

**CITY COUNCIL
COMMUNICATION:**

02-198

AGENDA:

APRIL 8, 2002

SUBJECT:

PURCHASE
PHARMACEUTICALS
FOR METROPOLITAN
MEDICAL RESPONSE
SYSTEM CONTRACT

TYPE:

RESOLUTION
ORDINANCE
RECEIVE/FILE

SUBMITTED BY:

RON WAKEHAM
FIRE CHIEF

ITEM _____

**OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER
CITY OF DES MOINES, IOWA**

SYNOPSIS -

Approval of the purchase of pharmaceuticals, known as Mark 1 kits, as part of the Metropolitan Medical Response System (MMRS) contract between the City of Des Moines and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Nine bids were sent out with only one response.

FISCAL IMPACT -

The cost of the pharmaceuticals is \$56,160. The cost will be reimbursed by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services as part of the MMRS contract.

RECOMMENDATION -

Approval.

BACKGROUND -

On July 9, 2001, by Roll Call No. 01-2111, Council approved the formation of a Metropolitan Medical Response System (MMRS) Task Force by the Fire Department and submission of an application for a \$400,000 grant. As part of the MMRS contract, and with the events of 9/11, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services recommends the immediate purchase of Mark 1 auto-injection kits as part of the domestic preparedness and response system for this area.

The task force is comprised of hospital, state and local entities. Its goal is to identify needs and to correct deficiencies in the preparedness of First Responders and medical facilities in the event of an incident. The Department of Health and Human Services and the MMRS Task Force recommends a cache of chemical agent antidotes, identified as the Mark 1 auto-injection kits, to be used to treat on-scene casualties and First Responders in the event of a

chemical agent incident.

The antidote would treat the initial effects of the chemical agent until the patient could be transported to a medical facility. Iowa Methodist and Mercy Hospital will be responsible for securing and storing of the Mark 1 kits.

In the event of an incident, the Iowa Department of Emergency Management would make a recommendation to the Governor of Iowa to authorize the use of the antidote.

As this antidote is mainly used by the U.S. Armed Forces, its availability, need and use is very limited. The purchase of this product is only available through the manufacturer of the Mark 1 kits. Therefore, this will be a single source vendor.
