

LRB – FISCAL REVIEW SECTION ANALYSIS

MAY 2, 2002 AGENDA
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

ITEM 17, FILE 011700
Emma J. Stamps

File No. 011700 is a resolution authorizing the execution of an agreement between the City of Milwaukee and Milwaukee County pertaining to the use of county-owned Emergency Medical Service response vehicles.

Background

1. Under State law, the county is the government entity responsible for providing emergency medical services. The City of Milwaukee provides paramedic services for the City of Milwaukee under a service agreement with the County.
2. Fire stations that are used for current field placement for all EMS-Paramedic students, 2050 N. Palmer Street and 1313 W. Reservoir Avenue, will house the aforementioned vehicles.
3. Before 2000, the Fire department billed Milwaukee County for the Paramedic program costs. To alleviate concerns regarding state allowances, a program change was implemented where revenue would come from County grants.
4. Consequently, EMS responses constituted 76% of all 2000 Fire Department responses, according to the 2002 Budget summary.

Discussion

1. The county emergency program purchased two new large cab vehicles (Type I, 2001 Freightliners by Braun), valued at approximately \$150,000 each, for use as training vehicles in scenarios that offer the widest range of "real-life" rescue experience.
2. The County wishes to transfer operational responsibility for these county-owned EMS vehicles to the City via the Milwaukee Fire Department. The agreement is for five years or until either party notifies the other of their wish to terminate.
3. According to the department, this is the first agreement of its kind between the Milwaukee Fire Department and Milwaukee County.
4. The Milwaukee Fire Department will use the new vehicles as front-line emergency response vehicles during training (approximately 6 months out of the year) **and non-training routines.**
5. The department plans to use these units to **replace** smaller, older units. Depending on a shop assessment, the older units will become "other MED units" or "fire squads".
6. No special driving training is required. Staff at each location will receive a vehicle orientation by the vehicle operations instructor.

Fiscal Impact

1. This resolution directs the appropriate City officials to enter an agreement with Milwaukee County under which the City would assume operational and maintenance responsibility for two new Emergency Medical Services training vehicles **at unspecified costs to the City**. The closest measure should reflect normal maintenance of existing vehicles.
2. The Paramedic Grant partially reimburses the City for MED unit related maintenance costs.

Other Information

Before 2002, fire equipment apparatus was funded through the Fire Department's operating budget. Beginning in 2002, this practice was altered and the City began funding fire equipment apparatus through the capital budget.

File 011700 could provide a cost savings to the City because the County is giving the department 2 new vehicles worth approximately \$150,000 each. Thereby, eliminating the need to obtain 2 purchase vehicles in the future and a future debt service of \$300,000 (2 @ \$150,000 each) plus interest.

Cc: Marianne C. Walsh
Chief Lawrence Gardner
Deputy Chief, EMS Coordinator Gloria Murawsky
W. Martin Morics
Laura Engan

Prepared by: Emma J. Stamps X8666
LRB – Fiscal Review Section
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