

LRB-RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS SECTION

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

JULY 17, 2008

ITEM 18, FILE # 080417

File #080417 is a resolution relating 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. The purpose of this grant project is to enhance local public health agencies' capacity to prepare and respond to bioterrorism.
3. The grant funding supports continuing improvements to MHD's epidemiology and disease surveillance activities as well as improvements in laboratory capacity and analysis.
4. Improved interagency communication is 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. Funding supports the development and assessment of a written, integrated multi-agency emergency response plan.
5. 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.

Discussion

1. Funding in the amount of \$53,000 will support the salary and fringe benefits of a Microbiologist III (Pay Range 642) for the period January 1, 2008 to August 31, 2008.
2. The resolution in File #070211 authorizes the City Comptroller to commit \$53,000 grantor share funds within the Project/Grant Parent of the 2008 Special Revenue-Grant and Aid Projects Fund and to create appropriate Special Revenue Fund-Grant and Aid Project/Grant and Project /Grant levels.

3. 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 2008 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 2008.

Fiscal Impact

1. The proposed \$53,000 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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July 11. 2008

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