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## CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP

### CITY OF FAIR OAKS RANCH, TEXAS

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AGENDA TOPIC: Interlocal Agreement with Bexar County Emergency Services District No. 4 for EMS Transport Services

DATE: March 6, 2025

DEPARTMENT: Administration

PRESENTED BY: Scott M. Huizenga, ICMA-CM, City Manager

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#### **INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND:**

Following City Council direction, staff has worked with Bexar County Emergency Services District No. 4 (ESD4) to revise the draft Interlocal Agreement (ILA) for EMS transport services. The updated agreement incorporates specific modifications to address council concerns and align with regional standards. These changes are based on discussions during the February 6, 2025, workshop and subsequent discussions with ESD4 representatives.

**Brief History:** The City must secure a new ambulance and emergency medical transport provider following Acadian Ambulance Service's decision not to renew its contract, which expires on April 30, 2025. The City was first made aware of this possibility in late November 2024 and received formal notice of termination on January 22, 2025. To prevent service disruptions, the City has negotiated a short-term Interlocal Agreement (ILA) with ESD4, ensuring continuity of EMS transport services while maintaining financial stability. The agreement aligns the expiration of EMS and fire services contracts and allows for an operational handoff from Acadian to ESD4.

Key updates to the agreement include:

- **Contract Template:** The agreement now utilizes the current Allegiance-Bexar County agreement as the base agreement to ensure consistency with regional service agreements.
- **Exhibit A Inclusion:** The ESD's rate sheet will be formally added as Exhibit A to provide clarity on fee structures.
- **Response Time Standards:** Specific response time benchmarks have been included, mirroring the standards outlined in the Bexar County contract.
- **Staffing & Equipment Requirements:** The agreement now specifies that ESD4 will provide Mobile Intensive Care Unit (MICU) level staffing and equipment, requiring an EMT-Paramedic and EMT-Basic on all apparatus except in cases of emergency or force majeure events. This is to ensure ambulances will still be available even during unforeseen staff shortages, such as an event like the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Billing Responsibility:** The agreement clarifies that EMS transport services are not free or provided at no cost, and that ESD4 is solely responsible for billing patients and third-party payers.

- **Mutual Aid Agreements:** ESD4 is required to establish and maintain reciprocal mutual aid agreements with surrounding governmental entities and emergency services districts as necessary or advisable.
- **Insurance Requirements:** The insurance coverage requirements have been updated to meet current industry standards including umbrella coverage of up to \$5 million. ESD4 has confirmed its coverages meet and exceed these standards.

#### **Other Substantial Changes:**

- **Early Termination Provisions:** Additional language clarifies conditions under which the City may terminate the agreement immediately for non-compliance with regulatory standards, revocation of licensure, or failure to maintain required insurance.
- **Radio Communication Requirements:** The revised agreement mandates that ESD4 maintain compatibility with regional interoperability channels to ensure effective emergency response coordination.
- **Specialty Care Transport:** Language has been added to clarify that ESD4 will maintain specialty care and bariatric transport capabilities to meet the needs of patients requiring enhanced medical transport services.
- **Reporting and Performance Metrics:** The agreement includes a provision requiring ESD4 to submit detailed monthly reports on response times, patient transports, and service performance metrics to the City.

#### **Next Steps:**

The City Council will discuss the revised ILA during the March 6, 2025, workshop. Based on Council direction, final revisions may be made before presenting the agreement for approval at a subsequent City Council meeting.

#### **POLICY ANALYSIS/BENEFIT(S) TO CITIZENS:**

- Advances Strategic Action Plan priorities 4.2 and 4.3 regarding Fire and EMS service continuity.
- Ensures a seamless transition and uninterrupted EMS transport services.
- Aligns response time standards with established regional expectations.
- Enhances operational clarity by defining staffing levels, equipment, and mutual aid requirements.
- Maintains cost transparency by formally outlining ESD4's billing responsibilities.
- Strengthens financial protections through updated insurance requirements.

#### **LONGTERM FINANCIAL & BUDGETARY IMPACT:**

The proposed \$6,125 monthly payment to ESD4 is a budgeted expense for FY 2024-25. The payment is identical to the prorated portion of the expiring agreement with Acadian.