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File #: 2014-660

Type: Joint Agenda Item

Body: [City Council](#)

On agenda: 7/29/2014

Title: Recommendation to Authorize the Fire Department's Participation in a State of California Community Paramedicine Pilot Project Funded by Alameda County by Delegating Authority to the City Manager to Negotiate and Enter, Upon Terms Acceptable to the City Attorney, into a Funding Agreement with the County of Alameda, and Upon Receipt of Funds for the Pilot Project; Add an Additional Division Chief and Two Community Paramedic Firefighter Positions; and to Backfill Regular Fire Staff, including the Hiring of Three Limited Term Firefighters. [CITY COUNCIL] (Fire 3205)

Attachments: [1. Exhibit 1 - Alameda County Community Paramedicine Pilot Project; Alameda County Letter of Intent](#), [2. Exhibit 2 - State of California Emergency Medical Services Authority, Community Paramedicine Provisional Acceptance Letter to Alameda County](#)

Text

Recommendation to Authorize the Fire Department's Participation in a State of California Community Paramedicine Pilot Project Funded by Alameda County by Delegating Authority to the City Manager to Negotiate and Enter, Upon Terms Acceptable to the City Attorney, into a Funding Agreement with the County of Alameda, and Upon Receipt of Funds for the Pilot Project; Add an Additional Division Chief and Two Community Paramedic Firefighter Positions; and to Backfill Regular Fire Staff, including the Hiring of Three Limited Term Firefighters. [CITY COUNCIL] (Fire 3205)

Body  
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To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: John A. Russo, City Manager

Re: Authorize the Fire Department's Participation in a State of California Community Paramedicine Pilot Project Funded by Alameda County by Delegating Authority to the City Manager to Negotiate and Enter, Upon Terms Acceptable to the City Attorney, into a Funding Agreement with the County of Alameda, and Upon Receipt of Funds for the Pilot Project; Add an Additional Division Chief and Two Community Paramedic Firefighter Positions; and to Backfill Regular Fire Staff, Including the Hiring of Three Limited Term Firefighters.

BACKGROUND

The State of California Emergency Medical Services Agency (EMSA) began accepting letters of intent for their two-year Community Paramedicine Pilot Project on July 18, 2013. The Pilot Project seeks to achieve efficiencies and enhance services in community-based health care by providing training to Paramedics in 11 jurisdictions throughout California. On October 24, 2013, the City of Alameda and Hayward Fire Departments were provisionally accepted by the EMSA to represent Alameda County in the Community Paramedicine Pilot Project.

DISCUSSION

The goal of the Community Paramedicine Pilot Project is to determine whether Paramedics working in an expanded role will help improve overall health systems integration, efficiency and/or fill identified healthcare needs. By participating in this pilot and testing the Project's theories, the County of Alameda, working with the EMSA, will generate, collect, and analyze data that will be used to examine the practice of community paramedicine and serve as a basis to recommend changes to existing statute and regulations. The Alameda County Pilot Program includes two of the six aspects identified for this Project. They are:

1. Identify frequent callers of the 911 system and assist them in accessing primary care and social services; and
2. Provide follow-up-care for persons recently discharged from the hospital and at increased risk of a return to the emergency department or readmission to the hospital.

The University of California Los Angeles is working with EMSA to provide core community-based health care training. In partnership with local community colleges, additional training will be provided to help paramedics selected for the Project.

Following the training, during the remainder of the two-year Pilot Project, Community Paramedics will apply their skills, and performance data will be collected and analyzed by the County to measure the Project's outcomes.

City Council authorization of the Alameda Fire Department's participation in the Pilot project includes delegating authority to the City Manager to negotiate and, upon terms acceptable to the City Attorney, enter into a funding agreement with the County of Alameda which will fully underwrite all of the City's costs for participating in the Pilot project, including the addition of limited term staff and the backfilling of regular positions for the term of the funding agreement. Alameda County funded Pilot Project staff will be dedicated to this Project.

In order to coordinate resources efficiently and effectively with the State, County, Hospital, and other partners, the Pilot Project staff will be assigned to a 40 hour workweek. Alameda County will provide funding to cover the 40 hour work week and insure adequate suppression staffing is maintained. The Pilot Project requires a limited term Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Division Chief and two limited term Community Paramedic Firefighters. Staff will be assigned to these three limited-term positions for the duration of the funding. This will result in a temporary backfill through the ranks, including the hiring of three limited term Firefighters. Additionally, because of the short-term nature of the funding, the EMS Division Chief and the two Community Paramedic Firefighters will be temporarily exempt from the City's Civil Service Program, as outlined in Article 9, Section 4 of the Civil Service Rules.

There is no funding commitment to the City or expectation on the part of Alameda County that funding for the three positions will continue at the conclusion of either the funded period or throughout the term of the Pilot Project. Therefore, once the funding concludes, the additional Division Chief and two Firefighter positions are deemed eliminated from the Fire Department's authorized staffing.

City Council approval is required to: 1) authorize the City Manager to negotiate, and upon terms acceptable to the City Attorney, enter into a Funding Agreement with Alameda County; and 2) upon receipt of all of the funds necessary to underwrite both the three limited term positions and the backfilling of regular Fire staff to add a limited term EMS Division Chief position and two limited term Community Paramedic Firefighters. Furthermore, upon receipt of sufficient funds, the City Manager is authorized to appoint a regular Fire Department Division Chief as the EMS Division Chief, and backfill regular Fire staff including the hiring of three limited term Firefighters.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The funds for this program shall be provided entirely by Alameda County. Staff estimates that its funding requirement will not exceed \$500,000 for FY14-15. The required funding to continue the pilot project for FY15-16 is being accounted for by Alameda County in their FY15-16 budget. The funding will be managed in the Fire Department's budget in Fund 220 - Grants fund.

MUNICIPAL CODE/POLICY DOCUMENT CROSS REFERENCE

This action does not affect the Municipal Code.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

This action is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) because it is not a project which has a potential for resulting in either a direct physical change in the environment, or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment, pursuant to CEQA Guideline section 15378.

RECOMMENDATION

Authorize the Fire Department's participation in a State of California Community Paramedicine Pilot Project funded by Alameda County by delegating authority to the City Manager to negotiate and enter, upon terms acceptable to the City Attorney, into a funding agreement with the County of Alameda, and upon receipt of funds for the pilot project; add an additional Division Chief and two Community Paramedic Firefighter positions; and to backfill regular Fire staff, including the hiring of three limited term Firefighters.

Respectfully submitted,  
Michael D'Orazi, Fire Chief

By,  
Doug Long, Deputy Fire Chief

Financial Impact section reviewed,  
Fred Marsh, Finance Director

## Exhibits:

1. Alameda County Community Paramedicine Pilot Project; Alameda County EMS Letter of Intent
2. State of California Emergency Medical Services Authority, Community Paramedicine Provisional Acceptance Letter to Alameda County