



TRUCKEE MEADOWS FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT STAFF REPORT

Board Meeting Date: September 7, 2021

DATE: August 26, 2021

TO: Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District Board of Fire Commissioners

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THROUGH: Charles A. Moore, Fire Chief
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SUBJECT: Recommendation to approve the purchase of two new ambulances from Braun NW Inc. to provide ambulance transport services, in an amount not to exceed \$195,000 each, or \$390,000 total, utilizing existing HGAC contract pricing. (All Commission Districts) FOR POSSIBLE ACTION

SUMMARY

Approval of the purchase of two new ambulances from Braun NW Inc. to provide ambulance transport services, in an amount not to exceed \$195,000 each, or \$390,000 total, utilizing existing HGAC contract pricing.

PREVIOUS ACTION

July 16, 2019, the Board approved the purchase of one demonstration ambulance through noncompetitive purchasing as allowed by NRS 332.146(1).

April 7, 2021, the Board approved the purchase of one demonstration ambulance through noncompetitive purchasing as allowed by NRS 332.146(1).

BACKGROUND

The District currently owns and operates three ambulance units that are currently housed at Station 30 (Bowers), Station 45 (Sun Valley) and a reserve unit. There is a current agreement with REMSA to send the Bowers unit to all EMS incidents in Washoe Valley. It is also available for mutual aid assistance to Carson City Fire Department, as well as any other regional agencies requiring assistance. The Sun Valley ambulance has been the primary ambulance providing patient transport to Sun Valley since November 2020 as part of an arrangement to assist REMSA during the impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic. The Sun Valley ambulance is also occasionally used to respond to adjacent areas where it is the closest resource. Both of these transport arrangements with REMSA are anticipated to continue in the future. The Board is also being asked to approve ambulance transport services in Spanish Springs as part of an earlier agenda item. These additional ambulances would be part of that proposed deployment plan.

In addition to providing regional surge capacity for medical emergencies, the District staffs standby services at several special events including the Reno Balloon Races, several off-road events, wildland

fires, and other similar occasions. These two ambulance units will enable the District to house an additional ambulance at one additional station and move the oldest unit into Reserve status. It is planned that the additional in-service ambulance will be housed at Station 46 (Spanish Springs). The oldest unit (2005) will be surplus. The District also provides oversight of the Gerlach Fire Department, which provides ambulance transport service, and the District has the ability to augment their service during times of high call volume, or other necessity. If necessary, the Station 46 ambulance could respond to Gerlach or rendezvous with the Gerlach ambulance to continue transporting patients back to the appropriate facility in Reno.

After thoroughly evaluating ambulance purchase options, the District recommends the purchase of two ambulances from Braun NW Inc. This is the same manufacturer that built the current ambulances that TMFPD operates, so the design and build will be consistent with the existing apparatus. Utilizing an existing spec and contract pricing allows the District to expedite the purchasing process so that these units can be placed into service as soon as possible. The manufacturer intends to deliver the two new ambulances in Spring of 2022.

FISCAL IMPACT

The estimated fiscal year 2021-22 cost \$560,000 for two ambulances including equipment (approximately \$95,000 to fully equip each ambulance). The ambulance transport program is expected to provide net revenues of \$1.5 million in future years. The purchases of the ambulances are startup costs of the program and are not directly reimbursable under the program. If the ambulance program is approved, the District will, at a subsequent date, request that the BOFC approve a resolution to create a new ambulance fund.

The District has determined the following funding options for Fiscal Year 2021-22:

The District has applied for a subrecipient grant through the American Rescue Plan from Washoe County to cover the first year of costs.

If the District is denied their grant application, the District may use current General Fund cash balance to transfer funds to the new Ambulance Fund. Transfers out are exempt from NRS budget violation reporting. The transfer may decrease ending fund balance lower than budgeted Fiscal Year 2021-22 ending fund balance.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the Board approve the purchase of two new ambulances from Braun NW Inc. to provide ambulance transport services, in an amount not to exceed \$195,000 each, or \$390,000 total, utilizing existing HGAC contract pricing.

POSSIBLE MOTION

Should the Board agree with staff's recommendation, a possible motion could be:

"I move to approve the purchase of two new ambulances from Braun NW Inc. to provide ambulance transport services, in an amount not to exceed \$195,000 each, or \$390,000 total, utilizing existing HGAC contract pricing."