



Office of Emergency Management (OEM)  
**Milwaukee County**  
Director, Christine Westrich

**DATE:** November 18, 2016

**TO:** Theodore Lipscomb, Sr., Chairman, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Christine Westrich, Director, Office of Emergency Management

**SUBJ:** Report from the Director, Office of Emergency Management (OEM), Requesting Authorization to Enter into Contracts with local municipalities for the provision of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) in Milwaukee County

**Issue:**

Section 56.30 of the Milwaukee County Code of General Ordinances requires that the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors authorize the execution of professional services contracts. The Director of the Office of Emergency Management (OEM) is seeking Board approval to enter into a two-year agreement, with one two-year renewal option with local municipalities for the provision of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) in Milwaukee County.

**Background:**

Milwaukee County is the purveyor of the Emergency Medical (EMS) system within our jurisdictional boundaries, partnering with municipal fire and police departments, the Milwaukee County Association of Fire Chiefs (MCAFC), the Intergovernmental Cooperation Council (ICC), and the Milwaukee County contracted-for-service Medical Director and associated health system.

The relationship between the County and EMS host communities is guided by a contractual agreement establishing a two-year term with one two-year renewal option, stating shared costs associated with the EMS system and defined responsibilities for both the County and the municipality.

The contract covers both Basic Life Support (BLS), Advanced Emergency Medical Technician (AEMT) for the cities of Cudahy and St. Francis and the Village of Hales Corners. Additionally, the contract covers Advances Life Support (ALS) for the cities of Franklin, Greendale, Greenfield, Milwaukee, Oak Creek, South Milwaukee, Wauwatosa, West Allis, the Village of Greendale and the city and villages within the North Shore Fire Rescue jurisdiction.

Milwaukee County provides, at no cost to participating municipalities, a vast array of services to include the EMS Communications Center, contracted-for-service medical

direction, initial cadet and continuing education for paramedics and EMT's, medical supply and pharmaceutical inventory, quality assurance and improvement processes as well as health information management.

Since the formation of OEM through the adoption of the 2015 County Budget, OEM-EMS has worked tirelessly to modernize the EMS system, advancing municipalities universally in technology and quality improvement by working with local Mayors, Village Presidents, Police and Fire Chiefs. This includes the modernization of dated technology and the implementation of digital tools to increase efficiency.

This effort includes significant enhancements in data analytics such as defibrillator records, CPR performance, pre-arrival instructions, and dashboards which are anticipated to provide real-time alerts and statistics to both fire departments and receiving hospitals.

In equal measure with these quality initiatives is capital project WO30301, annotated in the 2017 Adopted Capital Improvement Budget. This capital project provides both technology that connects countywide 9-1-1 centers for resource sharing while also providing the aforementioned data dashboards. This data can be shared with researchers, policy-makers, and first responders to track opioid overdoses with geocoding of a specific population, all in real-time.

A funding source for this vital capital project is a portion of the former County distribution to the eight municipalities that are participating paramedic providers. The reduction in funding for the municipalities is in turn solely reserved for these enhancements which benefit the entire County, allowing the County to pay for the entire capital investment of project WO30301.

The EMS contract states the reduction in funding while also stating the one two-year renewal option for municipalities (through 2020) that participate in said capital project WO30301. This contract, per Wisconsin State Statute 59.794, has received Intergovernmental Cooperation Council (ICC) approval for the execution with local municipalities.

The distribution is outlined in the contract and based upon an Intergovernmental Cooperation Council (ICC) formula and timeline that were ICC-approved in October, 2016. In summary, \$125,000 is removed from distribution and reallocated to the capital project each year.

- 222            2017: \$1,875,000;
- 223            2018: \$1,750,000;
- 224            2019: \$1,625,000; available for Municipalities under contract extension only;
- 225            2020: \$1,500,000; available for Municipalities under contract extension only.

This contract allows for the continuation of countywide EMS initiatives, advancing pre-hospital healthcare commensurate with like urban environments in the U.S. while also sustaining the legacy partnership between the County and municipalities to achieve the best possible patient outcome for the citizens and visitors of Milwaukee County.

**Recommendation:**

It is recommended that the County Board of Supervisors authorize the Director, OEM, of her designee, to enter into a two-year contract with one two-year renewal option with municipalities for the provision of EMS services.

**Fiscal Impact:**

The 2017 adopted budget includes \$1,875,000 to be distributed to the EMS municipalities. In 2019, the contract distribution is not to exceed \$1,750,000. If a municipality engages in the WO30301 capital project and executes a one two-year renewal option, the distribution formula is \$1,625,000 in 2019 and \$1,500,000 in 2020. The funding reduction of \$125,000 per year is money reserved for capital project WO30301.



Christine Westrich, Director  
Office of Emergency Management (OEM)

- Cc: Chris Abele, County Executive  
Supervisor Peggy A. West, Chair, Committee on Finance and Audit  
Finance and Audit Committee Members  
Raisa Koltun, Chief of Staff, County Executive's Office  
Kelly Bablitch, Chief of Staff, County Board of Supervisors  
Steven Kreklow, Fiscal and Budget Administrator  
Ken Sternig, OEM-EMS Program Director  
Lesley Simley, OEM-911/EMS Communications Center Manager  
Josh Scott, Fiscal and Management Analyst, DAS-Fiscal Affairs  
Steve Cady, Research & Policy Director  
Janelle Jensen, Committee Coordinator, Finance and Audit Committee

