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To: Ron Chips & Chris walker
From: Chad Cook Deputy Fire Chief-Ventura County Fire Department
Date: 9/13/24
Subject: Support for the Addition of a Firefighting Monitor to the MEDCAT Vehicle

Purpose:

The purpose of this memo is to advocate for the integration of a firefighting water monitor into the MEDCAT vehicle. This enhancement will significantly bolster our firefighting capabilities, especially in high-risk and challenging environments.

Current Role of MEDCAT:

The MEDCAT vehicle currently serves a crucial role in providing medical care under force protection. It enables us to access patients in hazardous areas, such as during active shooter situations or barricade incidents, where traditional emergency vehicles may be restricted.

Proposed Enhancement:

We propose and support equipping the MEDCAT with a firefighting water monitor. Unlike conventional fire engines, this water monitor does not contain its own water supply and requires connection to an external fire engine for water delivery outside a hazardous area.

Benefits of Integration:

- 1. Enhanced Fire Suppression Under Force Protection:**
 - The water monitor will allow us to conduct effective fire suppression operations while maintaining the safety provided by the MEDCAT's armored protection.
 - This integration enables us to safeguard both the involved structures and surrounding properties from fire damage.
- 2. Operational Efficiency in Hazardous Conditions:**
 - The MEDCAT's ability to navigate active fires or difficult terrain will be complemented by the water monitor's capacity to target and suppress fires from a safe distance.
 - During incidents like the Martel fire in Simi and the recent barricaded subject in Moorpark, a water monitor could have significantly improved our response, allowing us to manage fires more effectively and protect both our people and critical areas.
- 3. Improved Safety for Personnel:**
 - The water monitor can be operated remotely from within the MEDCAT, reducing the need for personnel to be exposed to extreme conditions such as intense heat, flying debris, gunfire, or explosions.
 - The armored protection of the MEDCAT ensures that our personnel remain shielded while performing fire suppression tasks.
- 4. Versatility and Adaptability:**

- The water monitor provides adjustable range and pressure settings, allowing for precise firefighting operations. This versatility is crucial for protecting structures, managing fire lines, and cooling down hotspots from a distance.
- 5. **Increased Efficiency and Durability:**
 - Armored vehicles like the MEDCAT are designed to withstand continuous operation in extreme environments, offering consistent fire suppression capabilities without frequent equipment replacements or repairs.
- 6. **Specific Use Cases:**
 - The addition of a water monitor is particularly beneficial in wildfire-prone areas, industrial zones with hazardous materials, and urban settings with severe fire threats. In addition to the above stated items this monitor would be considered a standard firefighting item that is easily operated and manipulated.

Conclusion:

Integrating a firefighting water monitor into the MEDCAT vehicle will significantly enhance our ability to respond to and manage fires under dangerous conditions. This upgrade not only improves our operational effectiveness but also ensures the safety of our personnel while providing critical fire suppression capabilities.

We recommend the approval and allocation of resources for this important enhancement to ensure that our firefighting and emergency response efforts remain robust and effective.

Action Required:

Approval and support for the procurement that has occurred and the installation of a water monitor on the MEDCAT vehicle.

Thank you for considering this proposal. I am available to discuss any questions or provide further information as needed.

Chad Cook
Deputy Fire Chief