

EMS Subcommittee
Monday, March 11, 2024 - 9:00 am

Robin DeLoria - Chairman

Supervisor Stanley called this EMS Subcommittee to order at 9:00 am with the following in attendance: Clayton Barber, Chris Clark, Jim Monty, Matt Stanley, Matt Stanley, Ike Tyler, Meg Wood, Mark Wright, Josh Favro, Mike Mascarenas and Matt Watts. Robin DeLoria had been previously excused.

ALSO PRESENT: Dina Garvey, and Rob Wick.

STANLEY: I'll call this meeting to order, Rob, take it away.

WICK: Okay, the first thing that I want to get out of the way is the resolution that we have here, we've got five of them that now we can just bring to Public Safety, after the time we're having this. The first one is for renewing the billing contract with Emergency Management Resources. So, they handle all of our claims, billing, so just renewing that one for another year. And that's the first one.

TYLER: I'll move that

STANLEY: Alright, moved by Mr. Tyler, second, Mr. Barber.

RECOMMENDATION TO THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE, AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY CHAIRMAN OR COUNTY MANAGER TO EXECUTE A ONE-YEAR CONTRACT RENEWAL WITH EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT RESOURCES, LLC FOR INSURANCE BILLING SERVICES FOR THE ESSEX COUNTY EMS PROGRAM.

Tyler, Barber

STANLEY: All in favor? Opposed? Motion carries

WICK: The second one is for CGR, the Center for Government Research to do the updated EMS baseline report and strategic plan. So, these are the folks that did the original ones that we modeled a lot of this whole program after, a lot of action items and suggestions and all of that and we had originally, I think, gotten a resolution to go out to bid, but when I got a quote from them, they were willing to do it for under \$20,000.00 after going through the full scope of work and everything, so this is basically a revision to that resolution. So, just to engage with contract for that quoted price.

STANLEY: Can I have a motion?

TYLER: Moved

STANLEY: Mr. Tyler, second? Mr. Barber

RECOMMENDATION TO THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE, AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY CHAIRMAN OR COUNTY MANAGER TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH THE CENTER FOR GOVERNMENT RESEARCH (CGR) IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$19,500.00, TO PROVIDE AN UPDATED REPORT TO THE ESSEX COUNTY EMS STRATEGIC STUDY AND STRATEGIC PLAN

Tyler, Barber

STANLEY: Discussion? All in favor? Opposed? Motion carries.

WICK: Okay, the third one is to hire another individual, full-time that will, it would be in response to the request from Westport EMS. They wanted just 35-hours of AEMT coverage, but any of the residual time that would otherwise cover the full-time requirements for this individual, Mike Watts and I spoke about it and he's got plenty of work for this individual to do, like cover another shift and stuff like that.

WATTS, MATT: So, it's an EMT position, not AEMT.

WICK: Okay

WATTS, MATT: So, that will change a little bit of the salary, and Westport wanted the hours and then whatever hours to give the full-time, Ticonderoga would pick up the extra person for the hours. So, we would get reimbursed from them for that.

STANLEY: So, just remind me, the County just covers the fringe and then it gets reimbursed from the towns?

WATTS, MATT: Yes

TYLER: So, moved.

STANLEY: By Mr. Tyler, as amended?

TYLER: Yeah

STANLEY: Second by Mr. Wright.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY CHAIRMAN OR COUNTY MANAGER TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT (ES-24-0019) AMENDMENT WITH ESSEX COUNTY, THE TOWN OF WESTPORT AND THE WESTPORT EMS TO HIRE AN ADDITIONAL EMT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$92,936.93 (WAGES & FRINGE) WITH FUNDS TO COME FROM EMS GRANT FUNDS.

Tyler, Wright

STANLEY: All in favor? Opposed? Motion carries.

WICK: Okay, the 4th resolution is to go out to bid for the AET units requested by Etown-Lewis EMS squad. As we were talking before the meeting, that's going to be either two refurbished units or one new unit. So, the budget is set at \$35,000.00 to cover that.

STANLEY: Okay, a motion for that?

MONTY: I'll move it

STANLEY: Mr. Monty, seconded by Mr. Barber.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASING AGENT TO GO OUT TO BID FOR AED'S FOR THE ELIZABETHTOWN-LEWIS EMS SQUAD

Monty, Barber

STANLEY: All in favor? Opposed? Motion carries.

WICK: The 5th one in the stack here is for an senior account clerk to help out the EMS program folks. We have been in talks about this for a while now, but in combination of the workload that Mike is incurring over there, both running the roads as a paramedic in the medic cars as well as handling the interoffice stuff, the volume is increasing sufficient enough to make this a full time job.

STANLEY: Alright, motion for that? By Mr. Wright, second by Mr. Tyler.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING TO HIRE A SENIOR ACCOUNT CLERK, GRADE 8 POSITION IN THE EMS PROGRAM IN THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$74,620.65, WITH FUNDS TO COME FROM THE EMS GRANT FUNDS.

