

AGENDA ITEM #: _____

DATE: September 23, 2019

CAR #: 2019-6765



CITY COUNCIL ACTION REPORT

SUBJECT: Community Paramedicine Pilot Program with United Healthcare.

STAFF PRESENTER(S): Paul Luizzi, Fire Chief

OTHER PRESENTER(S): None

Summary: The Fire Chief will provide information to Council on a newly received grant with United Healthcare Inc., which will be a regional community paramedic pilot project with the cities of Surprise and Peoria.

Recommendation: Authorize the City Manager to execute an Intergovernmental Agreement with the city of Peoria for the provision of community paramedicine services.

Fiscal Impact: The cost of salaries and other operational expenses for this pilot project will be funded by a United Healthcare grant with the city of Peoria.

Background and Previous Actions

The new opportunity with United Healthcare has evolved from many conversations with hospital executives, our previous success and inquiries with many health insurers. Previously on December 14, 2015 work session, and the Council Meeting of May 23, 2016, the Fire Chief outlined and reviewed an innovative grant opportunity with Vitalyst which provided funding to enhance services to our most vulnerable populations. The fire department is uniquely positioned to provide trained medical personnel and already has a previously established community infrastructure. This new community paramedicine pilot program allows the regional partners of Goodyear, Peoria and Surprise to focus on broader healthcare issues while directly improving the medical and public health system allowing emergency vehicles to deal directly with emergent calls.

The Community Paramedicine regional pilot program with United Healthcare is a \$175,000 service agreement for a regional pilot project. The fire department, and partnering agencies have constructed the contract for Council. We anticipate the funding to last for one calendar year. Approval of this revenue contract will allow the city to continue providing an evolving model of community-based health care. This model will be one in which emergency responders facilitate appropriate use of emergency care resources and/or enhance access to primary care for medically underserved populations. This opportunity will allow us to continue our previous program for another 12 months.

The Community Paramedicine Program provides health services to the underserved elderly citizens that frequently use the 911 system for non-emergency care. This also includes chronic condition-patient populations under Fire Service based medical direction, while acting as the patient's advocate to better connect them to a variety of health services outside the hospital emergency department. This program has shown value in freeing up vital emergency room beds which fosters a more efficiently operated emergency medical services model.

Staff Analysis

This new regional grant will allow the city and two other partnering communities to continue the previously successful community paramedicine program. This pilot project goals continue to be; reducing the burden on the 911 system, creating more fiscal responsibility with taxpayer dollars, decreasing unnecessary emergency room visits, opportunities for regional collaboration to maximize resources and creating a public/private partnership. We anticipate the funding to last for one calendar year once we begin seeing patients.

Attachments

Intergovernmental Agreement for the Community Paramedicine Pilot Program with United Healthcare