



Agenda Item:

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COUNCIL COMMUNICATION City Manager's Office

GENERAL INFORMATION

Agenda Date: 01/09/06
Agenda Item Type: Resolution

Communication No.: 06-020
Roll Call No.:

Submitted by: Phillip C. Vorlander, Chief of the Fire Department

SUBJECT—

Authorization of tuition payment for Fire Recruit paramedic training services

SYNOPSIS—

This action authorizes a tuition payment to Mercy School of Emergency Medical Services, David Vellinga, President/CEO, Mercy Medical Center, 1111 6th Avenue Des Moines, Iowa 50314-2611 to provide emergency medical technician-paramedic specialist (EMT-PS) training to members of the Des Moines Fire Department 2005 Recruit Academy.

FISCAL IMPACT—

Total net tuition for this training is \$63,750. Funds are available in HRS 980100, SP720, Account Number 562050.

RECOMMENDATION—

Approval

BACKGROUND—

Maintenance of certification as an Emergency Medical Technician–Paramedic Specialist (EMT-PS) is a condition of employment for all new hire fire fighters. To address this requirement, the Recruit Academy is configured into two phases. Phase 1 provides instruction in the policies, practices, skills, techniques, and evolutions necessary for a recruit to function as a firefighter, as well as the education and training required for certification as an Emergency Medical Technician–Basic (EMT-B). Fire Department staff members provide this training.

At the completion of Phase 1, new hires that possess EMT-PS certification report to fire stations as probationary firefighters. Members of the class who do not possess EMT-PS certification report to Phase 2 to receive the fourteen-week classroom component of EMT-PS training. The Mercy School of Emergency Medical Services is the only provider of this education in central Iowa. The Des Moines Fire Department enjoys a mutually beneficial relationship with the Mercy School of EMS as a provider of preceptors and clinical field experience for Mercy School of EMS students. In addition to presenting the classroom component of the paramedic-training curriculum, the Mercy School oversees and coordinates the clinical portion of the training, which lasts approximately nine months, as an integral component of our recruits' station assignments.