

Washoe Local Emergency Planning Committee

Grants & Finance Subcommittee Meeting

MINUTES

Thursday ~ May 22, 2014 ~ 9:00 A.M.

Regional Emergency Operations Center
5195 Spectrum Boulevard, Reno, Nevada

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL - (Non-action item)

Chair Stickney called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m. A quorum was established.

PRESENT: Michelle Gitmed – Reno Police Department; Tim Leighton – Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District; Teresa Long – Washoe County Health District; Chris Magenheimer – North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District; Tracy Moore – Washoe County School District; Joe Nishikida – Reno Fire Department; Mitch Nowicki – Regional Emergency Medical Services Authority; and Eileen Stickney – Washoe County Health District. Tim O'Connor – Washoe County Sheriff's Office, joined the meeting at 9:13 a.m.

ABSENT: Aaron Kenneston – Washoe County Emergency Manager; Andy Koski – Sparks Fire Department; Eric Millette – Sparks Fire Department; Tim Spencer – Reno Fire Department; Bruce Hicks – North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District; Chris Cenac – Truckee Meadows Water Authority; Brian Allen, Sparks Police Department; and Eric Millette – Sparks Fire Department.

Blaine Cartlidge - Deputy District Attorney, was not present at this meeting.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS (Non-action item)

There were no public comments.

3. GRANT APPLICATION APPROVAL (For possible action) – *Prioritization and approval by the LEPC (Local Emergency Planning Committee) Grants & Finance Subcommittee membership on the 2015 State Emergency Response Commission (SERC), United We Stand (UWS) grant application submissions from LEPC disciplines.*

Cathy Ludwig – Grants Coordinator, provided an overview of the funding source for the 2015 UWS (United We Stand) grant, which derives funding from specialty license plates. Ms. Ludwig explained that the LEPC (Local Emergency Planning Committee) General Membership will review the recommendation made by this board on Thursday, June 19, 2014. Ms. Ludwig noted that the grant application will be reviewed by the SERC (State Emergency Response Commission) Finance Committee followed by review and possible approval by the SERC Commission. Once approved by SERC it takes about a month for grant funding to be approved by the Board of County Commissioners before sub-grant contracts can be executed. Ms. Ludwig pointed out that the UWS grant is not effective until July 2014, and that grant recipients cannot order equipment before that date.

WCSD (Washoe County School District)

Ray Price - Washoe County School, provided an overview of the 25 Police Patrol Breaching Kits, \$399.00 per unit plus \$520.00 shipping for a total request of \$10,495.00. Sergeant Price explained that while WCSD Police had developed a work around kit, the equipment being requested is much lighter and easier to handle. Sgt. Price outlined the security measure already in place at all Washoe County Schools, including single point of entry and locked classroom. Drawing attention to the number of school shootings, Sgt. Price noted that while keys to each building are available at the main entrance that is not usually the best approach. Additionally, active shooters make every effort to delay access by first responders by barricading entrances thereby making it more difficult to gain access. Generally, first responders will seek other points of access such as side doors and/or windows to gain access. The breaching kits facilitate such actions. The request will provide a breaching kit in each of the WCSD's patrol vehicles. Sgt. Price also noted that WCSD Police are often the first responder given the number of locations patrolled in the region.

Ms. Ludwig then outlined the Nevada Homeland Security Commission's five (5) priorities that the NV SERC/UWS grant applies to: 1) Cyber Security; 2) Intelligence and Information Sharing; 3) Public Information and Warning; 4) Operational Coordination and 5) Operational Communications. Ms. Ludwig emphasized the need to tie funding requests to these strategies.

Tracy Moore – WCSD, noted that several changes had been made and that priorities had been changed with cyber threat and mass gatherings being larger threats. Mr. Moore pointed out that schools can also serve as shelters. Mr. Moore noted that the tools currently being used are cumbersome and difficult to deploy. The equipment being requested is the same in all three quotes. Therefore, WCSD has chosen the less expensive quote for the same equipment.

Reno-Tahoe Airport

Casey Micone – RTAA (Reno Tahoe Airport Authority), outlined the request for four (4) SCBA's (Self Contained Breathing Apparatus) per unit cost \$6,695.00 and three (3) Scott Spare Air cylinders per unit cost \$969.00, total request \$29,687.00. Mr. Micone noted that the units had not been upgraded since 1992.

Tim O'Connor – Washoe County Sheriff's Office, joined the meeting at 9:13 a.m.

Mr. Micone noted that the existing equipment did not include data log capability and were unsafe for personnel handling unknown hazardous materials.

Chief Tom Nelson – RTAA, noted that RTAA has six (6) packs dating back to 1992.

Mr. Micone noted that the SCBA's are kept on the first out rigs. Mr. Micone outlined a recent incident in which unmarked material were identified and that the current equipment does not allow personnel to "buddy breathe".

Chief Nelson noted that a grant had been submitted to the FAA (Federal Aviation Administration) for the purchase of two (2) new vehicles that he hopes will have packs as well. Chief Nelson noted that RTAA should hear whether the grant is approved next week (May 26-31, 2014).

