



PLACER HILLS - NEWCASTLE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICTS



STAFF REPORT

Date: March 5, 2021
To: Board of Directors, Newcastle Fire District
From: Ian Gow, Fire Chief
Subject: Board's Consideration of becoming an Advanced Life Support (ALS) department

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Fire District should provide ALS/paramedic services when staff is available to do so.

DISCUSSION

1. The District's call volume is 70% to 80% medical emergencies.
2. The District's funding does not cover advanced levels of medical care.
3. Providing paramedic service is rapidly becoming the industry standard. Most important is that we will save lives in our community by having this ability.
4. The District currently has one shift (of 3) staffed with a certified paramedic. We often cover open shifts with staff from Placer Hills that are also medics.

DETAILS

1. In order to outfit our engine to become ALS, we must buy our start up equipment bags, cardiac monitors, medications and narcotic safes (one for the engine and one for the station). Total approximate cost is \$40,000. We believe we can get this startup funding from the Placer County EMS Improvement Fund (monies put aside every year for local government use).
2. We will need written policies for the provision of ALS services, particularly on narcotic use and storage.
3. Sierra-Sacramento Valley EMS Agency (S-SV) is the agency that regulates medical care in the County. We will need to apply to them in order to practice as an ALS provider. We have discussed this issue in detail with them and I do not foresee any issues.
4. AMR is the County's ambulance provider. They typically replace our durable equipment and medications used on mutual calls. We will need to meet and discuss this with them.
5. Dr. Owens is our Medical Director, based out of Sutter Auburn Faith Hospital. He is aware of our efforts and will just need to be kept in the loop.
6. We can anticipate an annual cost of "doing business". Some medications and equipment expire and need replacing and we should pay our medics a monthly stipend of \$400. Hopefully these added costs will be covered by our First Responder Fee.
7. The Nexus study will help us fund the program.

POTENTIAL ISSUES - none

STEPS

1. Board approval.
2. Run the program past staff, local and legal.
3. Apply to S-SV.
4. Keep Dr. Owens in the loop and discuss with AMR.
5. Apply for county funding.
6. Write policies.
7. Review Nexus study
8. Provide ALS care to our citizens.