



Austin – Travis County EMS Advisory Board RECOMMENDATION 20150803-007

Date: 08/24/2015

Subject: FY15-16 EMS Budget

Motioned By: Board Member, Dr. Christopher Ziebell

Seconded By: Vice Chair Paula Barr

Recommendation

To support drafting and sending a letter to Mayor/Council and Travis County Judge and Commissioners in support of the EMS budget and unmet needs, highlighting the importance of supporting a 42-hour work week. Approved on Board Member Ziebell's motion and Vice Chair Barr's second, on a 6-0 vote.

Description of Recommendation to Council

We support full funding of the EMS budget, as it being contemplated for FY 2015-2016. In addition, we believe that many of the items listed as Unmet Needs have considerable merit. Several items in particular are worth your strong support, including conversion to a 42-hour work week for EMS employees, expanding continuing education hours for EMS employees, enhancing special events staffing, and adding ambulances to the fleet to provide surge capacity if a Mass Casualty Incident (MCI) were to occur.

Rationale:

1. **42-Hour Work Week** - Currently, ATCEMS Medics in field operations are assigned to work a 48-hour work week, which includes 8 hours of mandatory overtime. To address increasing call volume and workforce fatigue, medics should be on a 42-hour work week. Transition to the new work schedule would require hiring additional medics and would be phased in over two years.
2. **Continuing Education** - Training dollars have not kept up with the expansion of total uniformed positions. This request is for overtime funding of essential training for field and communications personnel.
3. **Special Events Staffing** - As the number and complexity of special events have increased, so too have demands on EMS. This request is to add several positions to better support special events, such that these needs can be met while reducing the required overtime.
4. **Addition of Ambulances to Fleet** - The addition of 7 ambulances to the current fleet would allow for dedicated daytime and a dedicated night time units, thereby reducing mileage and maintenance on the fleet, prolonging the life of the existing fleet. In addition, the additional units would provide surge capacity at any moment should a MCI occur.

Vote

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Absent: 1

Attest:

Murphy