

 <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Council Communication</b> Office of the City Manager</p>	<b>Date:</b>	March 10, 2014
	<b>Agenda Item No.</b>	<b>20</b>
	<b>Roll Call No.</b>	<b><u>14-0384</u></b>
	<b>Communication No.</b>	<b><u>14-105</u></b>
	<b>Submitted by:</b>	<b>John F. TeKippe, Fire Chief</b>

**AGENDA HEADING:**

Approval of Fire Department and Des Moines Area Community College (DMACC) paramedic training agreement.

**SYNOPSIS:**

Recommend approval of Fire Department and DMACC agreement to provide required paramedic training for current Fire Training Academy recruits; cost \$57,960.00.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

Amount: \$57,960.00

Funding Source: FY 2013-2014 Operating Budget, Page 110, Fire Department, Emergency Medical Services (EMS), FD105000

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

Paramedic certification is a job requirement and condition of employment for new fire fighters. The current Fire Training Academy began January 6, 2014. Of the 17 new fire fighters hired into this class, nine (9) were previously certified as paramedics and eight (8) require paramedic training and certification. Those new fire fighters previously certified as paramedics will begin working in fire stations at the conclusion of fire suppression and other emergency and non-emergency training in May 2014. Those new fire fighters who require paramedic training and certification will continue beyond May 2014. The classroom, clinical, and field training for the new paramedics will conclude December 12, 2014.

The paramedic programs of DMACC, Kirkwood Community College, Mercy School of EMS, and the University of Iowa were reviewed and compared to best meet the needs of the City, the Fire Department, and the new fire fighters. The DMACC program best fit the needs of our 40-hour per week Training Academy schedule. This program also allowed the City and Fire Department the most complete and flexible means to provide supervision and assistance for the new fire fighters during the training and certification while avoiding off-site scheduling obstacles and additional uniform and other costs.

There are three (3) elements that are new regarding this agreement. First, the program cost is for the entire course and not based on a per student rate. The Fire Department will evaluate if there is a need, at the beginning of the paramedic training, to add any incumbent fire fighters as students. Second, the

training will occur on a 40-hour week until completed versus utilizing a semester-based schedule that results in students completing the training in a more efficient time frame. Third, the classroom portion of the training will make use of the new Fire Administration, Maintenance and Training Facility as well as utilize Fire Department instructors. This last element greatly enhances the resources readily available to students and instructors each day.

DMACC EMS Coordinator Eric Anderson will serve as the lead instructor and will work with Fire Department personnel who are approved instructors and evaluators. The classroom/didactic portion is carried out over 16 weeks of instruction, beginning May 12, 2014, and concludes August 22, 2014. There is an additional 275 hours of field experience and 276 hours of clinical experience required that will be conducted at the area hospitals. The clinical and field experience concludes December 12, 2014.

**PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):**

Date: January 9, 2006

Roll Call Number: 06-061

Action: Payment of tuition for emergency medical technician-paramedic education and training to Mercy School of Emergency Medical Services for members of the 2005 Fire Recruit Academy. ([Council Communication No. 06-020](#)) Moved by Vlassis to adopt. Motion Carried 7-0.

**BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S): NONE**

**ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS: NONE**

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