



CITY COUNCIL AGENDA STATEMENT



September 25, 2018

File ID: 18-0432

TITLE

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHULA VISTA WAIVING THE BIDDING REQUIREMENT AND APPROVING THE SECOND AMENDMENT TO THE MEDICAL DIRECTOR AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA AND THE CITY OF CHULA VISTA FOR MEDICAL DIRECTOR SERVICES SUPPORTING THE FIRE DEPARTMENT'S ADVANCE LIFE SUPPORT PROGRAM

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Council adopt the resolution.

SUMMARY

On December 10, 2013, the City Council approved Resolution No. 2013-249, approving a contract between the City of Chula Vista and the Regents of the University of California, on behalf of the University of California, San Diego, School of Medicine, Department of Emergency Medicine (UCSD) for medical director services necessary for the Fire Department's Advanced Life Support (ALS) program. UCSD has a unique performance capability because it is the only academic medical center in San Diego County with the resources, staffing and experience to provide medical direction and access to academic facilities for ALS implementation. On September 22, 2015, the Council approved the First Amendment to the contract, increasing compensation to UCSD and extending the term to September 30, 2018. The Fire Department and UCSD would like to continue the relationship. Consequently, staff is asking the Council to waive the bidding requirement and approve the Second Amendment, with no increase in compensation, for a term of October 1, 2018 to September 30, 2021.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

The Development Services Director 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; therefore, pursuant to Section 15060(c)(3) of the State CEQA Guidelines the activity is not subject to CEQA. Thus, no environmental review is required.

BOARD/COMMISSION/COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Not applicable

DISCUSSION

Background

Emergency Medical Services (EMS) has become a core function of the fire service over the last 40 years. Calls for medical assistance now constitute 85 percent of the requests for service in the City of Chula Vista.

CVFD has been a provider of Basic Life Support (BLS) for the last 30 years. BLS care does not involve the administration of medication or performance of procedures based on independent assessment and judgment. By contrast, Advanced Life Support (ALS) involves the delegated practice of medicine through state, county, and provider agency regulations. The City Council has authorized the Fire Department's transition from BLS to ALS and the funding necessary for this transition. In 2013, the City entered into an agreement with the County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Department, Emergency Medical Services Division, to provide ALS. The provision of ALS requires a level of medical expertise to establish proper policies and procedures, quality improvement and education.

The California Code of Regulations, Title 22, defines the scope of practice for paramedics. The state delegates the administration of practice to the Local Emergency Medical Services Agency (LEMSA), which determines what the local standard of medical care shall be. Standardized medical treatment protocols are developed to guide paramedics in their delegated practice. Online medical direction is provided by designated base hospitals through their physician staff. The provider agency can further define what their policies shall be concerning medical care and equipment.

Accordingly, an integral member of the ALS team is the Medical Director. The Medical Director is a physician who has received prehospital emergency medical services training and provides expertise that guides the Department's policies and procedures, quality improvement, and training activities. The Medical Director also provides leadership in representing the City and the Fire Department within the medical community as well. The Medical Director serves as a liaison and advocate for the City of Chula Vista and its Fire Department, with outside regulatory agencies such as the State of California, County of San Diego, and local groups such as the base hospital physicians and prehospital audit committees.

The primary role of the Medical Director for the provider agency is to assist in establishing policies and procedures that enhance the quality and safety of pre-hospital care provided to the citizens and visitors of Chula Vista. The Medical Director is an integral part of the quality improvement process where care provided is evaluated and improvements are recommended.

Another role for the Medical Director is the direct provision or guidance of medical training, based on evidenced-based medicine and best practices. The Medical Director serves as a liaison to state and county agencies as well as to the local medical community.

The City does not employ staff with the level of expertise in this specific area of prehospital medical practice of emergency medicine. Given the complexity of the ALS Program, this expertise is best obtained in a contractual relationship for medical director services.

The City has contracted with UCSD for medical directions services since 2013. UCSD has a unique performance capability because it is the only academic medical center in San Diego County with the

resources, staffing and experience to provide medical direction and access to academic facilities for ALS training. There are no other academic medical centers in San Diego County with the resources and ability to provide the Medical Director services. UCSD is the only facility that participates in the training of paramedics, emergency medicine physicians, and emergency medical services directors. As a designated Base Hospital, they are active in the medical control of paramedic care.

UCSD is willing to have one of its doctors, Jennifer Farah, M.D., serve as the Medical Director for the Chula Vista Fire Department, provided that the City is willing to compensate UCSD for her services in the amount of \$41,212 per annum for three (3) years. This amount is unchanged from the agreement expiring on September 30, 2018. To have Dr. Farah serve as the Medical Director, it is necessary for the City Council to waive the bidding requirements because of UCSD's unique performance abilities, because of the impracticality of soliciting bids for this necessary service, and because continuing to contract with UCSD is in the City's best interests.

DECISION-MAKER CONFLICT

Staff is not independently aware, nor has staff been informed by any City Councilmember, of any other fact that may constitute a basis for a decision maker conflict of interest in this matter. This contractual agreement is consistent with the cities strategic plan, as medical direction is a requirement of the ALS program, which is incorporated within the plan itself.

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 addendum to the Chula Vista Fire Department Fire Facility, Equipment, and Deployment Master Plan has a direct link to the City's strategic goals of Strong and Secure Neighborhoods.

CURRENT-YEAR FISCAL IMPACT

These funds are available in the current ALS Program budget.

ONGOING FISCAL IMPACT

The ongoing fiscal impact will be \$41,212 per year as specified in the contract (total \$123,635 for three years). These funds are already included in the ALS Program budget, with no additional impact on the general fund.

ATTACHMENTS

1 – Second Amendment

Staff Contact: Fire Chief