Print Form

COUNTY DEPARTMENT AGENDA REQUEST

Department/Division: Public Safety

Department Head: Allen McCullough

Presenter, if needed: Allen McCullough/Pete Nelms

Preferred Meeting Date: Thursday, September 25, 2008

Wording for the Agenda:

Approval of staff's request for permission to apply for an Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) for Severe Weather Warning Projects.

Background/History/Details:

The Severe Weather Warning Projects offer two dollars in EMPG funding for one dollar in local cash match up to a maximum of $25,000 in EMPG funding for direct cost of the project equipment and installation. SEE ATTACH DOCUMENT FOR COMPLETE DETAILS.

Public Safety has a CIP Project which includes the installation of 2 weather warning sirens, at a cost of about $50,000. for the 2. If the County can secure a grant for $25,000.00 or any part thereof, those funds would be used to offset county funds. To date, the county has installed 21 sirens. At build-out, approximately 40 will be needed.

What action are you seeking from the Board of Commissioners?

Allow staff to apply for the Emergency Management Performance Grant for matching funds for weather warning sirens.

If this item requires funding, please describe:

Public Safety has a CIP Project for 2 sirens for $50,000. Any grant funds received would be used to offset county funds for this CIP Project.

Has this issue come before the Commissioners in the past? No

If so, when?

Do you need audio-visual for the presentation? No

Back-up Material Submitted? Yes

STAFF USE ONLY

Approved by Finance? Yes

Reviewed by Legal? Yes

Approved by Purchasing? Yes

Approved by Administrative Staff? Yes

Staff Notes

Administrator's Approval Yes

Confirmed Meeting Date Thursday, September 25, 2008

- ○ Recognition/ Presentation
- ○ Public Hearing
- ○ Old Business
- ○ New Business
- ◉ Consent
- ○ Report
- ○ Other

Emergency Management Performance Grants (EMPG) 2008 Special Awards for Severe Weather Warning Projects: Application Guidance and Instructions

Purpose Statement: To provide special funding opportunities to local communities to secure severe weather warning systems to mitigate the potential for harm to the citizens of Georgia and aid in the timely provision of emergency services to those impacted by natural disasters or acts of terrorism.

Eligible Applicants: Only jurisdictions with an executed Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) Program Participation Agreement (PPA) in good standing are eligible for this funding. All eligible applicants must at the time of award have: (a) an approved local emergency operation plan (LEOP) on file with GEMA; (b) an approved county based hazard mitigation plan approved and on file with GEMA; and (c) be compliant with the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). One or more counties may join together to submit a multi-county project, although one county must be identified as the official applicant.

Eligible Activities: Applicants can apply for severe weather warning projects such as outdoor sirens, reverse 911 calling systems, NOAA weather warning radios or combination of systems. The selection of appropriate severe weather warning systems is a local decision. Only the actual direct cost of the project equipment and installation will be eligible for federal funding. Administrative or other indirect expenses related to the project will not be eligible for federal funding, but may count toward the local match requirements.

Application Process: Applications will be accepted beginning September 15, 2008 through October 31, 2008. Application packages are available on the GEMA website. GEMA expects to announce awards by December 15, 2008. Should available funding remain after the award announcement, GEMA may consider offering a second round of competition. All project transactions for this award must be completed by September 30, 2009.

Application Review Criteria: All applications will be reviewed for completeness and compliance to the minimal requirements. GEMA reserves the right to reject any and all applications submitted. Funding review criteria will include, but not be limited to the following: (a) number of individuals served by the project; (b) linkages with or expansion of existing warning systems; and (c) performance on past and current financial contracts with GEMA. Additional priority funding preferences will be given to (d) cities or counties which have not received Post Disaster Mitigation Funding for severe weather warning systems in the past three (3) years and (e) applicants who will complete their projects by March 1, 2009. Finally, GEMA will also consider a geographic distribution factor to ensure that a minimum number of awards are made in each GEMA service area.

Application Submission Requirements: An original and one copy of the application must be submitted to the following address by October 31, 2008. Applications must be postmarked or received by GEMA by this date to be considered.

