

A G E N D A

JAMES CITY COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

READING FILE

May 11, 2010

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

1. Firefighter Staffing Grant Application

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MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 11, 2010
TO: The Board of Supervisors
FROM: William T. Luton, Fire Chief
SUBJECT: Firefighter Staffing Grant Application

The United States Department of Homeland Security (DHS) offers a grant program titled "Staffing for Adequate Fire & Emergency Response" or SAFER. The program is designed to provide funding directly to localities in order to help them increase the number of trained firefighters available in their communities.

The grant period for FY 10 will open for applications early this summer, most likely in June. The grant application period is usually three to four weeks. From what I understand the grant guideline this year will allow for a three-year grant period with DHS funding 100 percent of the cost, including fringe benefits for the first two years, and the locality picking up the entire cost for the third year.

The Fire Department is interested in making an application to the program to fund up to six new firefighter positions. If awarded, the federally funded portion of the grant period would most likely cover the 2nd half of FY 11, all of FY 12, and the 1st half of FY 13. The required County contribution would cover the 2nd half of FY 13 and first half of FY 14.

This is an opportunity to provide additional staffing at a much lower local tax funded cost. Considering the current state of the economy, I would request guidance from County Administrator prior to initiating the application process.

The current annual cost for a new firefighter position for salary and fringe benefits would be \$56,632 per year. The application would be for either three positions or six which would allow for either one or two additional firefighters per coverage shift.

The Fire Department staffing plan for the past two years would have added six additional positions to the department, had the recession not intervened in the funding.

Annual cost for three Firefighters	\$169,896
Annual cost for six Firefighters	\$339,792



William T. Luton