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OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK  
OAKLAND

# CITY OF OAKLAND

## AGENDA REPORT

2011 AUG 30 PM 2:26

TO: Office of the City Administrator  
ATTN: Deanna J. Santana  
FROM: Oakland Fire Department  
DATE: September 13, 2011

RE: Resolution Authorizing The City Administrator To Enter Into A First Responder Advanced Life Support (FRALS) Services Agreement With Alameda County Emergency Medical Services District (Alameda County) For The Term November 1, 2011 To October 31, 2016 And To Appropriate Payment From The County Anticipated To Be \$1,115,222 For The First Year (Based On \$42,893 Per Each of 26 First Responder Paramedic Units), With A Two Percent (2%) Increase Per Year For The Term Of The Agreement

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### SUMMARY

A resolution has been prepared authorizing the City Administrator to enter into a First Responder Advanced Life Support (FRALS) Services Agreement between the City of Oakland Fire Department and Alameda County Emergency Medical Services District for the period November 1, 2011 through October 31, 2016, with an option to extend for an additional five year period, and to appropriate payment estimated to be \$1,115,222, with a two percent (2%) increase per year for the term of the agreement. The previous contract was negotiated in 2004.

Alameda County is designated as the Local Emergency Medical Services Agency (LEMSA) and is responsible for establishing policies and procedures for the approval and designation of paramedic service providers within its jurisdiction. The County established an Emergency Medical Services District and enters into agreements with various Emergency Medical Services (EMS) providers, both public and private, to assure the availability of emergency medical response and transportation services in the County. The current agreement between the City of Oakland and the County of Alameda expires October 31, 2011.

The Oakland Fire Department implemented engine company paramedic services in the City of Oakland as part of the integrated county-wide system of EMS delivery. The County of Alameda currently contracts with American Medical Response (AMR) as its 911 emergency ambulance provider. Beginning November 1, 2011, Paramedics Plus will be the new emergency medical ambulance transport provider in Alameda County.

### FISCAL IMPACT

There is no direct fiscal impact to the General Purpose Fund. Alameda County will pay the City of Oakland \$42,893 per unit annually for its 26 FRALS units, for an anticipated total of

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\$1,115,222 in the first year. In years two through five, the Department is authorized to maintain 27 FRALS units, with available funding of \$43,751.02 for each unit. The amount of funding received per unit will be increased by two percent (2%) each year of the term of the agreement.

The County reimbursement will be appropriated to the Fire Department's operating budget, Fund 2160 (County of Alameda Grants), Organization Code 20913 (EMS Division), various accounts including 52913 (Technical and Scientific Supplies) for medical training materials and supplies, 51420 (License) and 51419 (Certificate), Project G176410 (First Responder Advanced Life Support), and Program PS19 (Emergency Medical Services). The offsetting reimbursements will be deposited into the revenue account 46319 (Miscellaneous Alameda County Grants).

## **BACKGROUND**

In June 1997, the electorate of Oakland passed, by more than a two-thirds majority, the Paramedic Services Act of 1997 (Measure N). The measure imposed a special parcel tax for the purpose of raising revenue necessary to increase, enhance and support paramedic emergency services in the City of Oakland. The Oakland Fire Department fully implemented its paramedic program in 2000, which was also the year that the City of Oakland entered into its first agreement with the County of Alameda to provide first responder services. This first agreement allowed the County's ambulance transport contractor (American Medical Response) to staff transport ambulances with one Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) and one paramedic and to cut the response time standard to 10 minutes and 30 seconds. The money saved through this program was paid to Alameda County EMS and passed on to the municipalities' fire departments which began staffing FRALS units. The payment that OFD receives as reimbursement from the County for each FRALS unit, is additional funding for paramedic services above and beyond the funding that is received from the Measure N parcel tax.

Currently, there are 26 FRALS units in the City of Oakland. The Department utilizes firefighter/paramedics to staff the 26 companies on a twenty-four hour basis. In addition, there is a pool of paramedics who have been promoted to Engineer, Lieutenant or Captain and can be assigned paramedic duties, when needed. The Oakland Fire Department provides ongoing training opportunities, provides EMS equipment and supplies, and recruits firefighter/paramedics to maintain the paramedic program.

