



City of Saginaw

City of Saginaw

Meeting Date: 05/03/2016

Staff Contact: Doug Spears
Fire Chief

Agenda Item: 10
(CC-0516-07)

E-mail: dspears@saginawtx.org

Phone: 817-232-4640

SUBJECT: Consideration and Action regarding Purchase of Transport Vehicle for CERT
(Community Emergency Response Team)

BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION:

Fire Chief Spears is proposing to purchase a 1993 Ford ambulance to be used as a transport vehicle for CERT (Community Emergency Response Team). The ambulance is being retired by Lockheed Martin and is available for purchase for \$1,200. Additional details regarding the vehicle are included in the attachment.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

The financial impact will be \$1,200 for the purchase of the vehicle. Funds are available in the current fiscal year Fire Department Budget to cover this expenditure.

RECOMMENDATION:

N/A

Attachments

Memo with attachments from Doug Spears



Saginaw Fire Department

400 S. Saginaw Blvd. Saginaw, Texas 76179
Tel: 817-230-0412 Fax: 817-232-3731

DOUG SPEARS
FIRE CHIEF

TO: City Manager Nan Stanford
FROM: Fire Chief Doug Spears
DATE: April 1, 2016
RE: Saginaw CERT Capability Enhancement

We are seeking approval to acquire a vehicle for the Saginaw CERT to utilize. Like the Citizens Police Academy, participation in the CERT provides a significant opportunity for our citizens to serve our community while bolstering our community's emergency preparedness for events and disasters that we will unfortunately and ultimately be confronted with. The CERT has already proven to be a valuable asset to our community during some of our department's community events and on a few emergency incidents. During the most recent potential severe weather events, like the last couple of years, the CERT has played a significant role in staffing the EOC to monitor conditions, track resources and handle the RACES radio communications.

We do however unfortunately struggle with opportunities to keep the CERT involved with activities which ultimately and beneficially keeps the members motivated and focused. They continually inquire of avenues to be more active and supportive of our department and the City's emergency services. At the CERT's encouragement we would like to pursue using them for incident rehab staff for emergency incidents. The vast majority of fire departments have a rehab component staffed with citizen volunteers. Ft. Worth has the "Red Helmets" which is comprised of retired FD staff but most others have citizens fill the role who want to serve their community in a worthy fashion. This is a perfect avenue for us to utilize the CERT team and provide a much needed resource for our department. On the last few significant incidents in our City, the Haslet FD Rehab has responded for our utilization.

The rehab component consist of transporting and distributing water, Gatorade and snacks to personnel, wet towels for cooling, establishing a rehab area (chairs, shade, wind blocks, etc.). They can also transport the heating and cooling appliances we currently possess within the department for use during inclement weather when rehab is vital. We currently do not have the operational capacity to transport Rehab equipment to the scene when needed. Rehab also meets the immediate need of affected citizens while the incident is ongoing requiring the responder's full efforts. An example would be providing blankets, a warming/cooling method, a designated safe area and human compassion to a family during a structure fire during inclement weather.

The perfect scenario is to provide the capability for our CERT to provide rehab services for our emergency services (both the FD and PD). In addition to the functions mentioned above the CERT is trained to establish and maintain perimeters, something we lack or struggle to maintain on almost every major fire or significant incident due to the number of persons this requires.

The major component missing from our CERT that other area CERT's possess is a transport vehicle. We have very fortunately discovered a pre-inquired about what we consider the perfect vehicle for CERT application and it can be obtained for \$1200. Lockheed Martin, a NERO partner, is retiring a highly underused ambulance from their fleet. It is a 1993 Ford ambulance with approximately 13,000 miles on it. It is reported to never have left the Lockheed Martin facility as they use Medstar for EMS service. They are making it available to us through our NERO partnership. We have thoroughly inspected the ambulance. It is in superb condition and can be perfectly configured for use by our department and CERT. The ambulance would be a City owned and maintained asset. I would approve approximately 5 qualified CERT members to operate the vehicle. Strict adherence to well defined operational procedures would be enforced. Emergency response at any level would never be utilized by a CERT member while operating the vehicle.

The ambulance configuration would permit transport of six CERT members in seated, safety belt equipped positions (two in the front and four in the rear seats), a significant capability. It would also permit ready deployment of a significant cache of rehab equipment and items as well as our CERT's owns cache of equipment. Implementing the use of such a vehicle for our CERT usage will not only be a tremendous asset, it will also go far to maintain a high level of enthusiasm and participation of CERT members.

We will simply not find a better vehicle for this use and definitely not anywhere close to the price we can acquire this exceptional one for. We can accommodate the expense through this year's department budget along with any minor modifications that it may undergo. Some modest graphics will most likely be installed for identification purposes.

I am aware of the liability created having a city owned vehicle capable of being driven by non-city employees but the need is warranted and the vehicles utilization will be managed within very strict parameters and supervision.

Please let me know if you have any unaddressed questions or concerns and I will address them promptly.





