



CITY COUNCIL AGENDA STATEMENT



December 18, 2018

File ID: 18-0554

TITLE

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHULA VISTA APPROVING THE ELIMINATION OF ONE (1.0) FTE EMS NURSE COORDINATOR POSITION, THE ADDITION OF ONE (1.0) FTE FIRE CAPTAIN POSITION AND AMENDING THE FY19 BUDGET TO REFLECT THE CHANGES

RECOMMENDED ACTION

That Council approve the proposed changes in Fire Department staffing within the EMS Division modifying the FY 19 budget by eliminating one EMS Nurse Coordinator position and adding one Fire Captain position.

SUMMARY

During the past five years, the City implemented an Advanced Life Support ("ALS") program whereby City paramedics provide ALS services as first responders" using City Fire Engines otherwise known as the First Responder ALS (FRALS) program. The FRALS program is funded solely by fees generated through ambulance transports. This item is a request to eliminate one position and to create one new position in the ALS program to support the activities of the division. The previous EMS Nurse Coordinator position will be eliminated and replaced with a Fire Captain position that will fulfill daily EMS support functions.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

The Director of Development Services has reviewed the proposed activity for compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and has determined that the activity is not a "Project" as defined under Section 15378 of the State CEQA Guidelines because the proposal consists of staffing actions which will not result in direct or indirect significant physical impacts on the environment. Therefore, pursuant to Section 15060 (c)(3) of the State CEQA Guidelines the activity is not subject to CEQA. Thus, no environmental review is necessary.

BOARD/COMMISSION/COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Not applicable.

DISCUSSION

Background

EMS Nurse Coordinator

Since the inception of the ALS program in 2013, the day to day management of the program has been performed by an employee who has a clinical background as a Registered Nurse, as well as experience as a

Paramedic. The clinical background was necessary during the initial startup of the program, as the department would be interacting extensively with the medical community, and this position would act as a liaison. During the last five years the department's ALS personnel have acquired significant experience and increased interaction with the medical community, as well as obtaining a contract Medical Director to address complex clinical and administrative issues.

Fire Captain

The transition of daily operational duties will be assumed by the EMS Captain. The position will have primary responsibility for ensuring that personnel are well trained and equipped to provide paramedic and emergency medical technician service to our residents and visitors. The EMS Captain will oversee the training, supply, medical record, and quality improvement programs for the department. In addition, the EMS Captain will function as a daily liaison with the department, public, and medical community. To perform these duties effectively, the EMS Captain must be qualified as a Paramedic. The position will be funded through fees collected by the FRALS program.

DECISION-MAKER CONFLICT

Staff has reviewed the decision contemplated by this action and has determined that it is not site specific and consequently the 500-foot rule found in California Code of Regulations section 18704.2(a)(1) is not applicable to this decision.

LINK TO STRATEGIC GOALS

The City's Strategic Plan has five major goals: Operational Excellence, Economic Vitality, Healthy Community, Strong and Secure Neighborhoods and a Connected Community. The addition of one Fire Captain assigned to the EMS Division has a direct link to the City's strategic goals of Operational Excellence.

CURRENT-YEAR FISCAL IMPACT

There are no General Fund costs associated with the changes in the Emergency Medical Services program. Funding is provided through transport fees collected by the FRALS program. The current year budget allocation for the EMS Nurse Coordinator will be moved to the EMS Captain position.

ONGOING FISCAL IMPACT

There are no ongoing General Fund costs associated with the changes in the Emergency Medical Services program. Funding is provided through transport fees collected by the FRALS program. This program will continue to be part of the City Manager Proposed Budget and be considered as part of the normal budget process. Expenses for the EMS Captain in succeeding fiscal years are funded in the ALS budget within the current transport contract agreement.

ATTACHMENTS

None.

Staff Contact: Jim Geering, Fire Department