



VENTURA COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT

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Board of Directors
Ventura County Fire Protection District
800 S. Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009

SUBJECT:

Authorization for the Fire Chief to enter into a Month-to-Month Ambulance Service Agreement with American Medical Response Ambulance Service, Inc, and Gold Cost Ambulance Service to provide Ambulance Transport Services; Authorize the Fire Chief or His Designee to Agree upon a Deployment Plan for Ambulance Services Resources and to Amend Exhibit A to the Agreement, as provided for in the Agreement.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Authorize the Fire Chief to enter into the month-to-month ambulance services agreement attached hereto as Exhibit 1 ("Agreement") with American Medical Response Ambulance Service, Inc, and Gold Cost Ambulance Service (collectively, "AMR") to provide Ambulance Transport Services.
2. Authorize the Fire Chief or his designee to agree upon a Deployment Plan for ambulance services resources and to amend Exhibit A to the Agreement, as provided for in the Agreement.

FISCAL/MANDATES IMPACT:

Mandatory:

Source of Funding:

Funding Match Required:

Impacts on Other Departments:

No

American Medical Response Ambulance Service, Inc

None

<u>Summary of Revenue and Total Costs:</u>	<u>FY 2022-2023</u>	<u>FY 2023-2024</u>
Revenue:	\$ 0	\$ 650,000
Costs:		
Direct – Dept.	\$ 0	\$ 0
Indirect – County CAP	\$ 0	\$ 0
Direct:	\$ 0	\$ 0
Total Costs:	\$ 0	\$ 0
Net Costs:	(\$ 0)	(\$ 650,000)

Current FY 2022-23 Budget Projection for the Fire District – BU 2721				
	Adopted Budget	Adjusted Budget	Projected Budget	Estimated Savings/(Deficit)
Appropriations	176,915,058	218,470,721	206,730,160	11,740,561
Revenue	179,155,685	191,580,495	210,047,168	18,466,673
Net Cost	(2,240,627)	26,890,226	(3,317,008)	30,207,234

Sufficient appropriations are in the FY 2023-24 recommended budget for this program.

BACKGROUND:

Currently, in Ventura County, emergency ground ambulance services are provided through contracts held by AMR. To assist with foreseen and unforeseen Emergency Medical System (EMS) demands, the Ventura County Fire Protection District, also known as the Ventura County Fire Department (VCFD), and AMR have negotiated a subcontract which will allow the District to perform emergency ground ambulance transport when an AMR ambulance is not readily available, helping to improve continuity of care and the quality service for the people of Ventura County.

DISCUSSION:

Over the last several years, the EMS system in Ventura County has experienced challenges with the COVID-19 pandemic, Borderline tragedy, wildfires, weather events, as well as supply chain and workforce challenges. In addition, multi-casualty incidents, large public events, and lengthy incident standbys create a draw on the system. Some of these events can be anticipated, while many occur suddenly, leaving little time to react.

To improve the availability of transport resources, there needs to be appropriately trained personnel and apparatus at the ready. The approval and implementation of this subcontract will allow VCFD to shift firefighters currently assigned to paramedic squads to rescue ambulances. These rescue ambulances will be used in a surge capacity to assist the system in times of drawdown. They will be deployed throughout the county and available to respond in place of, or in addition to, the contracted ground ambulances. In addition to

improving capacity, VCFD rescue ambulances can be used to replace current AMR ambulances at prolonged incident standbys, allowing AMR to remain available for emergency response. VCFD rescue ambulances would also be available for regional mutual aid responses.

While the actual number of transports is unknown, based on historical call data, VCFD estimates it will transport approximately 1,300 patients per year. AMR will compensate VCFD \$500 for each transport which equates to \$650,000 in anticipated revenues annually. VCFD will use these funds to reimburse the cost incurred to purchase rescue ambulances, equip them with advanced life support and transport equipment, and keep them in service.

The County Executive Office, the Auditor-Controller's Office, and County Counsel have reviewed this letter. If you have any questions, please contact me at (805) 389-9704 or Assistant Chief James Scott Quirarte at (805) 389-9726.

Dustin Gardner
Fire Chief



DG/SQ/JD:bw

Attachments:

- Exhibit 1 – Subcontractor Ambulance Services Agreement
- Exhibit 2 – VNC-AMR Subcontract Consent Letter