

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: IOWA HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM AGREEMENT FOR RADIATION DETECTION EQUIPMENT AND TRAINING

BACKGROUND:

Iowa State University (ISU) Environmental Health and Safety (EH&S) provides support for state agencies in training and ensuring their radiological detection equipment is properly calibrated and maintained. The Iowa Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (IDHSEM) has received an allocation of federal funds through the Homeland Security Grant Program, which EH&S wishes to access for replacement of radiation detectors and training to users. However, the grant program requirements do not allow ISU to be eligible to receive this grant funding directly.

To address ISU's ineligibility to receive the funds directly, EH&S has asked the City (which is an eligible subrecipient) to serve as the fiscal agent for the grant. This approach complies with program requirements.

The grant award is in the amount of \$74,819. **No City funds would be expended in participating in the grant program.** The grant would cover the purchase of detection equipment to replace aging and out-of-calibration equipment, as well as training for users of the new equipment. As part of the arrangement with EH&S, the Ames Fire Department would receive two detection units to use in response to radiological incidents. These units would remain state property but would be on loan for City use at no cost.

To facilitate the grant, the City is required to sign a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with IDHSEM and an acceptance of sub-award document. The documents must be returned to IDHSEM by Friday, October 14.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Authorize staff to sign the MOA and accept the Sub-Award for this project.
2. Do not authorize staff to participate in this grant, which would prevent ISU EH&S from obtaining this radiological testing equipment.
3. Refer this item to staff for further information.

CITY MANAGER’S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

This partnership with ISU Environmental Health and Safety will allow EH&S to access federal funds for equipment that benefits the ISU and Ames community. No City funding will be required as part of this grant agreement. Through this equipment upgrade, the Ames Fire Department will be loaned two new radiological detectors to use as part of the City’s hazardous materials emergency response efforts.

Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative No. 1, as described above.