

## **NEW AUTHORIZED VFRA EXPENDITURES – February 1, 2006**

Following consultation with representatives of the Department of Community and Economic Development, the Department of the Auditor General recognizes the following as permissible expenditures with volunteer firefighters' relief association (VFRA) funds.

Pre-plan computer software and any required hardware, as well as reasonable payment to vendors to prepare firefighting pre-plans of structures within the service area.

The VFRAs can pay for one desktop computer for each fire company affiliated with the VFRA and they can now purchase one laptop computer for each emergency service vehicle housed in the fire companies affiliated with the VFRA. The previous policy limited the purchase to only one desktop and one laptop for each fire company.

Computer programs for financial-record keeping, fire training and emergency service reporting for NFIRS continue to be authorized expenditures, as well as charges for a dedicated phone line and local internet services.

It is recommended that relief association computers be maintained in the firehouse or on the emergency vehicles. Access to computers should be restricted to authorized personnel, and should be limited to relief association and emergency service business.

Firefighters should refer to the Auditor General's publication **MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES FOR VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS RELIEF ASSOCIATIONS** for more information on authorized relief association expenditures and general guidance on administering VFRA operations.