

C-6

August 10, 2021

HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
City of Long Beach
California

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt a Resolution authorizing the City Manager, or designee, to execute a contract, and any necessary documents including subsequent amendments, with Digital EMS Solutions, Inc., of Long Beach, CA, for providing an Electronic Patient Care Report System for the Long Beach Fire Department, in a total annual amount not to exceed \$225,000, for a period of three years, with the option to renew for three additional one-year periods, at the discretion of the City Manager; and,

Increase appropriations in the Capital Projects Fund Group in the Fire Department by \$225,000. (Citywide)

DISCUSSION

City Council approval is requested to enter into a contract with Digital EMS Solutions, Inc. (Digital EMS), to continue to provide an Electronic Patient Care Reporting (ePCR) system for the Long Beach Fire Department (LBFD). Digital EMS is the sole supplier of the Medic Clipboard, ePCR system currently being used by the LBFD.

On July 18, 2017, the City Council authorized a contract with Digital EMS to develop an ePCR system to comply with Los Angeles County Department of Health Services (County) requirements, initiated in 2013, which required all Emergency Medical Services (EMS) providers to submit patient care reports electronically. Digital EMS's ePCR system, the Medic Clipboard, replaced the manual system previously used by the LBFD. The Medic Clipboard system enables the LBFD to document patient care electronically and without interruption. It also facilitates continuity of patient care, integrates with the City's existing dispatch, emergency medical services diagnostic and billing processes, and includes robust reporting tools enabling efficient process improvement and participation in the White House Data Driven Justice (DDJ) initiative.

Over the past four years, Digital EMS and City representatives have worked closely to develop, refine, customize, and implement an ePCR system that complies with the aforementioned County requirements. The requested contract with Digital EMS will ensure continuity of EMS services, billing, and storage and retrieval of existing EMS documents.

City Charter Section 1801 requires that contracts for City purchases be awarded to the lowest responsible bidder after a competitive bid process, but allows for awards without a competitive bid process when authorized by a Resolution adopted by the City Council. A competitive procurement process for these services is not feasible because the Medic Clipboard is a proprietary system, developed, marketed, and supported solely by Digital EMS and utilizing a different vendor would require the LBFD to devote several months of staff time to develop a new system, while being out of compliance with County requirements.

This matter was reviewed by Deputy City Attorney Erin Weesner-McKinley on July 21, 2021, Business Services Bureau Manager Tara Montensen on July 14, 2021, and by Budget Management Officer Rhutu Amin Gharib on July 21, 2021.

TIMING CONSIDERATIONS

The current contract with Digital EMS expires on October 31, 2021. Therefore, City Council action to adopt a Resolution and award a contract concurrently is requested to ensure the continuation of services.

FISCAL IMPACT

The total amount of the contract will not exceed \$225,000 annually. An appropriation increase in the amount of \$225,000 is requested in the Capital Projects Fund Group in the Fire Department, offset by funds available from Fire Facilities Impact Fee revenue. This recommendation has no staffing impact beyond the normal budgeted scope of duties and is consistent with existing City Council priorities. There is no local job impact associated with this recommendation.

SUGGESTED ACTION:

Approve recommendation.

Respectfully submitted,



LEA D. ERIKSEN
DIRECTOR OF TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION

APPROVED:



THOMAS B. MODICA
CITY MANAGER

RESOLUTION NO.

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LONG BEACH AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT, AND ANY AMENDMENTS THERETO, WITH DIGITAL EMS SOLUTIONS, WITHOUT ADVERTISING FOR BIDS, TO PROVIDE AN ELECTRONIC PATIENT CARE REPORT SYSTEM FOR THE LONG BEACH FIRE DEPARTMENT, IN A TOTAL ANNUAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$225,000 FOR A PERIOD OF THREE YEARS, WITH THE OPTION TO RENEW FOR THREE ADDITIONAL ONE-YEAR PERIODS

WHEREAS, in 2017, the City of Long Beach (City) issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) for a new Electronic Patient Care Report System (ePCRS) for the City of Long Beach Fire Department (LBFD); and

WHEREAS, on July 18, 2017, City Council adopted Specifications RFP No. TI17-028 and awarded a contract to Digital EMS Solutions (Digital EMS) to develop an ePCR system that would allow the City of Long Beach to comply with Los Angeles County Department of Health Services requirements that all emergency medical service providers submit patient care reports electronically; and

WHEREAS, over the past four (4) years, Digital EMS developed, refined, customized, and implemented an ePCR system that complies with the aforementioned County requirements; and

WHEREAS, Digital EMS's ePCR system, the Medic Clipboard, is a proprietary system developed, marketed, and supported solely by Digital EMS; and

WHEREAS, the Medic Clipboard system enables the LBFD to document patient care electronically and without interruption. It also facilitates continuity of patient

1 care, integrates with the City's existing dispatch, emergency medical services diagnostic
2 and billing processes, and includes robust reporting tools enabling efficient process
3 improvement and participation in the White House Data Driven Justice (DDJ) initiative;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, utilizing a different vendor would require the LBFD to
6 discontinue use of the Medic Clipboard and devote several months of staff time to
7 develop a new system, while being out of compliance with County requirements; and

8 WHEREAS, a new contract with Digital EMS is needed to ensure continuity
9 of EMS services, billing, and storage and retrieval of existing EMS documents; and

10 WHEREAS, as a result, no useful purpose would be served by advertising
11 for bids and to do so would constitute an idle and useless act and an unnecessary
12 expenditure of public funds;

13 NOW, THEREFORE, the City Council of the City of Long Beach resolves as
14 follows:

15 Section 1. The above recitals are true and correct and are incorporated
16 herein.

17 Section 2. The City Manager is hereby authorized to execute a contract,
18 and any amendments thereto, with Digital EMS Solutions to provide an Electronic Patient
19 Care Report System for the Long Beach Fire Department in a total annual amount not to
20 exceed Two Hundred Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$225,000) for a period of three (3)
21 years, with the option to renew for three (3) additional one-year periods, at the discretion
22 of the City Manager.

23 Section 3. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption
24 by the City Council, and the City Clerk shall certify the vote adopting this resolution.

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I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the City
Council of the City of Long Beach at its meeting of _____, 2021
by the following vote:

Ayes: Councilmembers: _____

Noes: Councilmembers: _____

Absent: Councilmembers: _____

Recusal(s): Councilmembers: _____

City Clerk