## **KEY ISSUES AND IMPACTS**

The agreement with the County requires that the Fire Department meets specific criteria in order to receive payment for providing paramedic services. For example, an OFD paramedic unit must arrive on the scene of a medical incident within eight (8) minutes and 30 seconds, ninety percent (90%) of the time, from the time the 911 call is received at the Fire Department Dispatch Center. Failure to comply with this stipulation can result in fines based upon the frequency of the occurrence. The Oakland Fire Department has consistently met the response time requirements

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of past agreements. Based on response trends and planned staffing and staging locations, it is anticipated that this trend will continue. In addition, staff must maintain required licenses and certifications. The Department consistently provides the necessary training to meet this requirement and will continue to do so.

## PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

By entering into the agreement with the County, the City of Oakland Fire Department agrees to provide first response to medical call requests that are defined by the algorithms in the Medical Priority Dispatch System (MPDS) protocols as Code 3 calls and as approved by County EMS. The Department also agrees to follow all medical and operational policies as defined in Alameda County EMS policy manuals.

The City of Oakland Fire Department is authorized for 26 FRALS units in year one of the agreement and has the option to add one more unit, for a total of 27 FRALS units, in years two through five of the agreement. The Department provides first responder services to patients until transfer of the patient care to arriving ambulance personnel or a medical physician of competent authority in accordance with County policy. Alameda County will contract with American Medical Response from July 1, 2011 through October 31, 2011 and Paramedics Plus from November 1, 2011 onward to provide ambulance service.

## SUSTAINABLE OPPORTUNITIES

**Economic:** This agreement with Alameda County reimburses the Fire Department for a portion of the costs associated with maintaining the voter-mandated paramedic program in the City of Oakland.

**Environmental:** Policies and procedures are in place to ensure safe, adequate and proper disposal of all biohazardous waste, sharps and contaminated disposal equipment. In accordance with guidelines of the Center for Disease Control, use of environmentally preferred products for cleaning will be used.

**Social Equity:** The emergency medical services provided under the terms of this agreement benefit all residents, visitors and businesses in the City of Oakland. Additionally, repeated users of 911 medical services may face problems such as lack of health insurance, lack of access to routine medical care, or an inability to navigate the healthcare system.

## DISABILITY AND SENIOR CITIZEN ACCESS

Emergency medical services provided by Oakland Fire Department personnel specifically address the unique needs of the disabled and senior citizens population.

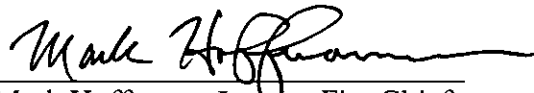
**RECOMMENDATION AND RATIONALE**

Staff recommends that the City Council approve the resolution authorizing the City Administrator to extend the First Responder Advanced Life Support (FRALS) Services Agreement with Alameda County Emergency Medical Services District (Alameda County) for the period of November 1, 2011 through October 31, 2016 and to appropriate payment anticipated to be \$1,115,222 in the first year, with a two percent (2%) increase per year for the term of the agreement. This contract will allow OFD to continue providing quality paramedic services in the City of Oakland.

**ACTION REQUESTED OF THE CITY COUNCIL**

Staff requests that the City Council approve the resolution authorizing the City Administrator to enter into the First Responder Advanced Life Support (FRALS) Services Agreement with Alameda County Emergency Medical Services District (Alameda County) for the period of November 1, 2011 through October 31, 2016 and to appropriate payment anticipated to be \$1,115,222 in the first year to the Oakland Fire Department, with a two percent (2%) increase per year for the term of the agreement.

Respectfully submitted,



Mark Hoffmann, Interim Fire Chief  
Oakland Fire Department

Prepared by:  
Anne Campbell Washington, Chief of Staff  
Oakland Fire Department

**APPROVED AND FORWARDED TO THE  
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE:**

  
Office of the City Administrator

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*Patricia [Signature]*  
City Attorney

# OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

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RESOLUTION No. \_\_\_\_\_ C.M.S.

