



CONFIRE

STAFF REPORT

DATE: May 26, 2026

FROM: Nathan Cooke, Interim Executive Director

BY: Damian Parsons, Finance/Administrative Director
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TO: CONFIRE Board of Directors

SUBJECT: CONFIRE EMS Division Loan Agreement – City of Ontario

Recommendation

Authorize the Chairperson to sign and execute the revised loan from the City of Ontario in the amount of \$20,000,000 for ambulance operation startup costs.

Background Information

On December 5, 2023, the County of San Bernardino awarded CONFIRE the Advanced Life Support and Basic Life Support Ground Ambulance Services, Interfacility and Critical Care Transport Services for Exclusive Operating Areas in San Bernardino County contract (EMS Contract).

On September 12, 2024, the State Superior Court issued an injunction halting the implementation of services, which had been scheduled to begin on October 1, 2024.

On May 6, 2026, the State Superior Court lifted the injunction, allowing CONFIRE to re-establish the implementation process and proceed toward system deployment.

In order to adhere to the provisions, set forth in the EMS Contract and to fund the startup costs associated with providing these services, CONFIRE sought to secure a loan in an amount not-to-exceed \$20,000,000. On December 11, 2023, the Board of Directors authorized the execution of a loan agreement between CONFIRE and the City of Ontario in the amount of \$20,000,000.

The original contract has been revised to update terms and clarify the language.

The updated terms are as follows:

Maximum Loan Amount:	\$20,000,000
Minimum Amount Per Draw:	\$1,000,000
Maximum Amount Per Draw:	\$5,000,000
Draw Effective Date:	Minimum of 10 business days to process request once received.
Loan Agreement:	Agreement expires 2 years from the effective date of the loan agreement. Draw request must be completed within the two years.
Term of Each Draw:	2 years from the date of the effective Advance payment date (the "Closing Date") to repay the loan (the "Maturity Date"). Each subsequent Advance shall be repaid no later than the Maturity Date stated above. For avoidance of doubt, the final Maturity Date for all amounts drawn shall be the date which is two (2) years from the first Closing Date.
Interest Rate:	The interest rate is tied to the LAIF daily effective yield rate. The rate will be fixed at the LAIF rate at the time of the first advance.
Payment Date(s):	Payment date shall mean January 1, April 1, July 1, and October 1 of each calendar year
Repayment:	Borrower will pay scheduled principal and interest on the next succeeding Payment Date of advance. (For example, if first draw is April 1, 2026, the first payment will be due July 1, 2026.)
Default Rate:	In the event of default, the interest rate will be 8.00%

Fiscal Impact

The loan funding would be deposited into the EMS Division Enterprise Fund (5020) and used for ambulance administration and operation-related expenses and payments. The term of the loan "Maturity Date" will be 2 years from payment of the first the first draw.

The 2026-27 EMS Fund (5020) budget includes the first-year costs for loan repayment.

Attachments

- 2026_03_Loan Agreement – City of Ontario-c1