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REPORT TO MAYOR AND THE CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Bradley C. Osgood – Chief of Police

DATE: January 25, 2016

SUBJECT: FY 2015 State Homeland Security Exercise Funds Appropriation

Recommendation

Accept and appropriate the amount of twenty-two thousand four hundred dollars (\$22,400) of grant funding provided through the New Hampshire Department of Safety Homeland Security and Emergency Management Exercise and Evaluation Program. Said funding has been approved by the grantor to conduct an exercise designed to assess and evaluate the Department's response to an active shooter incident at Concord Hospital and Concord High School.

Background

The Concord Police Department continues discussions with Concord Hospital regarding the potential threat of an active shooter in their environment. All hospital personnel attend training regarding their expected responses as well as how law enforcement intends to respond given this critical event.

In addition, Concord Hospital has recently revised its "Code Silver" policy which outlines their roles during an active shooter event. Concord Hospital has approached the Concord Police Department and requested we exercise in a joint fashion, not only the initial law enforcement and staff response, but the Mass Casualty Incident operational plan with the Concord Fire Department, as well as the tactical response from the Central New Hampshire Special Operations Unit.

Additionally, the Concord School District has had discussions with the Concord Police Department regarding conducting an assessment of the School District's response to an active shooter incident. The School District has also requested to be part of a joint exercise designed to assess the District's response in conjunction with law enforcement and EMS.

The intention of conducting a drill is to exercise the response and evaluate the deficiencies and shortcomings that present during the training scenario. It also exercises interoperability between law enforcement, emergency services, and civilian staff.

Discussion

The New Hampshire Department of Safety Homeland Security and Emergency Management Exercise and Evaluation Program has approved the Department's grant application and has set aside grant funds in the amount of \$22,400 for the Department to conduct an exercise. This grant funding will cover overtime expenses for personnel as well as backfill, supplies, evaluators, food supplies, and other incidentals that may occur with conducting such an exercise. There is no requirement for any matching city funds to be obligated for this training exercise, and it is anticipated that no city funds will be utilized.

The locations of this training, Concord Hospital and Concord High School, are preferred locations by Homeland Security, and have the full support of the hospital administration and Concord School District. In addition to the Concord Police Department, Concord Hospital and Concord School District personnel, this exercise will also include personnel and assets from the Concord Fire Department and Central NH Special Operations Unit. Costs associated with the participation of these agencies in this exercise have also been included in the grant appropriation.

Pending City Council approval this exercise is anticipated to be conducted during May of 2016.