



CONFIRE

STAFF REPORT

DATE: 03/16/2023

FROM: Nathan Cooke, Interim Director

TO: Board of Directors

SUBJECT: EMS Division Fund Loan

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Directors (BOD) authorize the Interim Director and CONFIRE Staff to work on securing a low interest rate loan from CONFIRE Member/Contract Agencies, from the State of California, the Federal Government, or other private entity, that will be deposited into and restricted in the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Division Fund.

The loan amount should be sufficient to pay for all salaries and benefits for the first quarter of operation related to EMS Division personnel. The loan should also include enough funds to ensure the EMS Division fund balance has a twenty five percent fund balance (reserves).

The loan, the loan amount, the loan interest rate, and loan pay-back schedule, must all be approved by the BOD, prior to CONFIRE Staff securing the loan.

Background Information

The CONFIRE Joint Powers Authority Agreement defines the Powers of CONFIRE in Section-4 b. as, "The Powers include, by the way of illustration and not by limitation, the following: (8) To apply for, receive and disburse grants, loans or other funds from any private or public entity."

If CONFIRE is awarded the County Ambulance Contract, CONFIRE will handle the billing component for the ambulance services provided, with a third-party billing company. It is anticipated that the cost recovery and revenues will not be realized and received by CONFIRE, before the first quarter of ambulance operation ends.

In preparation for CONFIRE being awarded the County Ambulance Contract, it is imperative that CONFIRE have sufficient funds to pay for the costs associated with those services for the first quarter of operation because the revenues will not be received by CONFIRE, before then.

Furthermore, it is a requirement of our agreement with Priority Ambulance (EMS Division sub-contractor) to provide them with a promissory note that CONFIRE will have sufficient funds to pay for all personnel costs associated with providing ambulances services for the first quarter of operation.

Fiscal Impact

The EMS Division loan amount will be sufficient to pay for all salaries and benefits for the first quarter of operation, related to EMS Division personnel, including CONFIRE's sub-contractor (Priority Ambulance). The loan will also include enough funds to ensure the EMS Division fund balance has sufficient reserves to remain financially sustainable in the event of an unforeseen circumstance or emergency.

The EMS Division related personnel costs and fund balance (reserves) needed, as well as the loan pay- back schedule, will not be fully understood until the County of San Bernardino has initiated negotiations with CONFIRE, for the County Ambulance Contract.

The loan will only be fully executed and accepted by CONFIRE, if CONFIRE is awarded the contract by the County of San Bernardino for Advanced Life Support and Basic Life Support Ground Ambulance Services, Interfacility and Critical Care Transport Services for Exclusive Operating Areas in San Bernardino County.