



City Council Report

Date: January 29, 2009
To: City Council
Through: Christopher J. Brady, City Manager
From: Harry Beck, Fire Chief
Subject: Regional Emergency Transportation Service

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with information regarding the development of a regional emergency transportation contract. A regional contract will improve service delivery levels and patient care by utilizing a single ambulance provider throughout the region. The initial regional contract service area will include Apache Junction, Gilbert, Queen Creek and Mesa.

Background

Over the past twenty years ambulance companies have been providing emergency transportation service to cities on an individual contract basis. Each city customizes the service contract through a Request for Proposal Bid process to meet individual city needs.

Fire departments within our region provide fire/EMS service through an Automatic Aid system that dispatches response units with standard availability, staffing, training, equipment and deployment. The goal of Automatic Aid is to provide the highest possible quality of service, in the shortest amount of time, through dispatch of the closest most appropriate unit regardless of jurisdictional boundaries. In other words, an individual calling 911 is serviced by the fire unit closest to the emergency, regardless of the jurisdiction.

In addition to Mesa's participation in Automatic Aide, Mesa Fire also provides Fire/EMS dispatch and deployment services to the east valley automatic aid region. Development and implementation of a regional emergency transportation model will improve the efficiency and effectiveness of fire/EMS service in the east valley.

Discussion

The regional Fire service is always looking for better and more efficient ways of providing service to our community. Our automatic aid system is a national model of quality service and efficiency. The current model of providing ambulance service within the region is outdated and does not provide the best possible service.

When competitive providers are awarded contracts for communities with contiguous borders it is not possible to co-mingle resources as necessary to assure a consistent, high-quality level of care. Regionally, this approach has led to unpredictable and inconsistent levels of service due to differences in unit availability, equipment, staffing, training and deployment.

Recommendation


We recommend moving forward with the development and implementation of a regional contract to provide emergency transportation services.

Fiscal Impact

No fiscal impact to the City.

Coordinated With


This regional contract concept has been coordinated with the District of Apache Junction, the Town of Gilbert, the Town of Queen Creek and the City of Mesa.



Mary Cameli, Assistant Chief



Harry Beck, Fire Chief



Christopher J. Brady, City Manager