to our mobile command post and double the size of it. It will deploy with the mobile command post. The sides are inflatable so we can either do air bottles that the fire department has or an air pump and it can go up in a few minutes. It has the ports on it to do climate control. We don't have as part of this grant climate control equipment that's going to come with it. We expect because it's connected to the mobile command post that some of either the heat or air conditioning will probably bleed over through the doors and as long as we keep the doors shut on the outside of the tent people should be able to stay warm or cool depending on the season. This has become an issue time and time again where we are just trying to fit too many people on the back of that command post. This will serve as an opportunity to be able to have at least a location for those extended duration incidents that we can sit and be able to go over whatever is being dealt with. Again, this is a no match required grant and is compatible with the City of Manchester's tents and shelters that they have. One of the things that we were looking at doing was at least doing some sort of an exercise where we would practice combining the entire set-up, a tent shelter that has the ability to serve as a hospital. It's a pretty neat system.

Alderman Lopez

I was looking at the description and it said it had ports that would be compatible with other tents that are owned by other cities and I was wondering what would you need this for other than re-enacting ET?

Mr. Kates

One of the things that is a back-up plan when we roll up the mobile command post is we realize that there is not enough space in the little small area in the back of that vehicle so we will actually try to find a building that we can use but because it's separate from all of the communications infrastructure that comes with that vehicle it presents some challenges, particular for the event dispatchers because they really need to stay in that vehicle.

MOTION CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS – ORDINANCES - None

GENERAL DISCUSSION

Ms. Kathy Nelson, Commissioner, Review & Comment Commission

Our processes are going very well. We've had a lot of wonderful support and made some changes that we thought we needed to make last year to be sure that it was a more fair process and that we had a way to make sure that the agencies were accountable for some of the things that we ask them to do. We've gotten

great support from everyone this year in trying to figure out how to go forward from where we were last year. We think we are, at this point in time, happy with what is going on now except for our name. One of the problems that we've had in getting volunteers...the situation has become that if you ask a person if they would like to serve on a Review & Comment Commission they look at me like I have four eyes, like reviewing what? We realized that a new name that was readily identifiable with what we do would be preferable. I believe that name is the Citizens Advisory Commission for Community Grants and that does speak to exactly what we do when we get all of these applications. I think we are in the process now of putting together the final applications for the applicants who would like to apply for these grants. We have the timeline set up so when we get together next the commissioner's will be talking about how we will divide up agencies fairly to make sure that we have an equal and fair distribution of the agencies and at that point in time we will confirm that we have our volunteers for our groups. Our volunteers are already on the timeline to meet with the agencies when the agencies are ready so I think we've pulled it together very well and because there was a shift, there was a bump in there a little bit and I think it's made us better.

Chairman Wilshire

Terrific! Thank you for all you do to make that process go smoothly and I think the name change is long overdue. It will more clearly reflect what you role is.

Ms. Nelson

I think it would be helpful if we could go forward with the new name.

Alderman Caron

We did as a committee, meeting with Carrie Schena who has really been our go to person, that we are hoping to get the applications out a little bit earlier and that will help the agencies even though it's holiday time it will give them a little more time to do the application. I know that a lot of the commissioners have their volunteers. I have my five coming back so when we meet we will know if we have to advertise to get more people. Since the process has changed over the last couple of years I think the volunteers are willing to stay and be part of this process and it's very important to the community and the agencies that we serve. As far as the name change, Alderman Wilshire and I didn't realize that because it was a name change it was going to the Personnel/Administrative Affairs Committee but we still wanted to talk about it here. The name change is the Citizens Advisory Commission for Community Grants. I will bring up to the Personnel/Administrative Affairs Committee to amend is that Carrie had asked me that under section C-2, she asked to eliminate Review & Comment citizens and it would read "The Commission shall use a City of Nashua Community Grant Application and Community Grants Commissioner Worksheet." If Human Affairs agrees to that I don't think putting that amendment in there would be a difficult thing with Personnel/Administrative Affairs Committee. I think overall the commissioners have done a wonderful job of working together and make changes. I think the title is the most important change for 2017.

Chairman Wilshire

Are you looking for a consensus of this group to move forward with the name change?

Alderman Caron

Right.

Chairman Wilshire

I think it's fine and that it reflects more clearly what you do.

Alderman Lopez

It seems like kind of a clunky tittle.

Chairman Wilshire

Well it's longer but it does reflect more clearly what they do.

Ms. Nelson

Teachers love doing this but "Review & Comment" was just so nebulous.

