

Financing FDNY's Preparedness Needs

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The task of training and equipping the FDNY for the challenges of the post-9/11 world is a lengthy, complex process. But thanks to the steadfast support of those in both the public and private sectors—and thanks also to those within the Department who have translated grants and donations into tangible results—the FDNY is training and equipping its members to increase preparedness for large-scale incidents.

Here is some of the funding the FDNY has received recently and how it will be spent:

Since 9/11, the **Department of Justice** has allocated more than \$10 million to the FDNY. Some of this funding replaced apparatus that had to be decommissioned after service at the World Trade Center. The remainder – more than \$7 million – paid for the training of more than 600 firefighters and officers to become members of Special Operations Command Ladder Support Companies. The Department of Justice also has been instrumental in helping craft the curriculum for our Terrorism Awareness training program, which is given to each probationary firefighter at the Academy.

The FDNY has received \$22.6 million in grants from the **Department of Homeland Security**. This funding will be used for a wide range of equipment and training, such as increased Haz-Mat capabilities, exercises, Incident Command training, collapse equipment and personal protective gear. This allocation represents more than 40% of Homeland Security funding given to New York City's first responders. Homeland Security Funding is an ongoing process that began just this year, and we expect approval for another \$23 million before the end of the year.

Another federal appropriation – the **Port Security Grant from the Federal Transportation Security Administration** – has allowed the FDNY to increase Haz Mat training and response capabilities in its Marine Division.

The FDNY recently secured an \$880,000 grant from the **New York State Department of Health** to train FDNY EMTs to become Paramedics. The grant, which is officially called the Health Workforce Retraining Grant, will help alleviate a shortage in Paramedics and make it easier for EMTs to reach the next level in their training. The new grant money will cover the EMTs' salaries while they undergo the training, as well as pay for the overtime expenses required to cover their absences.

Through collaborative lobbying efforts with **Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton**, the FDNY recently received \$25 million from the federal government for the medical monitoring of active and retired members. This grant accounts for more than one quarter of the \$90 million in post-9/11 health monitoring funding recently awarded to New York City. In addition, the Department recently obtained grant funds to sustain its enhanced counseling service levels through June 2004.

Locally elected New York City officials have also been instrumental in securing important funding for the Fire Department. **Councilwoman Madeline Provenzano** helped set aside more than \$400,000 in New York City's 2004 budget for a mobile command center and needed house watch renovations. **Staten Island Borough President James P. Molinaro** helped secure an additional \$450,000 for all-terrain rescue vehicles and a Staten Island-based rapid response boat and dock, which will help expand rescue capabilities at any incident, large or small.

Private individuals and organizations have also helped contribute to the budget for training and equipment. The **Leary Firefighters Foundation** is underwriting a Mobile Command Center. And since 9/11, the **FDNY Fire Safety Education Fund (FSEF)** has collected mil-

lions of dollars in donations from the private sector. In turn, the Fund has allocated more than \$1.3 million for essential rescue, communications and other preparedness equipment. Included in this list of new equipment are 45 post radios and 45 cross-band repeaters, nearly 400 dosimeters and chargers, and Marine Navigating Software. In addition, these funds will equip our two new mobile command centers with advanced communication capabilities. FSEF funds also will be utilized to create tabletop exercises for terrorism training and underwrite the second year of the FDNY Fire Officer's Management Institute.

The FDNY's fundraising achievements so far have been impressive, but they are far from complete. The leadership of the Fire Department is committed to securing every available resource through the ongoing process of grant writing and fundraising. Fortunately, even during this difficult economic period, private donors and elected officials still value the lifesaving work of the FDNY. The Department hopes to build on its successes and obtain maximum funding for preparedness training and equipment in the months and years to come. The members of the Fire Department – and the residents of New York City – deserve nothing less.

**Proposed FDNY
Mobile Command Center**

