

AGENDA NOTE – HRPDC QUARTERLY COMMISSION MEETING

ITEM #10: STATE HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM (SHSGP) FISCAL YEAR 2011 APPLICATION

SUBJECT:

Submit application for financial assistance to the Office of Commonwealth Preparedness to support a Regional Interoperability Project Manager.

BACKGROUND:

The Emergency Management Administrator has worked diligently with the Hampton Roads Interoperability Communications Advisory Committee (HRICAC) over the last three years to support regional interoperability initiatives and programs in Hampton Roads. To that end, the technical expertise needed to properly manage this program is needed to better support the advancement of regional interoperable communications in Hampton Roads. The purpose of this grant application would be to fund a Regional Interoperability Project Manager to better manage and coordinate the grants, projects, and sustainment activities for Hampton Roads regional interoperable systems. The Regional Interoperability Project Manager would coordinate the multiple interoperability projects with the HRICAC and the Overlay Regional Inter-Operability Network (ORION) Steering Group.

Currently, there is no central project manager for interoperability projects and systems in Hampton Roads. Starting in 2003 with grant funds, a microwave network known as the Hampton Roads Tactical Regional Area Network (HRTacRAN) was built with the HRPDC Executive Director being the lead on the project. The HRTacRAN is the backbone to another regional public safety communications system known as the ORION which provides a regional interoperability network for Command, Control and Communications (C3). Since the system was built and the initial contracts expired, ownership and responsibility of this system has never been established resulting in no one agency or jurisdiction managing the day-to-day needs for sustainment of this system. Additionally, multiple homeland security grants worth millions of dollars have been acquired to build out ORION. These grant funds have been assigned to multiple jurisdictions which have resulted in challenges in coordinating the projects for the HRICAC and the ORION Steering Group.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Authorize the Executive Director to submit the grant application to the Governor's Office of Commonwealth Preparedness via the Virginia Department of Emergency Management for consideration.