Introduced by Councilmember \_\_\_\_\_

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR TO ENTER INTO A FIRST RESPONDER ADVANCED LIFE SUPPORT (FRALS) SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH ALAMEDA COUNTY EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES DISTRICT (COUNTY) FOR THE TERM NOVEMBER 1, 2011 TO OCTOBER 31, 2016 AND TO APPROPRIATE PAYMENT FROM THE COUNTY ANTICIPATED TO BE \$1,115,222 FOR THE FIRST YEAR (BASED ON \$42,893 PER EACH OF 26 FIRST RESPONDER PARAMEDIC UNITS), WITH A TWO PERCENT (2%) INCREASE PER YEAR FOR THE TERM OF THE AGREEMENT**

**WHEREAS**, Alameda County is designated as the Local Emergency Medical Services Agency (LEMSA), as defined in the California Health and Safety Code Division 2.5, Section 1797.94, mandating responsibility for establishing policies and procedures for the approval and designation of paramedic service providers within its jurisdiction; and

**WHEREAS**, the County has established an Emergency Medical Service District and has established agreements with various Emergency Medical Service providers, both public and private, to assure the availability of emergency paramedic services within the territory of the District; and

**WHEREAS**, the County has entered into First Responder Advanced Life Support (FRALS) term contracts with the City since 2000, and the Oakland Fire Department has fully implemented 26 paramedic companies to provide emergency medical services in the city of Oakland as part of the integrated county-wide system of emergency medical service delivery; and

**WHEREAS**, funding for these paramedic services was requested and approved by the voters in 1997, and Alameda County provides additional county funding for these services through the FRALS program; and

**WHEREAS**, per Resolution No. 83414 C.M.S., approved June 21, 2011, the City Council authorized the City Administrator to extend the existing "First Responder Advanced Life Support (FRALS) Services Agreement," between the City of Oakland and the County of Alameda for the term July 1, 2011 through October 31, 2011; and

**WHEREAS**, the existing FRALS agreement expires on October 31, 2011 and Alameda County has asked the City to enter into a new agreement; and

**WHEREAS**, Alameda County will pay the Fire Department for the period November 1, 2011 through October 31, 2016, a sum of \$42,893 annually per FRALS unit in service, for a total of \$1,115,222 in the first year of the agreement with a two percent (2%) increase per year for the term of the agreement, for 26 FRALS units with a maximum of 27 FRALS units authorized in years two through five of the agreement; and

**WHEREAS**, the payment provided by the County will increase by two percent (2%) each year of the term of the agreement; and

**WHEREAS**, these funds are to be used to reimburse the City for the costs associated with maintaining an efficient paramedic program; and

**WHEREAS**, the Fire Department provides the training and program management necessary to continue to deliver paramedic services to Oakland residents; now, therefore be it

**RESOLVED:** That the City Administrator is hereby authorized to enter into a First Responder Advanced Life Support (FRALS) Services Agreement with Alameda County Emergency Medical Services District to provide paramedic units and services from November 1, 2011 through October 31, 2016, with an option to renew for another five years; and be it

**FURTHER RESOLVED:** That the Alameda County payment for services rendered by the City received during the period of this agreement anticipated to be \$1,115,222 in the first year of the agreement, will be appropriated to the Fire Department's operating budget, Fund 2106 (County of Alameda Grants), Organization 20913 (EMS Training), various Accounts for medical training materials and supplies, including 51420 (License) and 51419 (Certificate), Project G176410 (First Responder Advanced Life Support), and Program PS19 (Emergency Medical Services). Project G176410 (First Responder Advanced Life Support) and the offsetting reimbursements should be deposited into the revenue account 46319 (Miscellaneous Alameda County Grants); and be it

**FURTHER RESOLVED:** That the First Responder Life Support (FRALS) Services Agreement shall be reviewed and approved by the Office of the City Attorney for form and legality and placed on file in the Office of the City Clerk.

IN COUNCIL, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA, \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_

PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES - BROOKS, BRUNNER, DE LA FUENTE, KAPLAN, KERNIGHAN, NADEL, SCHAAF and PRESIDENT REID

NOES -

ABSENT -

ABSTENTION -

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
LaTonda Simmons  
City Clerk and Clerk of the Council  
of the City of Oakland, California