

CITY OF OAKLAND AGENDA REPORT

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TO: Office of the City Administrator
ATTN: Deborah Edgerly
FROM: Fire Department
DATE: March 22, 2005

SUBJECT: **Resolution Authorizing The City Administrator To Enter into a First Responder Advanced Life Support (FRALS) Services Agreement With Alameda County Emergency Medical Services District for the Term July 2004 to June 30, 2009 and to Appropriate Payment Anticipated to be \$962,000 for the First Year (Based on \$37,000 Per each of 26 First Responder Paramedic Units), With a 3% Increase Per Year for the Term of the Agreement**

SUMMARY

A resolution has been prepared authorizing the City Administrator to enter into a renewal of the First Responder Advanced Life Support (FRALS) Services agreement between the City of Oakland Fire Department and Alameda County Emergency Medical Services (EMS) District, the designated local Emergency Medical Services Agency (LEMSA). The previous contract had been negotiated in July 2000.

Alameda County is designated as the local EMS Agency and is responsible for establishing policies and procedures for the approval and designation of paramedic service providers within its jurisdiction. The County relies on the various municipalities to provide **the first paramedic on the scene**. The County had established an Emergency Medical Service District (EM-1983-1), which consummates agreement with various EMS providers to assure the availability of emergency paramedic services within the County.

The Fire Department completed implementation of engine company paramedic services in the City of Oakland as part of the integrated countywide system of EMS delivery. American Medical Response (AMR) has a contract with Alameda County EMS to provide paramedic transport services. AMR has reduced staffing and modified their paramedic ambulance deployment. Cost savings achieved by AMR's reduced staff and deployment of ambulances are passed on to Alameda County EMS Agency, who then will reimburse the City at the rate specified above.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact to the General Fund.

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Alameda County will pay the Fire Department for the period July 2004 to June 30, 2009, an anticipated sum of nine hundred sixty two thousand dollars (\$962,000.00) (based on thirty seven thousand dollars (\$37,000.00) per each of 26 FRALS units), annually, with a 3% increase every year for the term of the agreement.

Revenue is anticipated as follows:

Fiscal year 2004-2005	\$962,000	26 Paramedic Units (\$37,000 each)
Fiscal year 2005-2006	\$990,860	26 Paramedic Units (\$38,110 each)
Fiscal year 2006-2007	\$1,020,586	26 Paramedic Units (\$39,253 each)
Fiscal year 2007-2008	\$1,048,863	26 Paramedic Units (\$40,341 each)
Fiscal year 2008-2009	\$1,082,740	26 Paramedic Units (\$41,644 each)

The Contract allows the Fire Department to increase the number of paramedic units to a maximum of 33 units as Firefighter vacancies in double houses become available. Each time an additional unit is activated, the contract stipulates the department shall be entitled to an allowance of \$37,000 for each paramedic unit placed into service. (With a 3% annual increase beginning FY 2005-06).

These revenues from the FRALS contract are to pay for Paramedic Service and include costs for maintaining an efficient and well-managed paramedic program. These costs are: trainers and paramedic premium pay, mandatory training which includes Advanced Life Support, Pediatric Advanced Life Support, Trauma Life Support, certifications and continuing education; equipment acquisition and replacement and, professional staff including quality assurance and quality improvement required by State Regulations and Alameda County Policies. The county reimbursement should be appropriated to the Fire Department's operating budget, Fund 2160 (County of Alameda Grants), Organization Code 20913 (EMS Division), Account No. 52913 Technical and Scientific Supplies, Project No. 176410 (1st Responder Advanced Life Support). The offsetting reimbursements should be deposited into the revenue account 46319 (Miscellaneous Alameda County Grants).

BACKGROUND

The Fire Department implemented a pilot Paramedic Program on May 30, 2000 to initiate paramedic services to Oakland residents. Paramedic service was requested and approved by the voters in 1997.

KEY ISSUES AND IMPACTS

Recruiting, employing and training qualified firefighter/paramedics is an on-going challenge to the firefighter/paramedic program. Currently, the department has hired and/or trained 79 firefighter/paramedics assigned to each company on a twenty-four hour basis. There is also a pool of 15 paramedics who have been promoted to Engineer, Lieutenant or Captain who can also be assigned paramedic duties. The agreement requires that the Fire Department place a unit on the scene within eight (8) minutes and thirty (30) seconds

ninety (90)% of the time, from the time of receipt of the call at the Fire Department Dispatch Center. Failure to comply with this stipulation could result in fines based upon the frequency of the occurrence. However, the department does not anticipate or expect any significant delays in our response times based upon our response history and geographic locations throughout the city.

