



BUSINESS OF THE CITY COUNCIL CITY OF MERCER ISLAND

AB 6034
April 5, 2022
Regular Business

AGENDA BILL INFORMATION

TITLE:	AB 6034: Aid Vehicle Motorized Stretchers Purchase	<input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Only <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Action Needed: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Motion <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance <input type="checkbox"/> Resolution
RECOMMENDED ACTION:	Authorize the purchase two motorized stretchers for existing aid vehicles utilizing GEMT funds.	

DEPARTMENT:	Fire		
STAFF:	Jeff Clark, Interim Fire Chief Doug McDonald, Interim Deputy Fire Chief		
COUNCIL LIAISON:	n/a		
EXHIBITS:	1. Equipment Quote and Photo Specifications		
CITY COUNCIL PRIORITY:	n/a		

AMOUNT OF EXPENDITURE	\$ 118,154
AMOUNT BUDGETED	\$ 0
APPROPRIATION REQUIRED	\$ 118,154

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this agenda bill is to authorize the purchase of two motorized Stryker Power Stretchers for Aid Units 192 and 193 for use during Fire Department aid calls.

- The current stretcher units in the aid vehicles have reached the end of their useful life and need to be replaced.
- The City will be receiving Ground Emergency Medical Transport (GEMT) funds which can be used for the purchase of motorized stretchers.
- The power stretchers will reduce injuries to personnel when lifting patients.
- The cost of the two Stryker Power Stretchers is \$118,154.

BACKGROUND & DISCUSSION

Stryker Power Stretcher Replacements

The Fire Department has started the process of designing and purchasing a new aid vehicle to replace Aid 191 (at Station 91) as part of the vehicle replacement schedule. The new aid vehicle will be equipped with a Stryker Power Stretcher. The new aid vehicle is being purchased in 2022 and will be in use late 2022 or early 2023. In the meantime, staff determined that replacing the stretchers in the other two aid units should be done now.

The Stryker Power Stretcher units help reduce injuries to personnel when lifting patients, thereby minimizing time loss due to duty related disabilities and/or L&I claims, both of which are a priority for Fire Administration. More importantly, the ease of movement and loading will lessen the stress and impact to the patients on the stretchers.

There are two parts to the Stryker Power Stretcher – the stretcher itself and the battery powered base installed and mounted in the patient area of the aid vehicle. Power stretchers, and specifically the Stryker models are industry standard with most surrounding departments including Eastside Fire & Rescue and Bellevue Fire. These units are removable and can be placed in future Aid vehicle replacements.

GEMT Funding

In 2021, the City Council approved joining an EMS (Emergency Medical Services) transportation fee program called Ground Emergency Medical Transport (GEMT) to recover costs associated with transports, specifically from Medicaid ([AB 5824](#)). The total cost to transport a patient is \$8,840 according to the GEMT formula staff is required to calculate annually, for which the City receives a fraction from insurance companies (labor and vehicle/equipment costs are factored into this estimate). Mercer Island currently bills \$1,033 per transport for non-GEMT insurance programs.

The GEMT data collection process for a fiscal year (in this case July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020) takes several months to complete. In 2021, the City received \$232,535 in GEMT funds. As a result of successful completion of the first year of data collection, the City will continue with this program each year to assist in recovering a portion of total transport costs.

The Fiscal Year 2021 GEMT submission report estimates that Mercer Island will receive \$124,000 in GEMT revenue in April or May of 2022. Due to the many unknowns with a new GEMT program, the reimbursement revenue is not currently budgeted in 2022. Fire Administration recommends using fiscal year 2021 GEMT reimbursement revenue to cover the cost of installing power stretchers in the Department's two existing aid vehicles. EMS equipment is an appropriate use of GEMT funds.

NEXT STEPS

Following City Council approval of GEMT funds to purchase power stretchers for the aid vehicles, staff will place the order for the units with an expected delivery in late May 2022. Following installation, staff will receive training on the safe and effective usage of the stretchers. Fire Administration will establish an annual and emergency repair maintenance contract for the units. The goal is to have the units in service for patient care and transport in June 2022.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Authorize the use of \$118,154 of GEMT revenue to fund the purchase of two Stryker power stretcher systems for Fire Department aid vehicles 192 & 193.