

STARRS Executive Budget Committee
East-West Gateway Council of Governments

Minutes

June 3, 2011

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Greg Brown	Joann Leykam
Gary Christmann	Greg Render
Ed Hillhouse	Dave Todd
Ed Kemp	Barb Whitaker
Randy Lay	Hope Woodson

Also present were: Les Crews, Heavy Rescue Committee; Bob Peters, Disaster Human Services Committee; Don Schneider, Hospital Preparedness Committee; Roger Smith, Mass Fatality Planning Committee; John Wagner, Disaster Human Services Committee; Frank Arnoldy, Citizens Corps Council; Robb F. Watkins, Heavy Rescue Committee; Leah Hummert and Staci Alvarez, East-West Gateway staff and Nick Gagnani, Anna Giacomini, Steve Swift and John Whitaker, STARRS staff.

CALL TO ORDER

Joann Leykam served as Chair for this meeting. Chair Leykam called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

REVIEW OF TASKS AND HANDOUTS

Nick Gagnani summarized the meeting's supporting documentation. He stated that the budget committee recommendations will be presented to the Advisory Council for review and approval with the final review and approval coming from the STARRS Board.

METROPOLITAN MEDICAL RESPONSE SYSTEM GRANT

Anna Giacomini gave a briefing on the FY 2011 MMRS grant. She stated the St. Louis region will receive \$281,693 to establish or sustain local capabilities to address mass casualty incidents. She advised this amount is reduced for management and administration costs for the Missouri Office of Homeland Security and East-West Gateway leaving \$248,500. Ms. Giacomini commented that the MMRS budget planning group consists of the co-chairs from the EMA, EMS, Public Health and Hospital Preparedness committees and met on May 26 to identify needs and create the proposed budget.

Ms. Giacomini then summarized the seven proposed budget items as follows:

- Fingerprint Scanners \$ 100,000
- Hospital Evacuation Sleds/Chairs \$ 50,000
- Patient Tracking/Asset Tracking Equipment \$ 20,000
- Mobile Routers \$ 39,350
- Elliott Clinic Manager \$ 23,355
- Elliott Data Sharing Agreements \$ 5,400
- Public Health Volunteer Teams/Medical Reserve Corps \$ 10,395

A brief discussion followed regarding the transfer of certain requested funds from the FY2011 UASI Application over to this MMRS Grant. A motion was made and seconded to approve the MMRS Grant Budget as presented; motion passed.

MISSOURI OFFICE OF HOMELAND SECURITY REQUEST TO WITHHOLD LETPA FUNDING

Ms. Leykam advised the committee of the letter from the Missouri Office of Homeland Security regarding their request to withhold LETPA funds from the St. Louis region. She then asked for a motion to approve the request as outlined in the letter from Mr. Paul Fennewald. After two requests for a motion, the issue failed to receive a motion.

REVIEW OF FY 2011 APPLICATION & PROJECT PROPOSALS

Regional Collaboration

Regional Coordination – Mr. Gragnani provided an explanation of the STARRS budget contained within the Regional Coordination line item. He explained the line item provided salaries and benefits for five and one half FTE positions for one year as well as indirect costs such as travel. This funding will cover staff until October of 2015 if no further grants are awarded. He explained further that the \$300,000 item for the Elected Officials Regional Emergency Resource Coordination Plan corresponded to one of the two exercises built into the coordination plan. These funds could be eliminated from the budget or this exercise could be incorporated into another previously planned exercise by another committee such as the Hospital Preparedness committee.

A brief discussion followed regarding the STARRS staff cost and what was included in that line item. A motion was made and seconded to approve the STARRS budget; motion passed.

A motion was made and seconded to remove the Elected Officials RERCP exercise from the budget; motion passed.

E-Sponder – Motion was made and seconded to reduce the funding for both the System Integration & Support and the System Functionality by one third providing two years sustainment instead of three; motion passed. A motion was made and seconded to approve the reduced funding amount; motion passed.

Emergency Management

Rescue Boats and Training – Randy Lay made a motion to remove the rescue boats and rescue boat training in the amounts of \$552,000 and \$12,000 respectively. The motion was seconded and a vote was called; motion passed.

Helicopter Video Downlink – There was a discussion regarding the helicopter video downlink system. Chief Brown asked if the microwave system would benefit this system by providing a link to the regional command centers and EOCs. Staff will research this in coordination with the microwave project. A motion was made and seconded to fund \$579,824 that would provide video downlinks to the three EOCs and eliminate the two mobile command center links; motion passed.

Regional Asset Tracking System – A lengthy discussion occurred regarding the vendor and a potential sole source status and the amount of funding needed for the project to be successful. Ms Leykam gave an update on the amount remaining in the budget while allowing for the law enforcement set aside. She pointed out that this regional asset tracking system with training will take one third of the budget. After continued discussion a motion was made and seconded to fund 14 systems at \$24,028.83 each for a total of \$336,403.52 along with \$10,500 for related training resulting in a regional asset tracking system project total of \$346,903; motion passed.

TEW / Law Enforcement

A motion was made and seconded to approve the TEW/Law Enforcement combined requested amount of \$1,630,581.

Randy Lay made a motion to amend the previous motion to approve removing the remote control system for the compact track loader at \$208,395 and the hostage rescue telephone for \$20,000 from the submitted project proposals from Law Enforcement. These items were for St. Clair County. After a lengthy discussion the motion was amended as follows:

Motion to amend the \$368,395 line item for armored vehicles to \$258,395. for one armored vehicle, to remove the like amounts from the remote control system for compact track loader in the amount of \$208,395, the aircraft GPS system for \$30,000 and the hostage rescue telephone for \$20,000.

A vote was called on the motion to amend; motion passed.

