



City Council Report

Date: May 6th, 2013
To: City Council
Through: John Pombier, Deputy City Manager
From: Harry Beck, Fire Chief
Dan Stubbs, Assistant Fire Chief
Subject: Amendment to the Regional Emergency Medical Transportation Services Agreement for the Mesa Fire/Medical Department and the Other Regional Members, the Apache Junction Fire District and the Towns of Gilbert and Queen Creek (Contract #2009145)
“Citywide” Contract

Strategic Initiatives



Purpose and Recommendation

The Mesa Fire and Medical Department respectfully requests that Council approve the attached Resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute amendments to the Agreement for Regional Emergency Medical Transportation Services with Southwest Ambulance. As explained further below, there is a current amendment draft that only affects Mesa's regional partners (Apache Junction Fire District and the Towns of Gilbert and Queen Creek). However, as the lead agency for the regional agreement, Mesa must sign the amendment for it to become effective.

Background

In August 2011, a regional partnership consisting of Mesa, the Apache Junction Fire District, and the Towns of Gilbert and Queen Creek executed the Regional Emergency Medical Transportation Services Agreement. Also during this time, Mesa's partners, including Southwest Ambulance, adopted Mesa's ambulance response model which limits Code 3 (“lights and sirens”) responses for specific, more serious emergencies. In some of the partners' geographic response zones, this change significantly reduced Code 3 call volumes and left Southwest Ambulance with little room for error in their response times resulting in liquidated damages assessments between \$50,000 and \$270,000 for only 1 or 2 late responses. The regional partners did not intend to assess damages at these levels.

Discussion

The regional partners drafted an amendment that realigns liquidated damages with the partners' original intent. Specifically, for the "low-volume" response zones, Code 3 response times will be evaluated quarterly instead of monthly (thereby expanding the allowable margin of error). Further, liquidated damages for each late response will be reduced to \$8,000 per late response.

The distribution of the affected response zones is as follows:

- 1 of 2 zones in Gilbert
- 2 of 3 zones in Apache Junction
- The single zone in Queen Creek

Mesa is not affected by the amendment.

To execute this and future amendments, each regional partner's governing board must approve resolutions like the one proposed here. Further, the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) must review and approve the amendment. In April 2013, ADHS provided preliminary approval for the current amendment, with final approval contingent on the partners' resolutions/signatures.

Alternatives

Council may choose not to approve this Resolution and the contract terms will remain as-is.

Fiscal Impact

As Mesa is not affected by the drafted amendment, there are no fiscal impacts associated with it.

Coordinated With

The amendment has been coordinated with the following fire departments: Mesa, Apache Junction, Gilbert, and Queen Creek.