

 <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Council Communication</b> Office of the City Manager</p>	<b>Date:</b>	December 19, 2016
	<b>Agenda Item No.</b>	<b>36</b>
	<b>Roll Call No.</b>	<b><u>16-2167</u></b>
	<b>Communication No.</b>	<b><u>16-696</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) Emergency Medical Service (EMS) Fire Training Academy agreements:

- A) Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) training agreement (prerequisite)
- B) Paramedic training agreement

**SYNOPSIS:**

Recommend approval of Fire Department and DMACC agreements to provide required EMS training for the new fire fighters in the 2017 94<sup>th</sup> Fire Training Academy.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

Amount:

- (A) EMT- \$8,300
- (B) Paramedic - \$69,900

Funding Source: FY17 Operating Budget, Page 106, Fire Department, Emergency Medical Services (EMS), FD105000

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

Paramedic certification is a job requirement and condition of employment for new fire fighters. EMT certification is a prerequisite for paramedic training and certification. The upcoming 94<sup>th</sup> Basic Fire Training Academy is set to begin January 17, 2017.

The Training Academy is set in four (4) phases:

- Phase 1        EMT training (prerequisite for paramedic training)
- Phase 2        Suppression, rescue and specialty training
- Phase 3        Paramedic training
- Phase 4        Field Training

The EMT and Paramedic agreements continue the method of EMS instruction and program management the fire department has used with great success. Both agreements result in instruction and program coordination utilizing both DMFD and DMACC staff. The resultant program provides increased oversight for DMFD staff as well as allowing the training to be completed in a time efficient manner.

(A) EMT Agreement:

This EMT agreement is the third such agreement with DMACC for consecutive training academies. All new fire fighters, regardless of current level of EMS certification, or lack thereof, complete the EMT course as a requirement of the Training Academy. This creates the opportunity to provide consistent instruction to each fire fighter, mitigate any deficiencies, and provides the foundation for all subsequent DMFD EMS training during their careers. EMT training and certification is the prerequisite for Paramedic training and certification. Certification as a Paramedic is a requirement and condition of employment for all new fire fighters.

DMFD EMS Section staff serve as lead instructors during the EMT training using DMACC curriculum, credentialing, and accreditation. DMACC provides all books, testing fees, continuing education credits, and administrative oversight. New fire fighters who have previously completed EMS certifications also receive continuing education credit for the EMT training. The agreement and instruction begins in January 2017 and continues through the first six (6) to seven (7) weeks of the Training Academy.

(B) Paramedic Training Agreement:

Certification as a Paramedic is a requirement and condition of employment for all new fire fighters. This Paramedic agreement is the third agreement with DMACC for consecutive training academies. New fire fighters who have previously completed Paramedic certification, and complete suppression training as a part of the Training Academy, are assigned to a fire station and do not complete the Paramedic training as a part of the Training Academy. All other new fire fighters complete the Paramedic training and certification as a part of the Training Academy.

DMACC staff serve as lead instructors during the Paramedic training and incorporate DMFD staff who are approved instructors and evaluators. Programming is also coordinated on-site with DMFD Training and EMS Section staff. The cost of the agreement includes instruction, textbooks, workbooks, testing fees, administrative oversight, as well as DMACC's accreditation. This cost is based on the entire course and is not on a per student rate.

The Paramedic training program's classroom/didactic portion is carried out over 16 weeks, beginning in March 2017 and concludes in September 2017. An additional 275 hours of field experience and 276 hours of clinical experience are required and are conducted at area hospitals. The field and clinical experience concludes in late December 2017. The training occurs on a 40-hour week schedule until completed. This results in students completing the training in a more efficient time frame. Instruction takes place on the premises of the Fire Department Administration Maintenance and Training facility. This element greatly enhances the resources readily available to students and instructors each day and improves department oversight.

**Programs reviewed:**

The paramedic programs of DMAACC, Kirkwood Community College, Mercy School of EMS, and the University of Iowa were reviewed and compared to determine who best met the needs of the City, the Fire Department, and the new fire fighters. The DMAACC program best fit the needs of the 40-hour per week Training Academy schedule, thus shortening the instruction time period. This program also allows the City and Fire Department the most complete and flexible means to provide supervision and assistance for the new fire fighters during training and certification while avoiding off-site scheduling obstacles and additional uniform and other costs. In the first agreement with DMAACC, utilizing fire facilities, coordinated dual-staff instruction, and other programming, staff saw a 10-point increase in lowest program scores when compared to previous providers.

**PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):**

Date: November 9, 2015

Roll Call Number: [15-1877](#)

Action: Agreements with Des Moines Area Community College for Fire Department EMS Training and Paramedic Training. ([Council Communication No. 15-584](#)) Moved by Gatto to adopt. Motion Carried 6-1. Absent Coleman.

**BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S): NONE****ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS: NONE**

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