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FIRE DEPARTMENT

MEMORANDUM

TO: Gregg Mandsager, City Administrator

FROM: Jerry Ewers, Fire Chief

DATE: September 27, 2011

SUBJECT: Request authorization to submit grant request to HSEMD

INTRODUCTION:

Request to apply for a grant through the Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division (HSEMD) for upgrading the storm warning sirens in Muscatine.

BACKGROUND:

The Hazard Mitigation Grant Program is available for communities for mitigation projects, which also includes storm warning sirens for citizen notifications as part of the grant program. The Muscatine Fire Department submitted a Notice of Interest for the Hazard Mitigation Grant for upgrading the storm warning sirens and we were notified that our request met the guidelines of the program and that we are allowed to apply for the grant.

Currently the storm warning sirens are activated through telephone lines that have a monthly charge of \$ 1,100. The upgrading of the sirens would eliminate the telephone line notification and would change it to radio controlled activation. This change would have a annual cost savings of \$ 13,200 per year by eliminating the monthly telephone charges for the outdoor storm warning sirens.

In order to upgrade the 23 storm warning sirens in Muscatine it is budgeted that it will cost \$ 69,000. If approved, there is a 15% local match for the grant, which would be \$ 10,350.

RECOMMENDATION/RATIONALE:

We are requesting that City Council authorize the Muscatine Fire Department to fill out the Hazard Mitigation Grant request for upgrading the outdoor storm warning sirens for a total cost of \$ 69,000. If the grant is awarded, and the city accepts the grant, then there would be a 15% city match of \$ 10,350.