

City of Culver City, California
City Council Agenda Item Report

Meeting Date: May 4, 2009

Item Number: C-3

AGENDA ITEM: Approval of an Amendment to an Existing Professional Services Agreement with UCLA to Provide Paramedic Continuing Education Extending the Term of the Agreement to June 30, 2010.

Contact Person/Dept.:

Phone Number:

Capt. Darryl Wells, Fire Administration

(310) 253-5900

Fiscal Impact: Yes ☒ No ☐

General Fund: Yes ☒ No ☐

Public Hearing: ☐

Action Item: ☐

Attachments: ☐

Public Notification: Master E-Mail Notification List (04/29/09)

Department Approval:

Jeffrey Eastman (by C. Sellers)
(04/29/09)

City Attorney Approval:

Carol A. Schwab (by H. Baker) (04/29/09)

Chief Financial Officer Approval:

Jeff Muir (by M. Noller) (04/29/09)

City Manager Approval:

Jerry B. Fulwood (04/29/09)

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends the City Council approve an amendment to an existing professional services agreement with UCLA to provide paramedic continuing education (CE) to the Fire Department extending the term of the Agreement to June 30, 2010.

BACKGROUND:

State Law and Los Angeles County regulations require each Fire Department paramedic to obtain 48 hours of CE every two years to maintain his/her paramedic license. Historically, Culver City Fire Department paramedics have obtained CE outside of regular work-hours and were paid overtime.

The Fire Department makes every effort to minimize "discretionary" overtime. Since 2003, the Emergency Medical Services Division stopped authorizing overtime for CE obtained outside of regular work hours and contracted with the University of California Los Angeles Center for Pre-hospital Care (UCLA) to provide on-duty CE to all three Fire Department shifts. This CE also provides the required hours for our firefighter emergency medical technicians' (EMT) recertification.

This contractual arrangement has been a tremendous success. It has saved the City thousands of dollars in "discretionary" overtime and provides Culver City Fire Department paramedics with the best CE available. Other Fire Departments in this

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area either receive CE from the UCLA under similar agreements or have hired their own nurse educators at a significantly higher cost.

DISCUSSION

UCLA is a nationally recognized organization. It is considered one of the premier Emergency Medical Services training centers in the world. UCLA is still the **only** organization in this area that provides this unique service tailored to the specific needs of the Culver City Fire Department, bringing the CE to our classroom. Further, their staff and educators remain current and involved with the local Los Angeles County EMS Agency and share this knowledge with Culver City's EMTs and paramedics.

The proposed contract amendment is for a term of eighteen months, from January 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010, at the request of UCLA. The contract provides Culver City Fire Department paramedics with 28 hours of CE on each of the three shifts, for a total of 84 hours of CE per year. The CE topic selection is guided by the Fire Department's Quality Improvement Program and specific needs identified by the Emergency Medical Services Coordinator and Fire Department Medical Director.

Culver City Fire Department has an ongoing relationship with UCLA. UCLA's Paramedic School frequently places paramedic interns with Culver City Fire Department paramedics and our Fire Department personnel regularly lecture in UCLA's Paramedic Program. The UCLA Medical Center is also our paramedic's designated base station for online medical control when needed. It should be noted that our local hospital, Brotman Medical Center, does not provide this type of service.

FISCAL ANALYSIS:

An analysis of overtime spent during fiscal year 01/02 shows that \$22,228.00 was paid to Department paramedics for attending CE outside of regular work hours. The initial contract with UCLA was in effect from January 1, 2003 for a one year term. The contract had built in extensions ending December 31, 2008. Contracting with UCLA during the 2003 calendar year saved the city approximately \$14,279.00.

Although the original contract had a built in 5% annual cost of living increase, UCLA has agreed that for the course of this amendment, that there would be no further cost increases. Monies for this service are currently budgeted for in the Fire Department's EMS Division (10145300). The total contract cost is \$14,394.06, which will be billed monthly at \$799.67.

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ATTACHMENTS:

None

MOTION:

That the City Council:

1. Approve an amendment to an existing Professional Services Agreement with UCLA to provide paramedic continuing education extending the term of the Agreement to June 30, 2010; and,
2. Authorize the City Attorney to review/prepare the necessary documents; and
3. Authorize the City Manager to execute such documents on behalf of the City.