ENVIRONMENTAL OPPORTUNITIES

Policies and procedures are in place to ensure safe, adequate and proper disposal of all biohazardous medical 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.

DISABILITY AND SENIOR CITIZEN ACCESS

Careful consideration will be utilized when paramedic and/or emergency services are provided to the disabled and/or senior community or patients with special needs.

RECOMMENDATION AND RATIONALE

This contract is to continue enhanced emergency medical services and staff highly recommends the approval of this contract. Paramedic service provided by the Fire Departments has become the standard of care in the State of California. The Fire Department has completed the necessary training, program analysis and labor discussions to continue the voter desired Paramedic Services to Oakland residents.

ACTION REQUESTED OF THE CITY COUNCIL

Staff recommends that Council approve the resolution authorizing the City Administrator to enter into a First Responder Advanced Life Support (FRALS) Services agreement with Alameda County Emergency Medical Services District and to appropriate the funds received during the period of this contract to the Fire Department's operating budget (for the 26 Paramedic Units).

Due to staffing patterns, the Fire Department is unable to determine the exact timelines and number of additional units that will be activated. We do anticipate that the entire allowance (33 units) will be active within the next thirty six (36) months. We request that the Council approve our request to activate additional units, (up to 33 Paramedic units) without returning to Council for approval for each additional unit.

Respectfully Submitted,



DANIEL D. FARRELL
Chief, Fire Department

Prepared by: Jean English RN, MS
EMS Division Chief

APPROVED AND FORWARDED TO THE
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE:



Office of the City Administrator

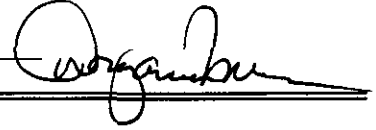
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OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

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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 FOR THE TERM JULY 2004 TO JUNE 30, 2009 AND TO APPROPRIATE PAYMENTS ANTICIPATED TO BE \$962,000 FOR THE FIRST YEAR (BASED ON \$37,000 PER EACH OF 26 FIRST RESPONDER PARAMEDIC UNITS) WITH A 3% INCREASE PER YEAR THROUGH THE LIFE OF THE AGREEMENT

WHEREAS, Alameda County is designated as the local EMS 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 which consummates agreements with various EMS providers to assure the availability of emergency paramedic services within the territory of the District; and

WHEREAS, the Fire Department has initiated the implementation of engine company paramedic services in the City of Oakland as part of the integrated county wide system of EMS delivery; and

WHEREAS, funding for these paramedic services was requested and approved by the voters in 1997; and

WHEREAS, Alameda County will pay the Fire Department for the period July, 2004 through June, 2009, a sum of thirty seven thousand dollars (\$37,000) annually per First Responder Unit in service which makes the first year total anticipated payment - nine hundred sixty two thousand dollars (\$962,000) for 26 First Responder units with a maximum of 33 First Responder Units authorized and with 3% annual increase in future years' reimbursements; and

WHEREAS, these funds are to be used to pay for the costs to implement and maintain an efficient paramedic program; and

WHEREAS, this contract for upgraded emergency services is highly recommended as the standard of care for all Alameda County district areas involved; and

WHEREAS, the Fire Department has completed the training, program development and labor discussions necessary to continue to provide 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 EMS District to provide paramedic services to Oakland residents; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That the payments for services rendered by the City received during the period of this contract are to be appropriated to the Fire Department's operating budget, Fund 2160 (County of Alameda Grants), Organization Code 20913 (EMS Training), Account No. 52913, Project No. 176410 (1st Responder Advanced Life Support); the offsetting reimbursements should be deposited into the revenue account 46319 (Miscellaneous Alameda County Grants); and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That the Responder Advanced Life Support (FRALS) services agreement shall be reviewed and approved by the Office of the City Attorney prior to execution and placed on file in the office of the City Clerk.

IN COUNCIL, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA, (DATE), 20(YEAR)

PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES- BRUNNER, CHANG, BROOKS, NADEL, REID, QUAN, AND
PRESIDENT DE LA FUENTE

NOES-

ABSENT-

ABSTENTION-

ATTEST:

LATONDA SIMMONS
Interim City Clerk and Clerk of the Council
of the City of Oakland, California