

To the Mayor and Members of the City Council

August 24, 2023

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**SUBJECT: Medstar Transitional Funding and Plan to Determine Best EMS System Structure for Fort Worth**

The following is a budget response outlining the plan to provide transitional funding to the Metropolitan Area Emergency Medical Services (“EMS”) Authority, also known as Medstar. in FY24, and the corresponding work to determine the best way to provide quality, efficient, patient-centric, and sustainable EMS services to City of Fort Worth (the “Fort Worth”) residents, business, and visitors.

MedStar Transitional Funding

After more than a decade of not requiring any public funding to meet the desired service levels for Fort Worth, increasing costs and decreasing revenues have created a deficit in the operating budget for MedStar.

MedStar is currently using about \$350,000 per month in reserves to maintain desired service levels to Fort Worth and the other member cities.

To help assure that current service levels can be maintained, the FY24 Recommended Budget includes transitional funding of \$4.2 million that will allow Medstar to maintain current service levels until an evaluation can identify new funding and service-delivery models and those models can be implemented.

This issue is not unique to Fort Worth, or MedStar, as the declining financial status of EMS systems is an issue across the country, and is forcing a number of agencies, including those with in-house EMS, to evaluate their models.

EMS Comprehensive Review RFP and Timing

Fort Worth and Medstar MAEMSA have collaborated on issuing a Request for Proposal (“RFP”) to select a management consultant that will evaluate Medstar’s finances, operational structure, and challenges that have led to a need to routinely rely on reserve balances to remain solvent, and then provide recommendations on how to best implement an EMS service in Fort Worth that will be fiscally sustainable and focused on providing the best patient care.

The recommendations provided by the consultant for a new EMS model are expected to be ready to implement as part of the FY25 budget development process.

- RFP posted July 3, 2023
- RFP closed August 4, 2023
- Evaluation committee has been convened to evaluate and score proposals
- Anticipate bringing a consultant recommendation to Mayor/Council early 1st Quarter of FY24.

Mayor’s Ad Hoc EMS Committee

Mayor Parker has appointed an Ad Hoc Council Committee made up of Fort Worth City Councilmembers that are charged with supporting, reviewing, and ultimately evaluating the recommendations that come out of the RFP process. The committee will work closely with the selected RFP vendor and stakeholders in the EMS System over a series of meetings that will kickoff on Tuesday, August 29th and are scheduled to be completed by April 30, 2024.

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**SUBJECT: Medstar Transitional Funding and Plan to Determine Best EMS System Structure for Fort Worth**MedStar Member Cites and Outreach

The outreach process will be two-pronged to ensure that all Medstar member cities have multiple opportunities to discuss the RFP process, how to equitably share the costs, and ensure there are ongoing conversations as the selected consultant begins to work and develop recommendations that will impact all participating cities. To date, the MedStar Board of Directors and the First Responder Advisory Board have had direct conversations and written communications with each member city.

Fort Worth is coordinating to host a member city forum at Meacham International Airport in September where there will be an opportunity for the leadership from each city to talk and develop the fiscal plans needed to support the RFP process.

If you have questions concerning this information, please contact Valerie Washington at valerie.washington@fortworthtexas.gov.

David Cooke
City Manager