



AGENDA MEMORANDUM

Action Item for the City Council Meeting December 6, 2022

DATE: December 6, 2022
TO: Peter Zaroni, City Manager
FROM: Robert Rocha, Fire Chief
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Interlocal Agreement between the City of Corpus Christi and Del Mar College to provide Training and Joint use of Facilities and Equipment

CAPTION:

Resolution authorizing a 10-year interlocal agreement, with automatic renewal every year thereafter for a term of one year each renewal, with Del Mar College to provide Fire, Emergency Medical Services, and other Public Safety related training, and joint use of Del Mar College facilities and equipment related the Corpus Christi Fire Department training.

SUMMARY:

This resolution will authorize the Corpus Christi Fire Department to establish a 10-year interlocal agreement with Del Mar College for Fire, Emergency Medical Services (EMS), and other fire-related training. The agreement also will provide for the joint use of Del Mar College facilities and equipment.

BACKGROUND AND FINDINGS:

The Corpus Christi Fire Department (CCFD) has not had its own training field since the early 1990's when a combination fire station/drill field was constructed at 3722 S. Staples. In 2005, CCFD came into an agreement with Del Mar College for joint use of its drill field.

In 2008, CCFD relocated its training facilities, which include offices and classrooms, to Del Mar College as part of a \$40,000 per year lease agreement with Del Mar College to provide administrative and instructional support to the Fire Academy. The 2008 agreement allowed CCFD to consolidate its Training Division into one location. CCFD still occupies these facilities, however, Del Mar College (DMC) no longer charges CCFD for its use as part of the conditions of this proposed agreement. This agreement is still active for an indefinite period but can be terminated with 30-days' notice.

In 2015, CCFD executed an Interlocal Agreement with Del Mar College for ambulance training through state-approved courses of Emergency Medical Service students. This agreement provides for ambulance training for DMC EMS students and remains active. This agreement is for an indefinite period but can be terminated with 30-days' notice.

The proposed resolution/interlocal agreement would allow CCFD to enroll fire cadets in the DMC Emergency Medical Services Professions (EMT and Paramedic certifications) and Fire Science/Firefighting (DMC Fire Academy/Firefighter certification) programs provided by DMC. Additionally, CCFD will be given a 20% discount towards the "cost of cadet," with cadets receiving college credits for successfully completing Del Mar College's college credit courses. In this program, it takes approximately 69 weeks depending on the availability of testing sites and the cadets' progress through the courses and clinical work. This model is line with averages in the largest Texas cities; however, some fire departments in Texas choose to hire their cadets and train them to the position of Firefighter and EMT-B, then place them to the field. Then, the fire departments will place their firefighters back into training at a later date in order to complete the EMT-P training. While this is an option for CCFD, this sort of schedule would likely result in increased OT for CCFD.

The current tuition cost per cadet, including the 20% discount, for all training and education required during fire academy is \$7,429.00, which is paid by the City. CCFD will continue to provide oversight of the academy's activities, inspections, attendance, evaluations, and discipline through a designated liaison (Assistant Chief – Special Services).

The proposed resolution will allow CCFD to update and consolidate the deal points of the two current agreements (2008 and 2015) and roll them into one proposed agreement and to ensure that its training needs and requirements continue to be satisfied.

PROCUREMENT DETAIL:

Not applicable

ALTERNATIVES:

The alternative is not to approve this agreement; however, this will result in CCFD having to develop or acquire an alternate means of providing requisite training for both fire cadets and incumbents. This will require the acquisition of facilities, adding personnel to the training division to facilitate training and oversight, and the development of an accredited program. Additionally, CCFD will need to secure a fire drill field and other training facilities and props to conduct the required training. Lastly, CCFD will need to secure alternative office and classroom space.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Not applicable

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval of this resolution to execute an Interlocal Agreement with Del Mar College, as presented.

LIST OF SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:

Resolution