



CITY COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

MEETING DATE: **SEPTEMBER 16, 2014**

ITEM NUMBER:

SUBJECT: AMENDMENT TO EXTEND TERM OF CARE AMBULANCE SERVICES AGREEMENT

DATE: SEPTEMBER 8, 2014

FROM: FIRE DEPARTMENT

PRESENTATION BY: DANIEL A. STEFANO, FIRE CHIEF

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: DANIEL A. STEFANO, (714) 754-5106

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Approve the attached Amendment Number Three extending the term of the Ambulance Services Agreement with Care Ambulance Service, Inc., for the continuation of emergency ambulance and patient billing services to September 1, 2015.

BACKGROUND:

Pursuant to California Health & Safety Code Section 1797.201, because the City of Costa Mesa has provided and/or contracted for emergency ambulance services continuously at least since June 1, 1980, the City has retained all rights, remedies, and privileges regarding the provision, administration, and operational control of all prehospital Emergency Medical Services (EMS) within its jurisdiction, including, but not limited to, emergency ambulance response and patient transport services.

In accordance with its Section 1797.201 powers, on November 20, 2007, the City initiated a competitive process by issuing a "Request for Proposals," coordinated by the Fire Department, in which qualified ambulance companies were reviewed, analyzed, and compared. The Fire Department chose to use the competitive process format outlined in California Emergency Medical Services Authority Publication #141 due to its efficiency, rather than developing a new format.

On July 1, 2008, the City Council accepted the proposal submitted by Care Ambulance Service, Inc., and authorized the Fire Department to negotiate an agreement for the provision of emergency ambulance and patient billing services. The City and Care Ambulance Services entered into an agreement effective on September 1, 2008, at 7:30 a.m., for a period of two years. The City and Care Ambulance Services subsequently entered into Ambulance Services Agreement to extend the services for a term of three years, to September 1, 2013. The Ambulance Services Agreement allows for extensions of the term providing that the total length of time, including the initial two-year term beginning in 2008, is no more than ten years. The City Council approved Amendment Number One to the agreement for a one-year extension effective September 1, 2013, and the Chief Executive Officer executed Amendment Number Two for the period of

September 1, 2014 to September 17, 2014, in order for the services not to lapse prior to the City Council's consideration of Amendment Number Three, which would extend the agreement to September 1, 2015, at 7:30 a.m.

ANALYSIS:

From the commencement of the current agreement until the present time, Care Ambulance Service has met and fulfilled all contractual obligations and requirements. In fact, it is the opinion of the Fire Department that Care Ambulance Service has exceeded all expectations and has helped foster a partnership that has been instrumental in maintaining Costa Mesa's high-quality EMS system. Based on its performance over the past six years, Care Ambulance Service has maintained a well-managed organization staffed by dedicated personnel who care about their mission and the patients they serve.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:

Because Care Ambulance Service has satisfied and exceeded the obligations, requirements, and expectations of the original Agreement, no other alternatives were considered.

FISCAL REVIEW:

No fiscal review is necessary for this item. The City provides citizens emergency ambulance services via a private ambulance company business, which also handles all EMS billing services for the City. There is no direct cost to the City for selecting or using a private ambulance company to provide emergency ambulance and patient billing services.

LEGAL REVIEW:

The City Attorney's Office reviewed the Ambulance Services Agreement and its amendments, and drafted Amendment Number Three with the assistance of Fire Department.

CONCLUSION:

Based on the aforementioned reasons, the Fire Department respectfully recommends that the City Council approve the attached Amendment Number Three so that Care Ambulance Service may continue emergency ambulance and patient billing services until September 1, 2015, at 07:30 a.m.

DANIEL A. STEFANO
Fire Chief

THOMAS R. HATCH
Chief Executive Officer

THOMAS P. DUARTE
City Attorney

- Attachments:
- 1) [Original Ambulance Services Agreement](#)
 - 2) [Amendment Number One](#)
 - 3) [Amendment Number Two](#)
 - 4) [Amendment Number Three](#)