

LRB-RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS SECTION

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

ITEM 6, FILE # 070211

May 17, 2007

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File # 070211 is a resolution relative to application, funding and expenditure of the Bioterrorism Lab Grant from the Wisconsin Laboratory of Hygiene.

Background

1. This resolution authorizes the Milwaukee Health Department (MHD) to apply for, accept and fund the Bioterrorism Grant project from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control or other sources through the State of Wisconsin Laboratory of Hygiene.
2. In the past, this continuing grant funding has resulted from federal Homeland Security appropriations. Continuing financial resources through the Wisconsin Laboratory of Hygiene have been made available to fund existing as well as new efforts assigned to local agencies for defense against bioterrorism.
3. These grant funds, formerly awarded in larger amounts identified as the "Bioterrorism Grant – Focus C," have been reduced to smaller awards to support more specifically focused activities.

Discussion

1. The purpose of this grant project is to enhance local public health agencies' capacity to prepare and respond to bioterrorism. No funding of this nature has been made available to the private sector.
2. The grant funding primarily supports continuing improvements to MHD's epidemiology and disease surveillance activities as well as improvements in laboratory capacity and analysis.
3. Improved interagency communication will be supported for the purpose of prompt identification of microbiologic agents and subsequent coordination in the event of a biological attack. More specifically, this grant continues to assist in the development of laboratory standard operating procedures, and in enhancing communication, systems and training among MHD, the Milwaukee Police and Fire Departments and the community emergency management network. The funding supports the development and assessment of a written, integrated multi-agency emergency response plan.
4. The MHD laboratory is assigned "BioSafety Level 3" (BSL3) status, one of four laboratories with this designation in the state of Wisconsin. MHD has assumed regional responsibility for identification and analysis of biological agents in a perceived or real terrorist attack.

5. Due to the reduction in funding, the position ordinance will be revised to reduce the number of Microbiologist III positions for this program from 2 to one. The Microbiologist III position is pay range 644. One of these 2 positions has been vacant since the promotion of Dr. Sanjib Bhattacharyya last year. That vacancy permitted extension of the prior grant for 4 months past its original expiration date.
6. The resolution in File #070211 authorizes the City Comptroller to commit \$65,960 grantor share funds within the Project/Grant Parent of the 2007 Special Revenue-Grant and Aid Projects Fund and to create appropriate Special Revenue Fund-Grant and Aid Project/Grant and Project /Grant levels.
7. The resolution further authorizes the Health Department, consistent with the terms of the grant, to: expend from these budgeted amounts; enter into subcontracts and leases; to expend 2007 budgeted grants for equipment deemed necessary to the operation of the program; and to expend funds for training and out-of-town travel of departmental staff from the grant funds in 2007.

Fiscal Impact

1. The proposed \$65,960 in non-O&M funding will support continuation of activities and services that would not be provided absent such funding.
2. There is no impact on the tax levy.

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