

STAFF REPORT

AGENDA ITEM #: 18-38
COUNCIL MTG OF: April 3, 2018
FROM: Dave Caron, Town Administrator
OFFERED BY: Michael J. Gagnon, Fire Chief/EM Director
PREPARED BY: Scott Haggart, Battalion Chief - Operations
SUBJECT: Active Shooter Equipment Grant Request

PURPOSE:

Recommendation to apply for and accept, if awarded, a NH Homeland Security and Emergency Management Performance Grant for the purpose of enhancing our ability to respond to an active shooter incident.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR COMMENTS:

The Fire Department is requesting permission to apply for and accept if awarded, an EMS in the Warm Zone Equipment Grant through the New Hampshire Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management. The amount of this grant request is \$6,000 with no cost share. The grant program has a few requirements:

- 1. A minimum of 75% of the department is required to have attained the EMS in the Warm Zone Awareness Level of training. NOTE: All of the Fire Departments Operational Staff has attained the required training.*
- 2. The fire department shall have a minimum of 25% of its members complete the "in class" portion of the training within one year of the grant award. Note: Back fill and overtime funding is available from the NH Department of Safety Grants Management Unit for 25% of the Departments members.*
- 3. A minimum of 4 law enforcement officers from the jurisdiction of the applicant must participate in the training. Note: The Police Department is aware of this requirement and supports our efforts.*

BACKGROUND:

The Derry Fire Department began researching best practices for fire and EMS response to active shooter incidents several years ago. At the time, there were no local guidelines. We worked collaboratively with our law enforcement partners to develop procedures for an active shooter incident. In 2014 - the department purchased equipment to protect EMS responders treating patients in the warm zone. The department has been actively training with the police department to assure EMS responders are able to access and treat victims of an active shooter incident as rapidly as possible, while providing for the safety of our responders. Recently - the NH Department of Safety, Division of Fire Standards and Training and Emergency Medical Services released model procedures and the EMS in the Warm Zone Awareness Level Training Program. The Derry Fire Department required this training for all operational staff. The Fire Department is fortunate to have an employee that has been assigned as the Program Coordinator of the NH EMS in the Warm Zone Operations Level Training Program that is currently being developed. The Fire Department continues to aggressively train, equip and prepare for the possibility of an active shooter incident.

This grant funding would be used to purchase equipment to protect our first responders and better equip them to respond to and treat victims of an active shooter incident.

DISCUSSION:

Active shooter events can happen in any community at any time. It is important that we equip and train our responders, so they are prepared to respond to such an incident.

FISCAL IMPACT:

After the grant is awarded - the Fire Department would purchase the specified equipment out of its operating budget and be reimbursed through the grant. Backfill and overtime costs will be reimbursed for 25% of the department by the NH State Homeland Security Grant Program.

RECOMMENDED ACTION BY COUNCIL:

Please see Resolution #2018-014