

Abshear, Chuck

From: John Zanzi [jzanzi@sonic.net]
Sent: Tuesday, February 24, 2009 10:41 AM
Cc: 'Luttrell, Dick'; 'Doug Williams'; 'Randy Collins'; 'Ron Collier'; Abshear, Chuck; 'Bruce Varner'; 'Chris Thomas'
Subject: Stimulus Package Funding Request

Hello all,

I am writing this letter, on behalf of the SCFCA, to Congresswoman Woolsey's office regarding the Redcom expansion project. Please let me know if the information is correct and the content appropriate for this request. Alexandra is a staff person at the Santa Rosa office, specializing in grants.

Thanks,

John

Dear Alexandra,

First, thank you for your time on the phone yesterday and for the information on the Federal Stimulus Package.

I wanted to send you this email to detail our project and give you the information in case you see an opportunity for us to act.

History:

REDCOM is a Joint Powers Authority (JPA), comprised of 36 Fire Department agencies and 7 EMS ambulance transport agencies that provides Fire and EMS dispatch services to approximately 85% of the population of Sonoma County. The JPA was formed in January, 2002 and streamlined 9 separate dispatch centers into one, integrating communication facility within the fire and EMS community. Last year the center dispatched over 70,000 calls for service and provided life saving instructions to citizen callers dealing with medical emergencies. The JPA has been very successful, extremely cost-effective, and epitomizes the ideal cooperation and efficiency that local government can provide to its citizens.

Project:

Expand the existing dispatch center by 800 square feet into existing unused space.

The current dispatch center, located in the Sonoma County Sheriff's Office, is undersized for the call volume and staffing levels required to process emergency calls. This project will expand the center into un-improved space adjacent to the existing center and increase the overall space by 800 square feet. This expansion will provide space for additional dispatch work stations, as well as an area for training and meetings. The current space is not designed as efficiently as desired and creates workflow issues among dispatchers. At busy times, during large wildland fires and severe winter storms, there are not enough dispatch workstations for the necessary staff. This expansion is the highest priority goal for the REDCOM JPA.

Budget:

The REDCOM Board of Directors has started the process to complete this project. Architectural plans have been developed and the project is at a stage to be bid and constructed. The project can be built in a timeframe consistent with the stimulus package as presented by the President and Congress. Below is a budget for this project:

Expansion of the dispatch center including new finishings, relocation of dispatch work stations, wiring and installation of electronics.	\$700,000.
Architectural plans and specifications:	\$ 50,000.

3/9/2009

Furniture and Installation:	\$105,000
Sub-total:	\$855,000.
Previously funded:	<\$155,000.>
Balance Needed:	\$700,000.

While the REDCOM JPA has been able to identify and fund a portion of the project, no funding source has been identified for the balance of the construction. It is very unlikely that this project will be funded by the member agencies (local government) as these agencies are witnessing shrinking revenue and are making difficult service reductions in their communities.

Thank you for your interest in assisting us in identifying funding for this project. Please advise Congresswoman Woolsey how important this project is for Sonoma County and how vital it is to continue to provide a high level of service to the citizens of her district. Please let me know if you need further information and I am happy to meet with you or Congresswoman Woolsey if requested.

Thank You

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