



Travis County Commissioners Court Agenda Request

Meeting Date: January 15, 2013

Prepared By/Phone Number: Danny Hobby/854-4416

Elected/Appointed Official/Dept. Head: Danny Hobby

Commissioners Court Sponsor: County Judge Samuel T. Biscoe

AGENDA LANGUAGE:

CONSIDER AND TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION CONCERNING RENEWAL AND AMENDMENT FOUR TO AGREEMENT BETWEEN CITY OF AUSTIN AND TRAVIS COUNTY FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES.

BACKGROUND/SUMMARY OF REQUEST AND ATTACHMENTS:

The purpose of the FY 2009 EMS Interlocal Cooperative Agreement ("Agreement") is to provide for emergency medical services and transport medical services to Suburban Travis County (the county's geographic area outside the City of Austin) through the use of City staff, City-owned equipment, County provided vehicles and stations, and other County-owned assets.

The purpose for the Renewal and Amendment Four is to extend coverage for one additional year. There currently is in place a holdover of 120 days (expires January 28, 2012) while negotiations are being completed.

This agenda request is to consider staff recommendations pertaining to enhancements approved in the FY13 Emergency Services EMS budget for emergency medical services and transport medical services. See attached memorandum for a review of the recommendations and options to consider.

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

Emergency Services recommends consideration and approval of the staff recommendations regarding enhancement options in the FY13 Emergency Services EMS budget for emergency medical services and transport medical services.

ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES:

County and City staff will be reviewing by January 28, 2013 any recommendations or changes we feel may be necessary to benefit the service delivery and the cost of services for emergency medical services in Travis County outside the City of Austin.

FISCAL IMPACT AND SOURCE OF FUNDING:

This Amendment is a budgeted expense included in the FY13 budget. The recommendations will not increase the budgeted expense included in the FY13 budget.

REQUIRED AUTHORIZATIONS:

Barbara Wilson, County Attorney's Office, 854-9567

Marvin Brice, Purchasing Office, 854-9765

Kapp Schwebke, Auditor's Office, 854-6628

William Derryberry, PBO, 854-4741

Josie Zavala , Judge's Office, 854-9555



EMERGENCY SERVICES

DANNY HOBBY, COUNTY EXECUTIVE
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*Emergency Management
Pete Baldwin, Emergency Mgmt.
Coordinator*

*Fire Marshal
Hershel Lee*

MEMORANDUM

*Medical Examiner
Dr. David Dolinak*

To: Travis County Commissioners Court

From: Danny Hobby, County Executive, Emergency Services 

Date: January 9, 2013

Subject: Recommendations for Renewal and Amendment Four to Agreement Between City of Austin and Travis County For Emergency Medical Services

*STAR Flight
Casey Ping, Program Director*

This memorandum is to provide recommendations for your consideration and action regarding the Renewal and Amendment Four ("Amendment") to Agreement Between City of Austin and Travis County For Emergency Medical Services. It is anticipated the Amendment will come to Court within the next few weeks due to a holdover provision that will end on January 28, 2013.

It was hoped to have a direct cost formula developed for the FY13 EMS contract with the City of Austin, but it did not happen in time to do so. Both parties have agreed to set a deadline of March 15, 2013 for completing this work which will provide FY14 budget projections and breaking out service zones throughout the areas in the county outside the City of Austin. This work will provide projections of cost for each major service area in the City of Austin EMS Department budget and provide needed resources for the service zones. This work will also provide possible other service delivery options for both the City of Austin and Travis County.

There are various unknowns regarding the FY14 budget beside the projections that will result from the direct cost formula work and service zone work. Last November, voters approved civil service classification for both uniform and non-uniform personnel in the City of Austin EMS Department. This new classification could have real impact on salaries and operations within the department. Another impact could be the results of contract negotiations between the City of Austin and the Austin-Travis County EMS Employee's Association since their existing contract ends September 2013. Both of these issues will be discussed during the negotiations. Lastly, it is anticipated additional enhancements (two new 24/7 stations) will be recommended by the City of Austin EMS Department for FY14.

Based on reviewing the last City of Austin Public Safety Commission meeting held on Monday, January 7, 2013, a recommendation will be going to the Austin City Council requesting a full audit be conducted for the City of Austin EMS Department. Also, discussion was suggested by

the Commission that discussions needed to continue regarding moving the City of Austin EMS Department under the management of the City of Austin Fire Department.

Due to all the issues above, it is time to re-assess the current FY13 budget enhancements and make recommendations that will allow our current and future budget decisions to be made with better information and projections than we have available at the present time. Below are three recommendations for your consideration:

The first recommendation pertains to the enhancements that were approved in the FY13 budget process. These included a new 24/7 station at Austin Colony/969 (\$1,510,309); adding 12/7 staffing at the Bee Caves 12/7 station (\$540,843); and adding 12/7 staffing at the Kelly Lane 12/7 station in Pflugerville (\$540,843).

RECOMMENDATION: Do not include these enhancements (\$2,591,995) in the Amendment at this time but evaluate again after the direct cost formula work and service zone work is completed and more information is available regarding FY14 budget projections.

The second recommendation pertains to two replacement ambulances (\$374,000) and two replacement commander vehicles (\$240,000) that were approved in the FY13 budget process. These total \$614,000.

RECOMMENDATION: Do not include these replacements in the Amendment at this time but evaluate again after the direct cost formula work and service zone work is completed and more information is available regarding FY 14 budget projections.

The third recommendation pertains to funding that will be available from the approved enhancements since the City EMS academy training schedule will not start until February 2013 or July 2013 and the enhancements were funded starting in October 2012.

RECOMMENDATION: Allow available funding to be used for pilot ALS Squads in those areas that funding was recommended for enhancements. There are four possible options that have been proposed by various agencies (Emergency Service District No. 2, Emergency Services District No. 6, *STAR Flight*, and City EMS (overtime expenditures would be necessary). City EMS also proposes staffing an ambulance at Austin Colony/969 as a stop gap for the new station (overtime expenditures would be necessary). All of these options would need to come back to the Court in the form of an amendment to existing agreements before they could be implemented.

Thank you for your review and consideration.