

**AUSTIN – TRAVIS COUNTY EMS ADVISORY BOARD
MEETING MINUTES**

WEDNESDAY, June 7, 2016



The Austin – Travis County EMS Advisory Board convened on June 7, 2016, 15 Waller Street, in Austin, Texas at 9:30 a.m.

Board Members in Attendance: Mark Clayton, Paula Barr, Chris Ziebell, Lisa Harris, Justin Otwell, John Villanacci, Tracy Dalbosco

Board Members Absent: Vard Curtis

Other Attendees: Jeff Hayes, Michael Benavides, Ernesto Rodriguez, Teresa Gardner, Katie Lust, Kerri Lang, Vivian Holmes, Jasper Brown, Doug Fowler

1. CALL TO ORDER – June 7, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 9:32 a.m.

2. QUORUM DETERMINATION

A quorum was met and the meeting proceeded.

3. STAFF PRESENTATION ON CITY OF AUSTIN EMS BUDGET FOR FY17

Kerri Lang, EMS Assistant Director, Administration and Finance provided a presentation of the budget for FY2017. (See the attached presentation). The presentation included: Projected Calls for Service, FY2017 Forecasted Budget & Revenue, Cost Drivers, Description Amounts, and EMS Identified Needs.

Board Members and Staff discussed the presentation.

- Warehouse Relocation Services – How much is the relocation cost? Corporate Real Estate and the Budget Office will determine what the cost will be for the relocation. If it doesn't get approved, the city can determine next steps and see where those funds can come from.
- CE Training – We currently have 24 hours of funding and need an additional 24 hours added to this so they can complete their continuing education.
- Staff psychologist – this item has been moved only to the Fire Dept. this doesn't change access to EMS employees.
- Child Safety Seat Program – has been funded by a grant in the past and this item will ensure that this important program is funded.
- Fleet Mapping Strategy is almost half of the needs amount. Chair Clayton asked for additional information and Chief of Staff Brown provided the information. Board Member Barr asked if this covers personnel and demand units. Chief Brown confirmed and explained maintenance schedules that help overall with fleet. In justification, Board Member Barr asked if there are savings captured. Ms. Lang responded saying that the Fleet Department will be doing the cost savings research. Fleet is looking at removing the box from the chassis and then putting it on a new chassis when the time comes. The department is looking at other options for box design to make sure it is also functional for the safety needs of the medics.
- Demand Units are needed for 183/290 area and downtown area

- Fleet Mapping Strategy – Board Members asked that the department to consider a different option by using the title “Fleet Conservation” instead of the current title of Fleet Mapping Strategy. Management agreed with the change and will contact the Budget Office to update the title.
- Discussed sworn contract wages.
- Staffing of Medic I and Medic II. Earlier this year Council agreed to three additional Medic I Communications positions and that is why the three positions are included in the requested budget.
- 84.8 million is the budget forecast. It still has to be approved by Council.
- DSRIP 115 Waiver has been extended through December 2018

Board Members discussed how they could support the FY17 EMS Budget. In the past, a letter from the Advisory Board as well as personal visits to Mayor and Council were done. Board Members would like to have additional data to support the issues if they are going to talk to Council. They will focus on meeting with Public Safety Committee Council Members as well as other known advocates for EMS.

Board members asked if the ATCEMS Association had an opportunity to weigh in yet on the FY17 budget. ATCEMSEA President, Anthony Marquardt said the unmet needs are the focus of frontline staff. They support additional units and community health. They do not support getting another designated medical officer. It was clarified that this position is under and functions in the EMS department and does not operate under the Office of the Medical Director. Chief Brown provided additional information as to why the position is needed. Chief Rodriguez discussed quality and the recent CAAS accreditation review that indicated this position is needed.

The board wants to be unified with staff and the Association on the FY17 Budget and Unmet Needs List. Board Members would like to have more meeting time to discuss options with staff.

MOTION: A motion to establish a work group of four board members to further investigate items one through five on the EMS Identified Needs budget list and to work with staff to look at details for a letter that will be sent to the Austin City Council. Furthermore, during the work group process, Board Members will gain additional knowledge on the items which will then help when visiting Council Members to advocate for the items. Motioned by Board Member Barr and seconded by Board Member Villanacci on a 7-0 vote.

4. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON EMS BUDGET HORIZON ISSUES

This item was combined with Agenda Item #3. See above.

5. REVIEW AND APPROVE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Motion: The minutes for the regular meeting of February 3, 2016 were approved on a motion by Board Member Villanacci and seconded by Board Member Atwell on a 7-0 vote.

6. RECEIVE CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS/COMMENT – None

7. ANSWER QUESTIONS REGARDING SYSTEM REPORTS

System reports are kept updated and posted on the city’s website for the EMS Department. There were no questions about the reports.

8. RECEIVE UPDATES FROM SYSTEM AGENCIES REPRESENTATIVES:

- a) Medical Director’s Report: Mark Ackrell, Acting Medical Director
 - Dr. Ackrell was unable to attend the meeting and Office of the Medical Director’s Chief of Staff Jeff Hayes provided an update of the hiring process. The City Manager will be making the announcement of the selected Medical Director in the near future. The person will be transitioning into the position most likely in August or September. The EMS Association was included and participated in the hiring process.

- b) Austin EMS Department: Ernesto Rodriguez, Chief
 - CAAS Accreditation - There was an extensive off-site and on-site evaluation process that was done by CAAS. ATCEMS received approval of accreditation with zero deficiencies.
 - Strategic Plan – The department used the strategic plan to build the business plan and that was then used to drive the budget.
 - Assistant Chief Teresa Gardner provided an overview of the TEEX paramedic training school for ATCEMS Medic I's. The contract would allow for ATCEMS to pay tuition for up to fifteen employees. It will take approximately nine to twelve months to get through the course and it can be done on the medics work schedule. The item has been submitted for Council approval for a one year contract with TEEX.

- c) Travis County Emergency Services: Danny Hobby, Executive Manager
Mr. Hobby was not able to attend due to a prior commitment with Travis County Court.

- d) Austin Fire Department: Tom Dodds, Chief of Staff
 - Chief Dodd's was not able to attend, however Assistant AFD Chief Kevin Dixon attended on his behalf. Chief Dixon provided an update on the matters that were discussed at the last board meeting regarding the problems that AFD is having with the Phillip's FR3 AED. Assistant City Manager Arellano, AFD Chief Kerr and the OMD's Dr. Ackrell have discussed and drafted a response plan. The request is to provide replacement models for AFD and EMS with new batteries. Ninety replacements are needed. Due to the number of responders from different entities that respond to a call, there are several AED's on the scene.

- e) Emergency Services Districts: Ron Moellenberg, CAFCA President
Chief Moellenberg was not able to attend.

9. UPDATE ON MEDICAL DIRECTOR HIRING PROCESS

As noted in Item 8a, Chief of Staff Jeff Hayes provided an update on the hiring process.

10. OTHER BUSINESS

- None

11. ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 11:25 a.m.

The minutes were approved on this the 29th day of August 2016 on a unanimous vote.