

**MILWAUKEE COUNTY
INTER-OFFICE MEMORANDUM**

DATE: June 29, 2015

TO: Supervisor Marina Dimitrijevic, Chairwoman, County Board of Supervisors

FROM: Christine Westrich, Director, Office of Emergency Management

SUBJECT: **Requests the abolishment of one vacant position of EMS Instructor (Title Code 00054820 Pay Grade 18N) and the one vacant position of Adm Asst NR Exempt (Title Code 00000040 Pay Grade 06PM) and the creation of one position of EMS Division Director (new position, Pay Range 37M)**

Request

The Director of the Office of Emergency Management (OEM) respectfully requests the abolishment of one vacant position of EMS Instructor (Title Code 00054820 Pay Grade 18N) and the one vacant position of Adm Asst NR Exempt (Title Code 00000040 Pay Grade 06PM) and the creation of one position of EMS Division Director (new position, Pay Range 37M).

Background

Milwaukee County Emergency Medical Services (EMS) is undergoing significant changes in order to realign with significant national health care reforms, notably, the Affordable Care Act. The EMS system has maintained its status governing paramedics and receiving hospitals in Milwaukee County since the 1990's, however, the system is at a critical point of maintaining relevancy should progression not be implemented.

The EMS system needs a strong leader to execute and sustain the evolution regarding the creation of new hospital and fire department revenue streams, changing the education model in conjunction with MATC, implementing the new Mobile Integrated Health initiative, and consolidating the EMS Communications Center with the 911 County Communications Center.

This new leader would be responsible for the execution and implementation of the \$2.0M in subsidies currently provided to nine municipal fire departments. The contract is up for renewal in 2017 and represents a critical link to municipal participation in the County EMS system, allowing cohesive and unified governance and medical direction.

Additionally, new MOU's and potentially contractual agreements with receiving hospitals such as, Froedtert, Wheaton, Aurora, etc. will be studied as a means to direct revenue back to local fire departments as our locals engage in significant Mobile Integrated Health (MIH) initiatives. This includes community interaction with paramedics before a 9-1-1 call is made, thereby significantly reducing non-emergent emergency department visits, with EMS having a goal of 15% countywide reduction in service calls.

The introduction of the Mobile Integrated Health initiative is a movement that is drastically changing the way paramedic services are utilized nationwide. Milwaukee County is establishing itself as a leader in this program and requires the necessary leadership to implement. Hospice centers, major local health systems,

and UWM are involved already, making the presence and governance of Milwaukee County even more urgent.

The County's Medical Director is paid on contract through the Medical College of Wisconsin (MCW) and is currently leading this strategic effort; as well, the current EMS Program Director is filling the role as day-to-day administrator. However, an EMS Division Director is necessary in order to implement the visions detailed herein and to meet the increasing demands of both first responders and local health systems for efficacy and modernization.

Recommendation

The Director of the Office of Emergency Management (OEM) respectfully requests the abolishment of one vacant position of EMS Instructor Title Code 00054820 Pay Grade 18N) and the one vacant position of Adm Asst NR Exempt (Title Code 00000040 Pay Grade 06PM) and the creation of one position of EMS Division Director (new position, Pay Range 37M).

Christine Westrich
Director, Office of Emergency Management

Cc: Chris Abele, County Executive
Supervisor Willie Johnson, Jr., Co-Chair , Committee on Finance Personnel & Audit
Supervisor Theodore Lipscomb, Sr., Co-Chair, Committee on Finance, Personnel & Audit
Raisa Koltun, Chief of Staff, County Executive's Office
Kelly Bablitch, Chief of Staff, County Board
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Daniel Laurila, Fiscal and Management Analyst, DAS-Fiscal Affairs
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