



Date: June 20, 2023

To: Wanda S. Page, City Manager
Through: W. Bowman Ferguson, Deputy City Manager
From: Ryan Smith, Community Safety Department Director
Subject: Amendment to extend term of Agreement with Durham County EMS for EMTs on HEART teams

Executive Summary

The Durham Community Safety Department (DCSD) seeks to extend our current Interlocal Agreement with Durham County EMS for six additional months to temporarily assign emergency medical technicians (EMTs) to serve as part of DCSD's 3-person unarmed Community Response Teams.

Motion

To resolve the City Manager to amend the Durham City-County Interlocal Agreement for EMTs on Community Safety Department's Crisis Response Teams to extend term an additional six months.

Background

CRT teams provide rapid, trauma-informed care by dispatching 3-person teams of unarmed, skilled and compassionate first responders. Each team includes a clinician, peer support specialist, and EMT. EMTs are included in the 3-person team model in order to position crisis response teams to provide basic life support care, attend to basic medical needs that do not require escalation to EMS or a hospital (for example, a minor cut or basic wound care), and, importantly, helping identify underlying medical needs that may present initially as mental health needs. Medic positions are common in other cities currently operating unarmed response teams.

In order for Community Safety to hire our own EMTs, DCSD needs to receive authorization from the North Carolina Department of Health Service Office of Emergency Medical Services to serve as an alternative provider site under the Durham County EMS System. During our pilot year, we determined in collaboration with EMS that the most prudent strategy for filling our EMT positions was through an agreement with Durham County that allowed County EMS employees to serve on our Community Response Teams. That agreement worked well during our pilot phase. Now that we are planning to scale our program, it makes the most sense to become an alternative provider site, similar to the Durham Fire Department, and to hire our own EMTs.

We have support from Durham County EMS leadership to submit an application to the state that will grant us authorization to hire our own EMTs. In order to avoid any service disruption during the approval process and the ensuing hiring process to fill our vacant EMT positions, we propose to extend our current agreement with Durham County for six additional months. The amendment extension enables us to continue filling vacant EMT positions with Durham County EMS employees. By the end of the 2023 calendar year, we plan to have gained authorization to hire our own EMTs and have some of those positions already hired and filled.

Financial Impact

The City would cover the personnel expenses for any EMTs serving on DCSD teams; however, there are no new financial impacts for the City as these costs are already included in DCSD's target budget, using funds allocated to hire EMTs.

Equal Business Opportunity Summary

Due to the nature of this agenda item, obtaining Equal Business Opportunity Summary is not applicable.

Contractor Workforce Diversity & Hiring Practices

Due to the nature of this agenda item, obtaining Contractor Workforce Diversity & Hiring Practices information is not applicable.

Attachments

- Extension of City-County Interlocal Agreement for EMTs on DCSD Crisis Response Teams.
- Original Agreement approved by City Council and the Durham County Board of Commissioners.