



City Council

Approval of Intergovernmental EMS Contract for Paramedic Services with Thurston County

Agenda Date: 4/15/2014
Agenda Item Number: 4.G
File Number: 14-0331

Type: contract **Version:** 1 **Status:** Passed

Title

Approval of Intergovernmental EMS Contract for Paramedic Services with Thurston County

Recommended Action

Committee Recommendation:

Not referred to a committee.

City Manager Recommendation:

Move to approve the Interlocal EMS Contract for the Mayor's signature.

Report

Issue:

Changes in the number of paramedics at Olympia Fire Department necessitates a change in the Intergovernmental EMS Contract.

Staff Contact:

Greg Wright, Deputy Fire Chief, 360.753.8466

Presenter(s):

Greg Wright, Deputy Fire Chief

Background and Analysis:

The City of Olympia has had a contract with Thurston County (Medic One) to provide paramedic services for nearly 40 years. The contract language specifically ties the reimbursement to the City to the number of paramedic FTE's being employed. The language specifies 7 paramedics at 100% or 8 paramedics at 90% or 9 paramedics at 80% for each paramedic unit, Medic 4 and Medic 10. The City makes up the difference allowing the City to employ paramedic firefighters at reduced cost per FTE. The arrangement has served both parties and the citizens of Olympia and Thurston County well. The contract as is currently written specifies the number of FTE's.

In 2014 the Olympia Fire Department has experienced and will continue to experience a number of retirements and promotions changing the number of paramedics. Each time this happens the contract in its current form needs to be reopened and changed. This requires a significant amount of staff time, legal time for review, City Council and Board of County Commissioners time. Last year

when one such change was made the question was asked, "why not create a contract that had more flexibility?" At the time it was decided not to make the changes but with the number of paramedic retirements and promotions expected by Olympia Fire Department in 2014, it has been decided to change the contract once to create the flexibility needed rather than reopen the contract each time there is a change in the number of paramedics.

The way the percentages are tied to the number of FTE's creates a situation where the cost to the County is essentially the same no matter the number of paramedic FTE's. The City needs flexibility to invoice for a changing number of paramedic FTE's so that revenue received matches the revenue budgeted for 2014. Approving this agreement provides the needed flexibility and assures that the City receives the appropriate reimbursement. It does not appreciable affect the County financially and saves all parties significant staff, legal and elected official time.

Neighborhood/Community Interests (if known):

N/A

Options:

Approve the Interlocal EMS Contract for Paramedic Services for the Mayor's signature.

Financial Impact:

None if passed. Passage assures that the City of Olympia is able to recover fully the budgeted cost of providing paramedic services.