A question was asked about the request for a consultant to perform legal work required to amend the current policy in place to align the TEW with DHS policy compliance.

Mr. Gragnani explained that Mike Fagan will be doing this work as he has the appropriate high level security clearance and is familiar with the DHS policy.

Heavy Rescue

Deputy Chief Les Crews summarized the status of the swift water project and prioritized all the items in the Heavy Rescue budget request. Those present pointed out that there were a large number of costly items in their request and a motion was made for \$250,000 to go towards Heavy Rescue projects to be allocated as the committee saw fit. The motion was seconded. Discussion followed regarding the balance that will be left after this \$250,000 is removed. A question was asked if the navigation and communication equipment was priority #2. There was discussion regarding whether this was a new item as the project sheet showed and Deputy Chief Crews stated that it has been requested in previous years. The initial motion was withdrawn and a new motion was made to fund the Navigation & Communication Equipment item at \$96,100. The motion was seconded and passed.

Hazmat

Randy Lay summarized the Hazmat Committee proposals. He indicated the most critical item was the chem bio detection units which do not exist in Jefferson County, Franklin County and Madison County in the amount of \$65,000 each for a total of \$195,000. The second priority is the purchase of seven "True Defender" chem bio units that can be taken into the field. Mr. Lay indicated that the teams were willing to reduce the number of True Defender units requested to four. Mr. Lay made a motion to fund Hazmat for a total of \$475,000 which represents about half of the requested Hazard ID meters training line item. Chief Brown seconded the motion; motion passed.

A discussion followed on details regarding the Pumper/Rescue Truck and whether it could be funded by Metro. Could a collaboration with Metro allow a different solution by using one of their vehicles as a base? Metro has stated that they cannot place rescue equipment owned by a different entity on their vehicles. The truck request was tabled.

A ten-minute break was taken.

Public Health

Barb Whitaker summarized the project proposals submitted for Public Health. A discussion followed regarding the need for a Public Health website given the capabilities of the existing public awareness initiative and website under Disaster Human Services. A motion was made to fund the First Meds Program maintenance & expansion at \$165,997. The motion was seconded. There was a discussion on the importance of the Ham Radio Systems project. Barb Whitaker made a motion to amend the previous motion to add the ham radio systems at a cost of \$121,780 making the total allotment for Public Health \$287,777. There was a second to the motion to amend. A brief discussion followed regarding cost of the ham radios. A motion was made to reduce the amount for ham radios to \$60,000 in a new amendment with the new total for Public Health of \$225,997. The motion was seconded. A vote was called on the total of \$225,997. The motion passed.

Hospital Preparedness

Don Schneider gave a summary of the Hospital Preparedness Committee's submitted projects. A motion was made to fund the development of a regional hospital evacuation plan in the amount of \$100,000. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Mass Fatality

Richard Smith, Madison County Coroner, gave a summary of the requests from the Mass Fatality Committee. There was discussion regarding the radiography systems being proposed with Mr. Smith providing an explanation. A motion was made to fund two radiography systems at a total of \$285,000 and \$5,000 for a regional mass fatality exercise. The motion was seconded. A motion was made to amend the previous motion to add \$25,000 to the amount for support and documentation equipment bringing the total now to \$313,970. The motion was seconded; motion passed.

Disaster Human Services / Training & Exercise

Randy Lay made a motion to fund Disaster Human Services (DHS) proposals in the amount of \$100,000 and Training & Exercise in the amount of \$100,000. The motion was seconded. A lengthy discussion followed. A motion was made to amend the amount for DHS to \$105,000. Discussion followed. Randy Lay amended the motion for DHS to \$160,000 which included \$100,000 to fund the Disaster Preparedness Awareness Initiative, \$55,000 for the Citizen Corps Council, \$5,000 to the Prepare and Stay for the Disabled project, and \$23,000 for the Training and Exercise Committee. The motion was seconded and then passed with one opposed.

SUMMARY DISCUSSION

Greg Render suggested that money be allocated to planning for demobilization and/or sustainment of STARRS and determining how equipment and regional planning efforts will be sustained once federal grant funds are gone. It was pointed out that equipment MOUs signed by counties made them responsible for equipment sustainment and a regional plan for collaboration was in place. STARRS staff could look at what else might be needed with existing funds.

An additional motion was made to reduce the Emergency Management Committee's request for video downlinks from three to one EOC system. He stated that once the microwave system was in place, the data could be shared region wide through it. In the discussion that followed, a suggestion was made to have two EOCs set up to receive the downlink in case one failed. The motion was amended and passed for a total amount of \$386,549.

A motion was made to reduce the Hazmat Teams' request for meters to the three Hazmat detectors for the counties that currently don't have one at a cost of \$195,000. The motion was seconded. A vote was called and motion passed.

Les Crews asked for more funding for Heavy Rescue and stated that the Search and Recon Team packages were their next highest priority. The tools and equipment included would help during events such as the recent tornado responses. A motion was made to take the remaining \$187,257 and put toward Heavy Rescue for the Search and Recon Team Packages. The motion was seconded. After a brief discussion on the need for more training funds, the vote was called and the motion passed.

Greg Render asked about how the process would proceed at the Advisory Council level. Nick Gragnani stated that staff will put together a spreadsheet summarizing the Budget Committee recommendations along with a cover memo. That document could then be presented one of two ways...either as a vote for the whole package or by going through every line item individually. The group agreed to pursue the first option.

Joann Leykam raised again EWG Executive Director's letter to the EWG Board in response to the State of Missouri's request for St. Louis UASI LETPA funds. A motion was made to strongly support the EWG Board's decision to decline the request. It was seconded and passed.

OTHER BUSINESS

None

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:48 a.m.