MEMORANDUM

To: Council Members

From: Staff

Date: July 19, 2013 Council Meeting


Introduction

The Hazardous Materials Transportation Act of 1990 provides the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) authority to strengthen interagency coordination and technical assistance with respect to hazardous materials emergency response planning and training. As part of this Act, the DOT annually provides funding to states, U.S. territories, and Indian Nations under two separate hazardous materials grant sections, planning and training. Fees collected from highway, rail, and air shippers and haulers of hazardous commodities fund such grants.

Annual funding under the DOT’s Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness (HMEP) Grant Program is distributed in two parts for planning and training. Planning grants are used to augment local public awareness of hazardous materials through workshops, seminars, and advertising. Training grants support public sector emergency first responder hazardous materials training initiatives. First responders may include employees of utilities, public works, road and bridge, and other public sector agencies, as well as firefighters, emergency management services, and law enforcement personnel.

Background

The federal Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act of 1986 requires Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPCs) to be established in each state, requires that fixed facilities report storage and use of hazardous materials, and includes provisions for local planning and training. The District 10 LEPC represents the four counties in the Treasure Coast Region.

During past grant cycles, Council has administered the following planning projects on behalf of the District 10 LEPC: How-to-Comply workshops, community hazardous materials information workshops, regional hazardous materials response teams needs assessments, and hazardous materials facility summaries. The training component of the HMEP grant provides funding to conduct training for agency personnel that respond to hazardous materials incidents. Classes conducted during the last HMEP grant year includes: hazardous materials awareness level,
advanced life support for hazardous materials, incident response operations, and incident command system training.

In Florida, the Florida Division of Emergency Management administers HMEP grants to LEPCs to fulfill their mandated annual planning and training requirements. Council staff administers the planning and training projects of the grant on behalf of the District 10 LEPC. For Fiscal Year 2013-2014, Council will receive $20,000 for the planning grant and $40,545.18 for the training grant. However, Council has not yet received a contract from the FDEM. If a contract is received prior to the Council meeting, an addendum to this staff report will be provided.

Recommendation

Council should authorize the Executive Director to execute a final contract agreement on behalf of Council.