

CITY OF OAKLAND

AGENDA REPORT

2011 JUN -9 PM 1:34

TO: Office of the City Administrator
ATTN: P. Lamont Ewell, Interim City Administrator
FROM: Oakland Fire Department
DATE: June 21, 2011

RE: **Resolution Authorizing The City Administrator To Agree To An Extension Of The First Responder Advanced Life Support (FRALS) Services Agreement With Alameda County Emergency Medical Services District Until October 31, 2011, Or Until The Date The New Agreement Is Executed By Both The City And The County, Whichever Is Sooner**

SUMMARY

A resolution has been prepared authorizing the City Administrator to extend the First Responder Advanced Life Support (FRALS) Services Agreement between the City of Oakland and Alameda County Emergency Medical Services (EMS) for the period July 1, 2011 through October 31, 2011 or until the date the new agreement is executed by both the City and the County, whichever is sooner.

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 June 30, 2011. The previous contract was negotiated in 2004.

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. A new agreement with the County will be executed prior to that date.

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FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact related to the extension of the existing FRALS agreement and there is no direct fiscal impact to the General Purpose Fund. When the new agreement is executed, prior to November 1, 2011, Alameda County will pay the City of Oakland \$42,893 per unit annually for its 26 FRALS units, for an anticipated total of \$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.

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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 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.

The FRALS agreement is not subject to the advertising and request for proposals/qualifications process of the City of Oakland purchasing ordinance because the Fire Department is providing services, not purchasing services. Oakland City Charter Article V, Section 504(1) requires City Council approval of the FRALS agreement because it is an intergovernmental agreement.

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.

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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 July 1, 2011 through October 31, 2011, or until the date the new agreement is executed by both the City and County, whichever date is sooner. This contract will allow OFD to continue providing quality paramedic services in the City of Oakland.

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ACTION REQUESTED OF THE CITY COUNCIL

Staff requests 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 July 1, 2011 through October 31, 2011 or until the date the new agreement is executed by both the City and County, whichever date is sooner.

Respectfully submitted,



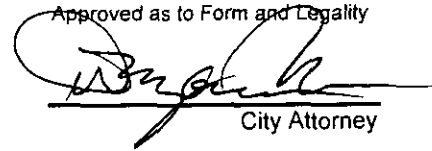
Mark Hoffmann, Interim Fire Chief
Oakland Fire Department

Prepared by:
Anne Campbell Washington, Chief of Staff

**APPROVED AND FORWARDED
TO CITY COUNCIL**


Office of the City Administrator

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 City Attorney

 OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
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OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION NO. _____ C.M.S.

Introduced by Councilmember _____

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR TO EXTEND THE FIRST RESPONDER ADVANCED LIFE SUPPORT (FRALS) SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH ALAMEDA COUNTY EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES DISTRICT (COUNTY) TO PROVIDE PARAMEDIC SERVICES WITHIN OAKLAND IN EXCHANGE FOR COUNTY FUNDING FOR THE TERM JULY 1, 2011 TO OCTOBER 31, 2011, OR UNTIL THE DATE THE NEW AGREEMENT IS EXECUTED BY BOTH THE CITY AND COUNTY, WHICHEVER IS SOONER

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 provide 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, under which the Oakland Fire Department, in exchange for County funding, has provided emergency medical services in the city of Oakland as part of the integrated county-wide system of emergency medical service delivery, fully implementing 26 paramedic companies; 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, the FRALS contract is not subject to the advertising and request for proposals/qualifications process of the Oakland's purchasing ordinance because the Fire Department is providing services, not purchasing services; and

WHEREAS, Oakland Charter Article V, Section 504(l) requires City Council approval of the FRALS agreement because it is an intergovernmental agreement, and per Resolution No. 82047 C.M.S., approved June 2, 2009, 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, 2009 through June 30, 2011; and

WHEREAS, the Fire Department provides the training and program management necessary to continue to deliver paramedic services to Oakland residents; and

WHEREAS, the existing FRALS agreement expires on June 30, 2011 and Alameda County has asked the City to extend this agreement; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the City Administrator is hereby authorized to extend the First Responder Advanced Life Support (FRALS) Services Agreement with Alameda County Emergency Medical Services District to provide paramedic units and services from July 1, 2011 through October 31, 2011, or until the date the new agreement is executed by both the City and the County, whichever date is sooner; 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