Board of County Commissioners
Agenda Request

Date of Meeting:	February 11, 2003
Date Submitted:	February 6, 2003
To:	Honorable Chairman and Members of the Board
From:	Parwez Alam, County Administrator Vincent Long, Assistant County Administrator
Subject:	Ratification of Actions taken at the Emergency Medical Services Workshop held January 28, 2003 and Authorization to Contract for a Medical Director, Apply for Medicaid and Medicare Provider Status; Requests for Proposals for Billing/Collections and Air Ambulance Services

Statement of Issue:
This item seeks ratification of Board actions taken at the January 28, 2003 Emergency Medical Services Workshop and requests Board authority to proceed with the hiring of a Medical Director and application for Medicaid and Medicare provider status.

Background:
On November 26, 2002, the Board expanded the membership of the Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council (EMSAC) and directed the Council, when considering the provision of Emergency Medical Services, to explore the following: 1) a hospital model, Tallahassee Fire Department providing services, a County EMS Department; 2) program funding expense; 3) recommend a funding source for the service; and 4) ensure that the current EMS employees will have first preference in hiring for whatever model or organization provides Emergency Medical Services. Further, the Board directed that an EMS Workshop be scheduled within sixty (60) days to receive EMSAC recommendations.

Analysis:
The EMS Advisory Council presented its findings and recommendations and after a lengthy discussion, in which all EMSAC members were provided an opportunity to be heard, the Board adopted the following:

1) That a County EMS Division be developed to contract with the Tallahassee Fire Department for the provision EMS dispatch and Advanced Life Support and Transport services to the citizens of Leon County.
2) Advanced Life Support services continued at the current level of service, with ALS First Responder service at the five fire stations in the unincorporated area of the County, to include Fire Station #15 on Bannerman Road;
3) Consideration of the addition of one ambulance, fully staffed (24/7/365) to be situated as directed by call demand and peak load demand;

4) The County EMS Department shall provide billing and collections services, contract management services, including audit, monitoring and reporting of operational and financial activities;
5) Current TMH EMS personnel shall have first right of refusal of employment and shall be offered the special risk retirement classification;
6) The County Administrator shall continue development of a County run EMS division and continue discussions with Tallahassee Memorial HealthCare, Inc. and Tallahassee Community Hospital, Inc. as a fall back alternative;
7) The County Administrator is directed to ascertain by letter an indication of the City's desire to offer emergency transport services;
8) The County Administrator shall return to the Board with an item to maintain air ambulance services in Leon County;
9) The Board agrees to adopt a Municipal Services Taxing Unit as a permanent funding source.
10) The County Administrator shall return to the Board with a time line of functions to ascertain the timely delivery of EMS Services to the Citizens of Leon County (provided as Attachment 1).

Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity

Regardless of the ultimate choice of the provider of EMS, it is necessary that Leon County Board of County Commissioners secure a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CON) for the operation of Emergency Medical and Transport services. A requirement of the CON is for the recipient to have a Medical Director under contract. This item seeks Board authorization to proceed with contracting with a Medical Director for EMS.

Medicare and Medicaid Provider Applications

Regardless of the ultimate choice of the provider of EMS, for Leon County to bill for EMS services, it is necessary that Medicare and Medicaid provider applications be completed and filed. This item seeks Board authorization to apply to Medicaid and Medicare for provider status.

Billing/Collection

Regardless of the ultimate choice of the provider of EMS, for Leon County to bill and collect for EMS services, it is necessary that a qualified, experienced EMS Billing and Collection provider be contracted. This item seek Board authorization to issue a Request For Proposals (RFP) for EMS billing and collections services.

EMS Air Ambulance
Regardless of the ultimate choice of the provider of ground EMS, for Leon County to maintain Leon County-based Air EMS services, it is necessary that a provider be contracted. This item seek Board authorization to issue a Request For Proposal (RFP) for EMS Air Ambulance Services.

Time Line
Per the Board's request at the January 28, 2003 EMS Workshop, staff has developed a time line presenting the activities and tasks that need to be accomplished over the next several months (Attachment 1). This time line considers the task necessary to contract with the City of Tallahassee for the provisions of ALS and transport as well as those needed to implement a County-run services, if deem necessary.

Options:

1. Ratify the actions taken at the EMS Workshop held on January 28, 2003.
2. Direct Staff to contract for the services of an EMS Medical Director.
3. Direct Staff to file provider applications with Medicaid and Medicare.
4. Direct Staff to prepare a Request for Proposal (RFP) for EMS Billing/Collections and Air Ambulance Services.
5. Do not ratify the actions taken at the EMS Workshop held on January 28, 2003.
6. Do not direct Staff to secure the services of an EMS Medical Director.
7. Do not direct Staff to file provider applications with Medicaid and Medicare.
8. Do not direct Staff to prepare a Request for Proposal (RFP) for EMS Billing/Collections and Air Ambulance services.
9. Board Direction

Recommendation:
Options 1, 2, 3, and 4.

Attachment:
1. EMS Timeline

PA/VL/js