
City Council Regular Meeting

DEPARTMENT: Fire/EMS

FROM: Casey Davis, Fire Chief

MEETING: July 20, 2026

SUBJECT:

Receive a report, hold a discussion, and provide staff direction on prehospital whole blood program in the Fire/EMS Department. *(Staff Contact: Josh Jacobs, Assistant Fire Chief)*

STRATEGIC PRIORITY AND GOAL(S):

Strategic Priority	Strategic Goal
 Beautiful, Safe, & Vibrant Community	3.3 Enhance emergency response services 3.4 Ensure public safety equipment and personnel needs are being met

SUMMARY:

Burleson Fire/EMS staff will provide an overview of the proposed Prehospital Whole Blood Program and discuss participation in the North Central Texas Trauma Regional Advisory Council (NCTTRAC) regional prehospital transfusion initiative. Severe hemorrhage remains one of the leading causes of preventable death in both trauma and certain medical emergencies. Modern trauma research and military experience have demonstrated that earlier blood administration may significantly improve patient outcomes while reducing complications associated with excessive crystalloid administration traditionally used in EMS care.

The proposed program would allow Burleson Fire/EMS to carry and administer low-titer O whole blood and blood products to qualifying trauma and medical hemorrhage patients prior to hospital arrival. Whole blood replaces circulating volume, oxygen carrying capacity, and clotting capability in a single product and is increasingly becoming a national best practice within trauma systems.

The State of Texas has appropriated \$10 million of funding to support expansion of prehospital whole blood capability through the Regional Trauma Advisory Council system. NCTTRAC has directly encouraged Burleson Fire/EMS to participate due to the department's advanced EMS

capabilities, Battalion Chief response model, and ability to impact a large population within Johnson County and southern Tarrant County. If awarded, NCTTRAC is anticipated to provide major startup equipment including blood refrigeration units, blood warmers, and temperature monitoring equipment.

The proposed operational model would utilize designated Battalion Chief response vehicles to deploy blood products and transfusion equipment to qualifying emergencies while also supporting scene coordination and command functions. Burleson Fire/EMS also desires to develop this initiative as a regional partnership involving Johnson County, surrounding agencies, hospital partners, and blood suppliers to improve survivability, interoperability, and regional disaster preparedness while reducing unnecessary duplication of cost and resources.

The estimated annual operational cost for the program is approximately \$24,000 and includes blood product acquisition, consumable medical supplies, inventory management, training, and quality assurance oversight. Staff intends to pursue regional cost-sharing opportunities associated with the county-wide benefit of this capability. A supplemental funding request associated with ongoing operational costs will be presented as part of the upcoming FY 2026-2027 budget process.

Staff recommendation is for the Council to receive the presentation and provide feedback regarding Burleson Fire/EMS participation in the NCTTRAC Prehospital Whole Blood Program and continued development of regional partnerships associated with the initiative. Further staff recommends Council approve the supplemental request as part of the budget processes.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends participation in the North Central Texas Trauma Regional Advisory Council (NCTTRAC) regional prehospital transfusion initiative to expand access to life-saving whole blood transfusion capabilities for residents of Burleson, Johnson County, and the surrounding region. Staff further recommends Council approve the associated supplemental funding request through the FY 2026–2027 budget process to support the ongoing operation and sustainability of this critical patient care program.

PRIOR ACTION/INPUT (Council, Boards, Citizens):

Presented a report and presentation to the Public Safety and Court Committee on June 17, 2026, and received the committee's support to advance the initiative to the full City Council for consideration.

REFERENCE:

N/A

FISCAL IMPACT:

Budget 26/27 Supplemental Request \$24,000 – Safety Supplies - 105-20-22-2202-0000-61030-

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