



CITY OF ORLAND STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: October 17, 2023

TO: Honorable Mayor and Councilmembers

FROM: Pete Carr, City Manager

SUBJECT: EMS Transport (Discussion/Direction)

BACKGROUND:

City and County officials have been considering in recent months current emergency medical services (EMS) transport issues, potential improvements, and how the costs of improvements might be shared. Two members of the Council – Mayor Dobbs and Councilor Romano – were appointed to serve on a countywide ambulance ad hoc committee.

At a recent special meeting of the City Council, the four attending Councilmembers discussed with two attending County Board of Supervisors members the feasibility of a 50-50 share of the costs of start-up and operation of an additional Westside Ambulance unit. The new service would primarily be located in Orland, operate 12 hours a day, and respond to more than 200 calls/year during what is typically the heaviest demand period of the day. The objective is both to speed up EMS transport response and to relieve undue burden from the Orland Volunteer Fire Department.

Glenn County has \$750,000 of its ARPA funds set aside for the purpose of addressing ambulance needs. At its regular Board meeting Tuesday, October 10, Supervisors considered the purchase of an ambulance with its associated equipment for up to \$275,000, and discussed 50-50 participation with Orland in a cost-share of operational expenses which might be \$600,000 less unknown transport reimbursements. The Board agreed to move forward with the purchase of a van-type ambulance and consider operational agreements after a report back from the Westside Ambulance board of directors. Westside Ambulance is a local, private not-for-profit company which is granted by Glenn County a ten-year exclusive operating territory.

ANALYSIS:

Orland City Council should consider:

1. Net operating costs for a 12-hr ambulance unit, after patient reimbursements. Westside is currently operating at slightly better than break-even, has significantly depreciated ambulances, and is facing a changing legislative/regulatory environment that appears likely to result in reduced revenues in 2024.
2. Preferred/proposed cost share with Glenn County.
3. Source[s] of funds for Orland's cost share obligation.

Attachment: Westside Estimated Start-up Expenses

RECOMMENDATION:

Direct Staff

FISCAL IMPACT OF RECOMMENDATION: N/A