



## STAFF REPORT

AGENDA ITEM #: 20-27  
COUNCIL MTG OF: March 24, 2020  
FROM: Dave Caron, Town Administrator  
OFFERED BY: Michael J. Gagnon, EM Director  
PREPARED BY: Scott Haggart, Battalion Chief - Operations  
SUBJECT: Active Shooter Equipment Grant Request

---

### **PURPOSE:**

Recommendation to 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 accept, if awarded, an EMS in the Warm Zone Equipment Grant through the New Hampshire Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management. This is an expansion of the prior EMS in the Warm Zone in the amount of \$6,000 with no cost share.*

### **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 Warm Zone refers to the area that the police have either cleared or isolated the threat. The department continues to actively train with the police department to assure EMS responders can access and treat victims of an active shooter incident as rapidly as possible, while providing for the safety of our responders.

On April 24<sup>th</sup> of 2018, the Town of Derry accepted a grant award of \$6,000 under the State Homeland Security Program (SHSP) portion of the 2017 Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) for the purchase of specified EMS Warm Zone Equipment. The equipment included protective ballistic vests, helmets, associated gear and medical supplies to treat trauma victims in the warm zone.

Recently, the NH Department of Safety announced an expansion of this Grant that we accepted in 2018. This expansion allows communities who have already received the equipment grant and fulfilled all of the training requirements, to be eligible for a second equipment grant of up to \$6,000 with no additional training requirements or cost match required.

This grant funding would be used to purchase additional 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 protected and 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.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION BY COUNCIL:**

Please see Resolution #2020-010.