REMSA (Regional Emergency Medical Services Authority)

Brian Taylor – REMSA, outlined the request for nine (9) Gen2 Ballistic vest with shoulder, bicep, groin, collar and yoke insert \$1,292.93 each total request \$11,636.37. Mr. Taylor noted that the vests currently in use had or were reaching the end of life. Mr. Taylor explained that the vests will be used by tactical medics. The level of protection being sought is Level 3a.

Tracy Moore – WCSD (Washoe County School District), noted that the WCSD had submitted and purchased ballistic shields, not vests, in the previous grant cycle.

Mr. Taylor noted that the current vests have ceramic plates that do not become outdated as quickly as other materials. Mr. Taylor emphasized that the tactical medic's train with area law enforcement on a regular basis and that vests are custom fitted to the medic. Mr. Taylor pointed out that body sweat is the leading cause of degradation of the vests.

There was some discussion about the life expectancy of the ballistic vests. It was pointed out that the vests have a manufacturer's life expectancy of five (5) years. Other discussion noted that Clark County had submitted a request for up to 60 of the ballistic vests through Homeland Security and that the vests may become part of the state purchasing contractor list in the future.

Mr. Taylor noted that REMSA has limited opportunities to secure grant funds for this type of purchase.

Chair Stickney outlined her suggested modifications to the request to reach the \$30,000.00 maximum threshold. Chair Stickney recommended that the WCSD request be reduced to 20 units. The RTAA request reduced to two (2) SCBAs and one (1) spare air cylinder and REMSA's request reduced to five (5) ballistic vests.

Mr. Moore noted that when the application is submitted that the language used to justify and tie the request to SERC priorities be articulated carefully to avoid denial.

Ms. Ludwig commented that if equipment was listed on the state purchasing contractors list a justification must accompany a request that uses a different vendor.

Mr. Taylor commented that it is critical that REMSA receive grant funding as this is the only grant opportunity available to REMSA.

Tim O'Conner noted that REMSA elected to provide coverage in active shooter and other scenarios and that Washoe County Sheriff's Office does not have additional funding in their budget to purchase the vests.

Chair Stickney withdrew her recommendation and asked for further discussion.

Mr. Moore offered to reduce his request to 15 and explained he would contact the vendor to determine if the shipping charge would be reduced.

Chief Nelson reduced the RTAA request to two (2) packs and no spare cylinders.

Mr. Tayler noted that the vests currently in use will expire in 6 to 12 months and are specifically fitted to the tactical medics. Mr. Tayler stated that REMSA would pay the \$213.37 overage.

A consensus was reached to make the REMSA request the top priority.

There was some discussion about ranking the two (2) remaining request as equally important. Ms. Ludwig explained that each request needed to be prioritized separately. As the discussion continued it was suggested and agreed to that the WCSD be ranked second and RTAA request be ranked as third priority respectively.

The meeting recessed at 9:42 a.m. and reconvened at 9:45 a.m.

Mr. Moore noted that he was unable to get a direct answer on whether the vendor would reduce the shipping charges.

Michelle Gitmed made the following suggestions: REMSA request be reduced to eight (8) units; WCSD request reduced to thirteen (13) units with no shipping; and RTAA request be reduced to only two (2) packs.

Sgt. Price noted that WCSD Police have 25 patrol cars daily and recalled that the day of the Sparks School shooting the City of Sparks had only 3 patrols on duty at that time. Sgt. Price noted that the kits were used regionally and that WCSD Police are sometimes the first on the scene (e.g. Sparks Nugget, Sparks Middle School, Walmart and Renown).

There was some discussion about the need to outfit all WCSD Police vehicles. As the discussion continued, it was emphasized that each request would be fully funded if there were sufficient funds. Other discussion noted that the Reno Police, Sparks Police and Washoe County Sheriff's Office each had similar equipment.

It was moved by Tim Leighton, seconded by Joe Nishikida, to recommend that the LEPC (Local Emergency Planning Committee) General Membership approve 2015 SERC (State Emergency Response Commission) UWS (United We Stand) grant request in the following priorities: 1) REMSA (Regional Emergency Medical Services Authority) - seven (7) Gen2 Ballistic Vests with shoulder, bicep, groin, collar and yoke inserts, \$1,292.93 each, total \$9,029.00; 2) Washoe County School District Police – nineteen (19) Police Patrol Breaching Kits, \$399.00 each, total \$7,581.00 shipping to be paid by Washoe County School District; and 3) Reno-Tahoe Airport Authority – two (2) SCBAs Scott Air Pack 75X3 – 2013 edition, \$6,695.00 each, total \$13,390.00, for a total grant award of \$30,000.00.

Responding to Mr. Taylor's suggestion to increase the REMSA request to eight (8) units, Ms. Ludwig noted that the increase would result in an overage of \$1,314.00.

Mr. Leighton stated he did not wish to amend the motion.

Chair Stickney stated she would abstain from voting and asked for the vote.

The motion carried: Tim Leighton, Teresa Long, Chris Magenheimer, Tracy Moore and Joe Nishikida assenting; Michelle Gitmed, Mitch Nowicki and Tim O’Conner dissenting; and Chair Stickney abstaining.

Chair Stickney commented that the LEPC General Membership meeting is set for June 19, 2014.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT (Non-action item)

There were no public comments.

5. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Stickney adjourned the meeting at 10:12 a.m.