



City Council Report

Date: June 21, 2021

To: City Council

Through: Christopher J. Brady, City Manager, or
John Pombier, Assistant City Manager

From: Mary Cameli, Fire Chief
Cori Hayes, Assistant Fire Chief

Subject: Intergovernmental Agreement for mutual back-up ambulance services between the Mesa Fire and Medical Department and the Gilbert Fire and Rescue Department. (Citywide)

Purpose and Recommendation

The purpose of this report is to request Council approval to authorize the City Manager or designee to enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) for mutual back-up ambulance services between the Mesa Fire and Medical Department (MFMD) and the Gilbert Fire and Rescue Department (GFRD). The recommendation is to enter this IGA between MFMD and GFRD for mutual back-up ambulance services for 911 emergency transportation.

Background

A Certificate of Necessity (CON) issued by the Arizona Department of Health Services is required to provide ambulance services. The MFMD shares a jurisdictional border with the GFRD and each operates ambulance services within their respective CON boundaries only. State statute (A.R.S. §§ 11-951 through 11-954, as amended, and A.A.C. R9-25-907) require that to cross boundaries an agreement must be made between CON holders of the respective service areas.

The GFRD is a current partner to the Mesa Regional Dispatch Center and the regional Automatic Aid consortiums for emergency fire and medical services which ensures the closest appropriate unit is dispatched to an emergency across borders. These partnerships reduce response times and provide consistent service to the community. The proposed IGA will allow the MFMD and the GFRD ambulances to provide services across CON boundaries between the two jurisdictions. The intent is to allow the ability to provide back-up ambulance services to each other, upon request, when additional ambulances may be needed in each service area.

Discussion

Currently MFMD and GFRD ambulance transportation units are unable to cross jurisdictional borders to provide service in each other's respective jurisdictions. This IGA will enable these agency's units to provide back-up service to each other and

cross borders when needed to ensure the closest unit response for emergency transportation requests. In addition, each agency will be able to respond and post in the respective agency's jurisdiction during times of high call volume ensuring reliable and consistent service to the community.

Alternatives

Entering this IGA will mutually strengthen the MFMD's and the GFRD's ability to provide reliable and timely emergency ambulance transportation.

Alternatively, the decision may be made to not enter into this IGA which may result in longer response times on some emergency transportation requests in both the City of Mesa and the Town of Gilbert.

Fiscal Impact

There is no financial impact with this agreement.

Coordinated With

The current proposal was reviewed by staff from the Mesa Fire and Medical Department, the City of Mesa Attorney's office, and the Gilbert Fire and Rescue Department.