Georgia Emergency Management Agency
Attention: Severe Weather Warning Project, Operations Division
Post Office Box 18055
Atlanta, Georgia 30316-0055

Applicable Program Guidelines: All applicants selected for funding will be offered a special Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) Agreement with GEMA. All the rules and regulations that apply to the annual EMPG Program Participation Agreement will also apply to the severe weather warning project special grant agreement.

Available Funding and Project Funding Limitations: A total of $1,500,000 is available in this offering. Funding is available on a one-time basis; no on-going support or maintenance funding will be provided. The maximum federal funding award for a single county Severe Weather Warning System project is $25,000. Multi county project submissions are eligible to apply for $25,000 per county. For example, a tri-county project would be eligible for a maximum $75,000 award, although the local matching requirements would increase as well.

Grant funds will be provided on a reimbursement basis. All applicants are expected to be able to fund the entire project and then seek reimbursement from GEMA for the eligible amount. All applicants will be subject to the federal and state procurement and financial reporting requirements. The availability of local matching funds must be documented at the time of application submission.

Example(s) of Project Funding and Matching Cost Share Requirements: Section F – Budget of the application requires the applicant to identify the Total Estimate Project Equipment Costs, the Estimated Federal Share, the Non-Federal Local Cash Share and Other Project Costs.

The Severe Weather Warning Projects offer two dollars in EMPG funding for one dollar in local cash match up to a maximum of $25,000 in EMPG funding for direct cost of the project equipment and installation. The following table provides examples of how these would be calculated for projects of $20,000, $25,000, $30,000, $37,500, $40,000, $50,000 and $75,000.

(A) Estimated Equipment & Installation Costs	(B) Maximum Estimated Federal Share	(C) Minimum Local Cash Share	(D) Minimum Other Local Cash & In-kind	(E) Total Project Costs
$20,000	$13,333	$6,667	$6,666	$26,666
$25,000	$16,667	$8,333	$8,334	$33,334
$30,000	$20,000	$10,000	$10,000	$40,000
$37,500	$25,000	$12,500	$12,500	$50,000
$40,000	$25,000	$15,000	$10,000	$50,000
$50,000	$25,000	$25,000	0	$50,000
$75,000	$25,000	$50,000	0	$75,000

Documentation of Local Cash Share: The application submission must include a signed letter from the chief elected official from the jurisdiction providing the Local Cash Match. The letter must state that local cash funding will be made available for the severe weather warning project in the amount indicated in (C) Non-Federal Local Cash Share. The letter must also state an agreement to provide 100% of the Total Estimated Project Cost and to seek reimbursement from GEMA for the Estimated Federal Share.

Documentation of Overall Local Match: The federal EMPG funds require a 50% match. The local applicant will be required to document local match, both cash and in-kind, in an amount equal to the Severe Weather Warning Project EMPG funds awarded to the subgrantee. The applicant may use all local cash contributions to the project as well as other project related expenses and in-kind contributions to satisfy the 50% local match requirement . The application must also include a signed letter from the chief elected official or the authorized agent for the applicant pledging to provide documentation of the Local Match Share.

Environmental Impacts of Proposed Projects: Because EMPG is a federally funded program, projects are required to undergo an environmental and historic preservation review as part of the grant application process. All projects must comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and associated federal, state, and local statutes to obtain funding. Severe Weather Warning Systems that such as reverse 911 calling systems or NOAA radios will be exempt, however, all projects proposing the placements of sirens will require an environmental impact review. Projects proposing sirens, or other physical activities, selected for funding will have additional grant conditions requiring the completion of all environmental impact documents before the authorized work can proceed.

Federal Funding Authorization: The federal rules and regulations guiding the GEMA Severe Weather Warning Project are found in the Fiscal Year 2008 Emergency Management Performance Grants (EMPG) Program Guidance and Application Kit published by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security February 2008. This guidance can be found at http://fema.gov/grants.

Assistance with Completion of the Application Package: All applicants are encouraged to consult with their GEMA Area Field Coordinator for questions concerning the Severe Weather Warning Project. Should your local Area Field Coordinator be unavailable, please contact Mr. Chuck Ray, GEMA Field Services Director at 912-486-7942.