

Austin – Travis County EMS Advisory Board

15 Waller Street, Austin, Texas 78702

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August 27, 2018

City of Austin, Mayor and Council Members
Travis County, Judge and Commissioners

Dear Mayor Adler, Judge Eckhardt, Council Members and Commissioners:

The Austin – Travis County EMS Advisory Board has reviewed with EMS staff the budget process fiscal year 2018-2019. The items that were proposed fall in line with the City Council adopted Austin Strategic Direction 2023. We request that you consider our recommendations as you review the many budget needs being proposed across city departments.

We support full funding of the EMS budget. The three items listed below are worth your strong support, as they would bring improved EMS service to the community while practicing fiscal responsibility.

1. Homeless Outreach Strike Team (HOST)

EMS along with the Austin Police Department and Downtown Austin Community Court proposed a request to fully fund the HOST program. The Advisory Board understands the homelessness crisis in Austin to be a top priority in consideration of current budget requests. Since the HOST program inception in 2016, it has proven to be a value to the community, serving nearly 2,000 individuals. Taking the program from a pilot to a fully funded program will ensure a dependable resource for our homeless population.

2. Radio Frequency Identification (RFID)

EMS proposed a request to receive funding for the RFID. Providing the ability for EMS to have real-time visibility of capital assets, memo assets and medical inventory is a necessity. RFID will prove to be an asset via efficiencies created with the ability to easily monitor the historical trends of items needed during seasonal changes, monitor expiration dates, and reduce waste.

3. Support Services Positions

In the FY 2018 budget EMS requested funding for and was denied the two civilian support positions for the Administration and Finance Division. As Austin grows, EMS has experienced increased volume and complexity in both Administration and Finance. The needed positions are for an Accounts Payable Supervisor in the Finance Department and a Contract Management Supervisor in the Purchasing Department. The positions legitimately are needed to maintain the effectiveness and efficiency of each respective department, to control costs and ensure contract compliance.

We appreciate your consideration of our recommendations. Please do not hesitate to contact me or other members of the Board, as we would appreciate the opportunity to answer questions or provide further information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Tracy Dalbosco', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Tracy Dalbosco, Chair
Austin – Travis County EMS Advisory Board

cc: Ernesto Rodriguez, Chief, ATCEMS
Mark Escott, Medical Director, ATCEMS System
Christopher Ziebell, Vice Chair, ATCEMS Advisory Board