



Public Safety Commission Recommendation no. 20170807-003

**Budget Recommendation related to Emergency Medical Services
Regarding the need for updated software to record Patient Care Records**

Date: August 7, 2017

Motioned by: Rebecca Ruth Webber

Seconded by:

WHEREAS:

EMS responded to 131,007 incidents in fiscal year 2016. Of those incidents, EMS had contact with patients 100,491 times. In 78,725 instances, EMS transferred a patient.

During each encounter with a patient, EMS has a medical and legal obligation to complete a Patient Care Record. EMS currently uses software to input, track, and store this information. This record is known as the electronic Patient Care Record ("ePCR").

Simultaneous with the patient transfer to a hospital or clinic, EMS must also transfer the patient's essential health information to the patient's subsequent medical provider.

EMS's current software, implemented in 2009, lacks the ability to input, track, and store certain patient information including the following needed functionality:

- Tracking of prescribed controlled medications,
- Community Health program case management,
- Viewing of ePCR from past EMS encounters with repeat patients, and
- Integration with local healthcare partners' patient software programs

For these reasons, the City of Austin IT Governance Board recommended that the City of Austin replace EMS's current ePCR software.

Available newer versions of ePCR software have greater functionality and versatility that would benefit the City of Austin in three important ways:

1. The ability to transfer more and better patient care information will result in improved patient outcomes.
2. More efficient and more versatile ePCR software will save time for frontline medics.
3. Newer software will reduce IT maintenance costs.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The Public Safety Commission recommends that the Austin City Council adopt the recommendations of the IT Governance Board and purchase a new ePCR product capable of the following:

- Support for controlled medication tracking,
- Community Health program case management,
- Allow EMS Medics to view past medical history for patients previously encountered.
- Integration with hospital or clinic EMR systems using the HL7 standard (An XML based standard),
- Modern user interface that is faster and configurable, and
- A cloud solution where updates to server and core application infrastructure are the responsibility of the vendor.

The Public Safety Commission further recommends that:

- The City of Austin seeks local healthcare partners to share the costs associated with adopting a fully integrated and secure ePCR software.
- All ePCR solutions and/or pilot programs include input from the frontline medics.

Vote of the Public Safety Commission

For: Unanimous 11 (Commissioners Webber, Nunez, Holt, Scruggs, Landuyt, Perez, Tyree, Rossmo, Gonzales, Lee and Haley)

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Absent: 0



Attest: Janet Jackson, Public Safety Commission Staff Liaison