



AGENDA MEMORANDUM

Action Item for the City Council Meeting June 15, 2021

DATE: June 15, 2021
TO: Peter Zaroni, City Manager
FROM: Robert Rocha, Fire Chief, Corpus Christi Fire Department
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Resolution authorizing an Interlocal Agreement with Coastal Bend Regional Advisory Council for the AMBUS Project

CAPTION:

Resolution authorizing execution of an Interlocal Cooperation Agreement with Coastal Bend Regional Advisory Council for an Ambulance Bus.

SUMMARY:

The purpose of this item is to authorize an Interlocal Agreement with Coastal Bend Regional Advisory Council (CBRAC) for the hosting and use of an Ambulance Bus (AMBUS) at Fire Station No. 1. The AMBUS is a special EMS (Emergency Medical Service) unit that can transport or care for up to 20 patients at once, which is at ten times as many patients as a standard ambulance. The AMBUS vehicles are equipped with the same equipment as standard ambulances, including patient ventilators, wireless vital signs monitoring, suction devices, and other life-saving equipment.

BACKGROUND AND FINDINGS:

The Texas Department of Emergency Management has awarded the City of Corpus Christi an Ambulance Bus. The AMBUS is one component of the Texas Emergency Medical Task Force (TEMTF) Project. The TEMTF Project was developed by the State of Texas to create a network of rapidly deployable, regionally based emergency medical assets across Texas. CBRAC is contracted by the State of Texas to administer the TEMTF Project within Trauma Service Areas (TSA) T, U, and V. Corpus Christi falls within TSA U.

The awarded AMBUS – 2.0 is a multi-patient vehicle. This state-of-the-art vehicle can care and transport 20 stretchered patients at once. AMBUS vehicles are equipped with the same equipment as standard ambulances, including patient ventilators, wireless vital signs monitoring, suction devices, and other life-saving equipment, just on a larger scale. Upon delivery, the AMBUS – 2.0 will replace one of the two older and outdated AMBUS units in the Corpus Christi Fire Department (CCFD) fleet. The previous vehicles were school buses retrofitted by CCFD to provide the same capability. Neither unit is currently in service but remained in the CCFD's inventory. Each unit was only able to transport between four to eight patients. For the awarded AMBUS, there will be no cost to the City other than basic maintenance and repairs.

The Interlocal Agreement lays out the roles and responsibility of the Corpus Christi Fire Department (CCFD), as the host of the AMBUS, and CBRAC as the titled owner of the AMBUS. Accordingly, CBRAC owns the AMBUS and holds the title to the AMBUS during the term of the contract and is subject to any applicable state and federal laws. CCFD, in their part, will store, maintain, repair, equip, and appropriately staff the AMBUS throughout the contract term as it retains operational control of the AMBUS.

The AMBUS may be deployed outside the City on a State Mission Assignment, such as support for COVID-19 vaccinations, areas impacted by hurricanes, or supporting State-mandated evacuation activities. On a State Mission Assignment, the Receiving Agency's operational costs will be reimbursed per separate agreement(s) with TEMTF. Other federal, state, and local provisions may also apply.

ALTERNATIVES:

The City Council could choose not to authorize this Interlocal Agreement, in which case CCFD would not be able to host the brand-new AMBUS and would have to continue using both of its old and outdated AMBUS models.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact other than basic maintenance and repairs. As part of the agreement, the City will be responsible for the maintenance and repairs to the AMBUS, which the department allocates within its operating budget for maintenance of traffic signal equipment city-wide.

FUNDING DETAIL:

Fund:	1020 General Fund
Organization/Activity:	35100 City Ambulance
Mission Element:	093 Emergency Response Calls
Project # (CIP Only):	N/A
Account:	530100 Vehicle Repairs

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends Council approve the Interlocal Agreement.

LIST OF SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:

Resolution
Interlocal Agreement