Alderman Lopez

Well, this is definitely more specific but it seems like referring to it regularly you would have to use the whole thing.

Alderman Caron

This is an advisory group. I sit on this group as the liaison from the Human Affairs Committee. This is a citizen's advisory commission.

Mr. Nelson

As we have worked this out in order to be most fair, we are simply facilitator's as commissioners in our groups and we let the citizen's themselves make the decisions. To make it more fair in case there could be some sort of biased we have decided to represent to the group that we are here to fairly disperse funds that are requested and the City of Nashua has the right to make sure that the money is used properly and for the things that are applied for so we have become very accountable. I think the citizen volunteers feel good about what they are doing and serving the city. I remember many years ago when this started Mayor Donchess' whole point was to take out the political element and put it back on the taxpayers again because it's their money and I think we have taken that to heart.

PUBLIC COMMENT - None

REMARKS BY THE ALDERMEN

Alderman LeBrun

I would like to extend my condolences to the family of Charlie Hall who passed away this week.

Alderman Lopez

I would like to send my condolences to the Craffey family for their recent loss.

Alderman Caron

I would like to send my condolences to both the Hall and Craffey families.

I thank you for allowing Kathy Nelson to come and speak on behalf of the commission and that way next week I will make the recommendations to the Personnel/Administrative Affairs Committee.

Chairman Wilshire

Thank you for the work you do, Alderman Caron.

POSSIBLE NON-PUBLIC SESSION

ADJOURNMENT

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN LEBRUN TO ADJOURN
MOTION CARRIED**

The meeting was declared adjourned at 7:28 p.m.

Aldерwoman Mary Ann Melizzi-Golja
Committee Clerk



City of Nashua
Office of Emergency Management
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Nashua, New Hampshire 03062

Justin Kates, Director
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Human Affairs Committee:

Three DHS FFY16 Homeland Security Grant Program Competitive Grant Applications are included in the November 14th Human Affairs Committee Agenda. These requests are the most comprehensive, integrated, and multidisciplinary since the grant program was established in the early 2000's. Over the previous year, a team of representatives from Police, Fire, EMS, Emergency Management, Public Health, Schools, Public Works and regional partners met multiple times to develop a gap analysis in preparation for the next round of competitive grants. Gaps were identified through the local Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA), as well as the State of NH's Homeland Security Strategy and THIRA. Needed equipment was identified with the associated training and exercise requirements for each. The intention of this process was to identify equipment that was sustainable, regional, and had multiagency capabilities. The Office of Emergency Management staff worked throughout the month of July to complete 13 grant applications, of which the three below were approved by the NH Homeland Security Grant Review Committee. A description of each project proposed is listed below:

1. **Tactical/Hazmat Robot** - This will be for the purchase of a small man-transportable robot with the primary use for the Nashua Police Department Special Reaction Team to remotely enter unsafe buildings and the Nashua Fire Rescue Souhegan Mutual Aid Response Team to mount a wide area air monitoring or radiation detection meters for entry into an immediately dangerous to life or health (IDLH) environment. This robot is a smaller, more agile robot than ones typically utilized by explosive ordnance disposal teams.
2. **Inflatable "Awning" Shelter for Mobile Command Vehicle** - It has been identified in multiple after action reports that the limited space on the mobile command post is inadequate for unified command. This provides a much larger working area adjacent to the Nashua PD mobile command post vehicle and ensures its continued use. The current vehicle does not have "slide-outs" to expand the interior space. The shelter is also compatible with the City of Manchester's equipment cache which contains a quad connector tent to connect multiple tents together for a large shelter. Manchester's shelters, this shelter, and another FFY18 proposed large inflatable shelter connected together can support a 32 bed portable medical facility or similar.
3. **Hazmat Wide Area Air Monitoring** - This project will purchase a kit of wide area air monitoring for the NFR's regional hazmat team to ensure compatibility with the other hazmat teams in the State. These wide area meters can be placed remotely across an area to identify hazards that may exist and require evacuations or sheltering in place.

Each initiative has been closely integrated with the City's emergency management strategy and has been supported by numerous jurisdictions and disciplines. This equipment will enable the City's hazmat and tactical specialty teams to sustain and provide additional capabilities during a regional response to any one of our mutual aid partners. We look forward to building these new capabilities and sustaining the capabilities that have been developed over the last decade and a half through our comprehensive training & exercise program and continued regional partnerships.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me.

Thank You,

Justin Kates