



CITY COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

MEETING DATE: March 1,, 2011

ITEM NUMBER:

SUBJECT: FEASIBILITY AND REQUIREMENTS TO EVALUATE INCREASING CAPACITY TO COSTA MESA EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES-PARAMEDIC SYSTEM

DATE: FEBRUARY 23, 2011

FROM: CITY MANAGER'S DEPARTMENT

PRESENTATION BY: THOMAS R. HATCH, ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

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Terry Matz, Interim Assistant City Manager at (714) 754-5688

RECOMMENDATION:

Provide direction on whether to transmit a letter to the Medical Director of the Orange County Emergency Medical Services requesting that he determine the feasibility and requirements to evaluate the addition of the City's ambulance provider as added capacity to the current Costa Mesa Emergency Medical Service-Paramedic delivery system.

DISCUSSION:

The Costa Mesa Fire Department provides high-quality, professional Advanced Life Support (ALS) services through the City's Emergency Medical Service-Paramedic Program. Mayor Pro-Tem Jim Righeimer has requested that the City Council examine the option of creating flexibility in the provision of paramedic services to determine if the City's ambulance provider could provide an efficient and cost-effective method to add capacity to our paramedic services.

State law governs the provision of ALS services and provides that no person or organization may provide these services unless that person or organization is part of the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) system of the local EMS agency. Orange County Emergency Medical Services (OCEMS) is the local EMS agency and is responsible for the approval of any emergency medical service-paramedic (EMT-P) provider in Orange County. The Costa Mesa Fire Department is an approved EMT-P provider.

Any potential EMT-P provider would have to be approved by OCEMS. Accordingly, if the City Council wishes to examine this option, staff should be directed to transmit a letter to Dr. Samuel Stratton, Medical Director for OCEMS and request that he provide Costa Mesa with information concerning the feasibility and requirements to evaluate the addition of the City's ambulance provider as a way to add capacity to the City of Costa Mesa EMT-P provider system.

Authorizing this letter will allow OCEMS to evaluate this concept and determine if our ambulance provider – Care Ambulance, would be authorized as a service provider and therefore an option for the City to consider for added capacity to our current system for the provision of paramedic services.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:

The City Council may elect not to investigate the potential option for the provision of added capacity for Emergency Medical-Paramedic services to Costa Mesa.

FISCAL REVIEW:

The fiscal impact for adding EMT-P system capacity cannot be determined at this time. Even if OCEMS authorized the City’s current ambulance provider to be a paramedic service provider in concept for Costa Mesa, the City of Costa Mesa would likely need to conduct a formal bidding process to select a service provider. The requirements for any bidding process and any related fiscal impacts would need to be fully evaluated and that evaluation would occur at a later time.

CONCLUSION:

The City Council is requested to discuss the concept of sending a letter to OCEMS to request that they study the feasibility and requirements for adding capacity to the City of Costa Mesa’s Emergency Medical Service-Paramedic current system as described in the staff report.

Thomas R. Hatch
Assistant City Manager

Terry Matz
Interim Assistant City Manager

Attachments: Attachment 1 [OCEMS EMT-P Service Provider Criteria](#)
 Attachment 2 [Draft Letter to OCEMS Medical Director](#)