Wright, Tyler

STANLEY: And discussion?

MONTY: I have a question, that is out of the grant money?

WICK: Yes

MONTY: And is it contingent job, pending, being hired just through the grant or it will be put in? Is that making sense, Mike?

MASCARENAS: Yes, it is. I've got some more information, that I learned Friday, that probably makes it more important.

WATTS, MATT: Absolutely

MASCARENAS: Ron, I don't want to steal your thunder, but I think it matters.

WICK: Yup, okay, so I was going to wait until the end of this, but so, another reason for is, so first of all, to answer that question, directly, it's a budget modification for the department's budget and will be covered for this grant year, plus any residual money that we do have for the grant will be able to cover for this position. But, so of you are aware that last year or whenever, I moved by daughter out to Iowa, so she could go to college and I have been looking for opportunity to build up my own consulting opportunities to work remotely or get a job a little bit closely and I have accepted a position in Iowa that will have me starting in the middle of April. So, that's even more importance to be able to have this clerk position supporting EMS folks, long term.

MONTY: That makes sense.

MASCARENAS: So, to me I would look for long term, fill in that role of even who's doing the DOS grant work. We can talk more about this, but I would like them to try and transition the work Rob's doing into the job. We have a lot uncollected money with DOS and I think that would be part of their job, as well, to make sure that we get those reimbursements.

STANLEY: I have a lot more questions, now, relating to this grant, but we'll cross that bridge later. Congratulations, Rob.

Any other discussion? All in favor? Motion carries.

WICK: Okay, well, moving back to the agenda, we do have the first item for staffing was this resolution that you just passed for the Westport EMT. We do have a couple of medic car positions, currently opened advertisements being filled. The additional position for Etown-Lewis. We do have the AEMT-critical care individual that is staffed and we've got one more EMT position to fill there and then there's one position for Ti that we're trying to fill from a prior request.

MONTY: Are we getting applicants for these jobs?

WATTS, MATT: Yes

MONTY: We are getting applicants, because it seems like we have a lot of vacancies, quite often and I was wondering.

WATTS, MATT: The EMT positions we are, the medic car, not so much, but we did fill the one medic car position with one of our per diems that came back, he was full time, left for a little while, went per diem and now he's back full time, started last week.

WICK: And that's why you see in some of this, is it's a revolving door sometimes, is just the nature of these folks, they want full time, they want part time, they want full time, they want part time. So, that's why over the last couple of months we've been trying to work, trying to figure it out, a bit more of a dynamic situation. So, like last month we passed those resolutions to be able to create those billets for the various certificated positions, the EMT, AEMT, paramedics, to have all of those potential positions for this revolving door issue, so there's always a way to account for someone's desire to either be full time or per diem. There's still available within the network to be able to provide services, okay, are they going to stay full time, or are they going to shopping, just trying to fill hours.

MONTY: Because it seems like, since we formed this committee, it seems like it's that revolving door and eventually the grant is going to run out and we're still not going to be a whole lot better off, because of the revolving door. Are we going to have the manpower to fill what we're trying to do?

MASCARENAS: Well, and some of it, too, towns are requesting more. So, some of those things are...

MONTY: I get it.

WATTS, MATT: The EMT ones, we're not really having a hard time filling, it's the higher level ones that we're having a hard time keeping and filling.

Rob, do you want me to bring up about Lisa with paramedic?

WICK: Oh, the AEMT critical care that wants to move up to paramedic?

WATTS, MATT: Yeah, so we have a person that is now full time with us doing Etown-Lewis EMS that is critical care, wants to transition to the paramedic level. She's looking for assistance with tuition for the paramedic program. I believe, Rob, you said that's probably not part of the grant scope, correct?

WICK: Yeah, the thing is, it could be, but the problem is every time we're adding something outside of the existing scope it is a budget modification with DOS, so now we've kicked the can, 6-8 months more to getting our claims back. So, it is truly up the County whether that's going to be something that's offered, first of all and then second of all, whether it's out of pocket or we try and use grant money to pay for that.

MASCARENAS: So, what are timeframes that we're looking at, in terms of how quickly we've got to know?

WATTS, MATT: It would be signing up for the class that starts in the fall. We're not exactly sure, it's probably going to like October/November area.

MASCARENAS: Okay

STANLEY: Does WorkSource One help with that, like they do with the CDL class?

MASCARENAS: I don't know that they really help much on the CDL class.

MONTY: What's the cost?

WATTS, MATT: About \$6,000.00.

STANLEY: Actually, I'm in my third driver at the town, that's gotten the class through WorkSource One.

MASCARENAS: Wow, because our guys haven't qualified for some reason.

TYLER: Is that something, if we chose to do that, to add in there that they would have to work for the County for a certain amount of time?

