



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

File Number:

Agenda Item Number: 37

Agenda Date: June 23, 2022

In Control: City Council A Session

DEPARTMENT: Fire Department

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Charles Hood, Fire Chief

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: Citywide

SUBJECT:

EMS Medical Direction, Control and Training Interlocal Agreements with UT Health San Antonio

SUMMARY:

An Ordinance authorizing Interlocal Agreements with the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio (also called UT Health San Antonio) for a five-year period with the option to extend for two additional one-year renewals. These agreements will provide the San Antonio Fire Department (SAFD) with Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) training, Emergency Medical Services (EMS) system oversight and EMS Medical Direction services in the amount of \$4,289,887 in FY 2023 with increases in future years for a total five-year contract amount of \$23.3 million. Funding for this contract is available from the General Fund and contingent upon approval of the City's annual budget.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

UT Health San Antonio has provided the Fire Department with EMT Basic and Paramedic training, EMS Medical Director services and EMS system oversight for over 48 years. The Health Science center has been an important partner and asset to the department over the years and has been the sole provider for SAFD since the inception of the EMS system in 1974. The current Agreements

with UT Health San Antonio were approved by City Council on August 12, 2017, by Ordinance 2017-08-31-0611 and are set to expire on September 30, 2022.

In order for the SAFD to provide emergency medical services, the State requires the City to have Medical Director Services, Emergency Medical Technician and Paramedic professional training that has been approved by the Texas Department of State Health Services in accordance with the Texas Administrative Code, and mandated continuing education for all levels of Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT) and Paramedics. The State requires the city to operate its EMS system under a State of Texas licensed physician. In addition, the City is required to have treatment and transport protocols approved and signed by the Medical Director.

The medical training and continuing education is provided to all members of the SAFD. The training and provision of emergency medical services is key to the mission of the Fire Department. On average, 80% of all calls responded to by SAFD are medical in nature.

ISSUE:

An Ordinance authorizing Interlocal Agreements with the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio (also called UT Health San Antonio) for a five-year period with the option to extend for two additional one-year renewals. These agreements will provide the San Antonio Fire Department (SAFD) with Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) training, Emergency Medical Services (EMS) system oversight and EMS Medical Direction services in the amount of \$4,289,887 in FY 2023 with increases in future years for a total five-year contract amount of \$23.3 million. Funding for this contract is available from the General Fund and contingent upon approval of the City's annual budget.

The City operates the Emergency Medical Services throughout the City of San Antonio and other municipalities. These contracts with the UT Health San Antonio will meet the State mandated requirements to train emergency medical personnel and oversee the City's Emergency Medical System. These contracts are as follows:

Year	Medical Control & Training	Medical Direction	EMS Medical Control & Training	Total
FY2023	\$2,276,911	\$1,517,071	\$495,905	\$4,289,887
FY2024	\$2,377,901	\$1,635,387	\$504,245	\$4,517,533
FY2025	\$2,483,445	\$1,666,685	\$513,571	\$4,663,701
FY2026	\$2,593,765	\$1,716,685	\$522,360	\$4,832,810
FY2027	\$2,709,092	\$1,768,168	\$531,482	\$5,008,742
Total	\$12,441,114	\$8,303,996	\$2,567,563	\$23,312,673

*EMS Medical Control and Training Amounts will vary depending on the size of the class. Additional expenses to complete training for EMT Basics and Paramedics will be funded from the SAFD FY 2023 general fund budget.

ALTERNATIVES:

There are currently no other locally accredited education systems that would be able to provide medical direction and education for the SAFD.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This Ordinance authorizing Interlocal Agreements with the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio to provide the San Antonio Fire Department (SAFD) with Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) training, Emergency Medical Services (EMS) system oversight and EMS Medical Direction services. The annual contract amounts are as follows:

Year	Medical Control & Training	Medical Direction	EMS Medical Control & Training	Total
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Funding for this agreement will be funded by General Fund and is contingent upon City Council approval of future budgets.

RECOMMENDATION:

The staff recommends the approval the agreements between the City and the UT Health San Antonio to provide the City with State-mandated EMS oversight and training.