



Public Safety Committee

Date: May 18, 2009
To: Public Safety Committee
Through: Christopher J. Brady, City Manager
From: Harry Beck, Fire Chief
Subject: Regional Medical Transportation Service

Purpose and Recommendation

The purpose of developing a regional transportation contract is to improve service delivery levels and response times by utilizing a single provider throughout the region. The region consists of Apache Junction, Gilbert, Queen Creek, and Mesa.

Background

Over the past twenty-five years transportation providers have contracted with, and provided service to individual agencies based on each agency's specific needs and requirements. These contracts do not allow the provider to respond outside the contractual boundaries. Over the last several years, problems have surfaced with this type of agency service: creating delays in the closest unit arriving at scene, accountability, alternate staffing requirements such as ALS vs. BLS, and different equipment requirements. In addition, one company contracted to several municipalities may have to operate under different guidelines and requirements in each of the cities.

While transportation services are negotiated and awarded by each city, and services are provided autonomously, valley fire departments provide EMS through the Automatic Aid System, where any individual calling 911 is treated by the Fire/EMS unit closest to the emergency, regardless of jurisdictional boundaries. Transportation units operating in the same fashion will enhance patient care, reduce response times, and provide a more effective service.

Discussion

The east valley has outgrown the current transportation service model. A regional system will be much more effective in addressing transportation aspects of EMS service. It will also allow the provider to focus more on response time requirements in lieu of having to maintain a certain number of units in a city at any given time.

Utilizing a single provider for the east valley will benefit the entire region, allowing for seamless service, unified protocols, a more cohesive workgroup, and better customer service to the communities involved.

Alternatives


We can continue operating in the current system as we have for the past twenty-five years. If we do so, individual city / provider contractual obligations will limit service by city boundaries causing a delay in transports and compromise optimal medical care.

Fiscal Impact

No fiscal impact to the City.

Coordinated With

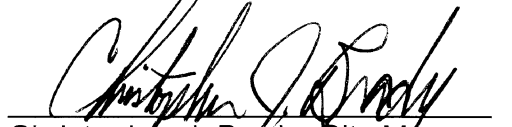
The regional contract concept as described above has been coordinated with the Apache Junction Fire District, the Town of Gilbert, the Town of Queen Creek, and the City of Mesa.



Mary Cameli, Assistant Chief



Harry Beck, Fire Chief



Christopher J. Brady, City Manager

Regional Emergency Transportation Service



Emergency Transportation History

1976-1989	Ambulance companies rotated calls
1990- present	Sole provider system
2009	Regional concept

Council Strategic Initiatives

- **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**
- **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**
- **QUALITY OF LIFE**
- **REGIONAL LEADERSHIP** *that addresses challenges that require regional cooperation... Regional leadership that is innovative...*
- **FINANCIAL STABILITY**

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Advantages of Regional Transportation Services

- Improve patient care for the east valley
- Continuity of medical care
- Closest unit will reduce response times
- Region wide operational procedures
- AVL provides vehicle location and availability

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Advantages of Regional Transportation Services

- Seamless communications
- MCT mapping to improve response times
- Regional management and problem solving
- Quality control and accountability
- Consistent with Automatic Aid System
- Build upon an existing regional EMS system

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Advantages of Regional Transportation Services

Enter into an IGA Cooperative with Regional
partners

Apache Junction

Gilbert

Queen Creek

Mesa

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Regional Emergency Transportation Services

Questions?



Apache
Junction



Gilbert



Mesa



Queen
Creek