WATTS, MATT: Oh, absolutely.

MONTY: The problem, early was, they didn't have the funding, they might have got a new pot of money.

MASCARENAS: Could be, every guy sent there, came back and said, that's not true, we can't.

STANLEY: And two of them are within the last 6 months.

MASCARENAS: So, they didn't go back once they were told no.

MONTY: Right

MASCARENAS: And that's the word that gets spread with all the workers. So, if it is happening...

STANLEY: I can find out if it's Plattsburgh.

MASCARENAS: Yeah, if it is happening, that would be great.

STANLEY: I can find out if it was Plattsburgh that they were to, too.

MASCARENAS: Yeah, we're helping people do that, too and we do have a contract.

MONTY: They could live in Clinton County, Matt.

STANLEY: Well, they all live in the Town of Jay.

MONTY: They might have gone through JCEO.

MASCARENAS: One WorkSource, early on we were under the understanding and it sounds like they do, they have been able to support the Town of Jay, has some funding.

TYLER: I wasn't talking about that, I was talking about if we decided to supply this individual with money to go back to school, are they guaranteed with work with us for a while?

MASCARENAS: Yeah, so the contract that we have is signed between the employee getting the benefit and us and they're required to pay it back within, I think if they leave within 3 years of completing the program, something like that. We don't have that for this position, we would have to run that through the Board. That's why I am asking about time, we have it for CDLs only, right now, but we do have a process in place. We lost a CDL driver to Essex and the Town of Essex decided to reimburse us for the cost, instead of making the employee do it.

STANLEY: I mean, I would actually support a resolution to take to Public Safety to support that, because that's our biggest need, you said.

WATTS, MATT: Absolutely.

STANLEY: So, if we could support EMT or AEMT that want to go through that.

MASCARENAS: Yeah, I don't have an issue, absolutely doing that. I just didn't know if you wanted to run it through the Recruitment and Retention folks.

TYLER: My only concern is they will head out, they will leave and go somewhere else.

WATTS, MATT: Yeah, we definitely need that.

MASCARENAS: You have to have that claw back ability.

STANLEY: But the thing to think about, even if they go somewhere else, they're a position out there that makes the pool bigger. Whether they go out and come back, they go per diem, there is that, at least, person in the pool of people, because they're not going to leave the area.

MONTY: We want them to stay in Essex County. I don't want them to get certified and go to Clinton County, go to Albany, go somewhere else and we're left, because that's what happening with the Sheriff's Department for years. We're training these deputies and correction officers, they get the training, boom, out the door they go and we foot the bill for it and we're not getting any money back.

MASCARENAS: I think we could work that, though, into a contract where you incentivize some kind of process and there's a payback opportunity, but at the same time, an application of waiver that people can apply and depending on where they're leaving to, I certainly won't want to see them leaving to private. I would want them to be leaving for one the agencies that are supported by Essex County taxpayers, not by a private entity, but that's just my opinion and I'm one guy that don't get a vote.

TYLER: That's a Dan Manning question if you can do that.

BARBER: I was just going to say, my question, was whether or not you can add that into the contract.

MASCARENAS: I will make an appointment with Manning and talk to him about it.

STANLEY: And you're probably right about taking that to Recruitment and Retention.

MASCARENAS: Yeah

STANLEY: Makes sense.

MASCARENAS: Yeah, we'll at least run it my those folks. I am sure they will support it, they certainly have other things.

WATTS, MATT: Thank you

WICK: There's not a whole lot of other updates for the agenda, but I do want to note that there are two stacks of documents here; the end of the year report for 2023 and then there's a stack of legislative proposals that are in the queue, right now, with the State and kind of what we were just talking about. The last one on the list here, at the very back of that document is workforce sustainability and it's talking about trying to get New York State to fund 100% of the cost of EMT and AEMT certification and then making the paramedic training much more affordable, trying to reduce the cost of that.

MASCARENAS: Is that legislation currently in the hopper, Rob?

WATT, MATT: Yes

WICK: Yeah

MASCARENAS: Do we have Bill Nos.?

WICK: Yeah, for some of these they do have actual Bill Nos.

MASCARENAS: So, we might want to do a resolution in support of those.

WICK: This particular doesn't have, it's been proposed, but doesn't have an actual Bill No., yet.

MASCARENAS: Okay

WICK: But, several of the other ones do have that information in the center column, here.

MASCARENAS: Okay

STANLEY: I like the increase on volunteer incentives and those are Bills.
Anything else, Rob?

WICK: Nope

STANLEY: Matt, you got anything?

WATTS, MATT: I don't, not for this.

STANLEY: Josh? Anybody else? Alright, it is 9:18, we are adjourned.

**AS THERE WAS NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THIS SUBCOMMITTEE, IT
WAS ADJOURNED AT 9:18 AM.**

Respectively Submitted,

Dina Garvey, Deputy Clerk
Board of Supervisors