

WOODBURY COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS AGENDA ITEM(S) REQUEST FORM

#10b

Date: 10/11/2017Weekly Agenda Date: 10/17/2017**ELECTED OFFICIAL / DEPARTMENT HEAD / CITIZEN:** Gary Brown, Director**WORDING FOR AGENDA ITEM:**

Emergency Services to hire (2) Full-Time Operations Officers, Paramedics and (1) 3/4 Part-time Operations Officer by January 2, 2018 or earlier; with the agreed funding sources.

ACTION REQUIRED:Approve Ordinance ☐Approve Resolution ☐Approve Motion ☐Public Hearing ☐Other: Informational ☒Attachments ☐**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

Woodbury County Emergency Services is requesting approval to hire (2) Full-Time Operations Officers, Paramedics and (1) 3/4 Part-time Operations Officer Paramedic as soon as possible, to allow Emergency Services to navigate the hiring process and allow time for proper training and orientation by the anticipated start date of January 2, 2017. The hiring of the additional Emergency Services Staff would assist in the void facing rural EMS and insure a Paramedic and EMT on staff 24/7 365 days a year, however remaining as a provisional service. This comes mid the FY17 fiscal year, which is not ideal but, necessary and possible with other budget adjustments and Woodbury County agreeing to accept a loan for funding from the EMS Loan Fund in the amount of \$50,000.00 at zero % with a two and a half year payback term.

BACKGROUND:

Earlier this year Siouxland Paramedics announced they would have a structure change as of January 1, 2018, within the past few weeks it has been determined that Siouxland Paramedics will be in business however, will no longer handle 911 calls for the city of Sioux City and they will focus on transports and transfers, they can provide Paramedic assist, if staff is available. They are unable to guarantee that staff will be available due to staff reductions and with the direction of the Siouxland Paramedic Board that the priority is transports and transfers. It has been decided that emergent 911 calls within Sioux City will be handled by Sioux City Fire; the City Council and the City Manager will not allow them to respond to rural paramedic assists. Both Siouxland Paramedics and Sioux City Fire will respond when an incident is catastrophic in nature and plans in place are requesting for manpower, higher level of expertise and/or equipment, they will do everything possible to assist with events of that nature.

Woodbury County Emergency Services has requested in the past three budget years an increase of (3) Full-time Operations Officers as Paramedics, the department was approved for one in for fiscal 2017 and began on July 1st of 2016, in that same budget year the request for an wage increase was approved for Operations Officers in an attempt to narrow the deficiency in the hourly wages of paramedics compared to other professional Paramedics in the surrounding areas and tenure.

From January 1, 2017 through June 1, 2017 the one Full-time Operations Officer, Paramedic scheduled from 7am-7pm Monday-Friday rotating Monday-Thurs. completed 161 patient care reports requiring Paramedic, Advanced Life Support (ALS) skills.

Since July 1st, 2017 there has been 130 calls for Paramedic assist throughout Woodbury County when Emergency Services did not have a paramedic scheduled, currently there is not much information available on how many times a Paramedic Assist is requested and denied due to lack of staff from any of the resources such as Siouxland Paramedics or Mercy Air Care.

Currently, the Full-Time Operations Officers make \$46,506.00 for wages plus benefits and they can work up to 212 hours in a 28 day cycle, after that they accrue Comp-Time at time and a half.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

The funding to required to meet the cost of both wages and benefits for this increase in staff is \$195,109.17 annually. If approved to hire as of January 2nd, 2017 it would be half of the fiscal at \$97,554.58.

Woodbury County currently has funding of \$40,000.00 allocated for Siouxland Paramedics annually, utilizing these dollars in combination with a loan from the EMS Loan Fund for \$50,000.00 at 0% with a two and a half year payback term. The remaining funds would be made available from Emergency Services FY17 budget; using the budget of (1) 1/4 Part-time Operations Officer, in the amount of \$10,294.47 which provide just over the approximately \$100,000.00 necessary to fund the hiring for six months for (2) Full-Time Operations Officers, Paramedics and (1) Part-time 3/4 Operations Officer, Paramedic.

The Woodbury County Board of Supervisors would need to adjust the FY18 and budgets going forward, for this rural county necessity for citizens living in and traveling within rural Woodbury County.

IF THERE IS A CONTRACT INVOLVED IN THE AGENDA ITEM, HAS THE CONTRACT BEEN SUBMITTED AT LEAST ONE WEEK PRIOR AND ANSWERED WITH A REVIEW BY THE COUNTY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE?

Yes ☐ No ☒

RECOMMENDATION:

Woodbury County Emergency Services recommends that the Woodbury County Board of Supervisors approve the hiring of (2) Full-time Operations Officers, Paramedics and (1) 3/4 Part-time Operations Officer, Paramedic to help with immediate need of Paramedic Assist, due to the changes in operations at Siouxland Paramedics effective January 1, 2018. The funding for half of FY2017 will be made available with the \$40,000.00 previously allocated to Siouxland Paramedics, a loan from the EMS Loan Fund for \$50,000.00 at 0% with payback term of two and a half years and \$10,294.47 currently included in the Operational Budget from Emergency Services for (1) 1/4 Part-time Operations Officer.

The ongoing budgets will be determined by the Woodbury County Board of Supervisors.

ACTION REQUIRED / PROPOSED MOTION:

Information