

## XXXXXX County Coronavirus Relief Fund Eligibility Review Memo

**Memo ID:** 001

**Prepared for:**

Name

Chief Financial Officer

County, State

**Date:** 05/12/2019

**Purpose:**

Review of proposed expenditures for eligibility if utilizing Coronavirus Relief Fund proceeds

**Expense Type:** Vehicles

**Vender/Supplier:** XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

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**Expense Description:**

The XXXXXX County Emergency Medical Service seeks to procure two (2) Chevrolet Traverse Sport Utility Vehicles to be outfitted for rural response emergency support. The vehicles, upon timely completion of appropriate outfitting will be immediately deployed for use accessing rural communities within the County. Estimated cost is based on a qualified State vendor competitively procured under State Contract # XXXXXX; with fixed rate pricing valid through September 31, 2020, and a quote from one leasing company, based on a 3 year lease with purchase of the vehicles at reduced book value at lease termination. Availability and delivery timeline from the state contract vendor is questionable because of factory production stoppages. Contractual limitations on the modification of leased vehicles has not been negotiated or verified.

Option 1: Purchase two vehicles

Vehicle purchase cost:	\$51,939.50
Vehicle outfitting cost:	\$47,772.00
3 Year Operating Cost:	<u>\$56,044.80</u>
Total 3yr cost	\$155,756.30

Option 2: Lease two vehicles

Vehicle 3 year lease cost*:	\$67,761.52
Vehicle outfitting cost:	\$47,772.00
3 Year Operating Cost:	<u>\$19,503.00</u>
Total 3yr cost	\$135,036.52

\*Assumes vehicle purchased at conclusion of 3yr lease at FMV (\$9,827.00)

**Necessity as it relates to COVID-19 response or impacts**

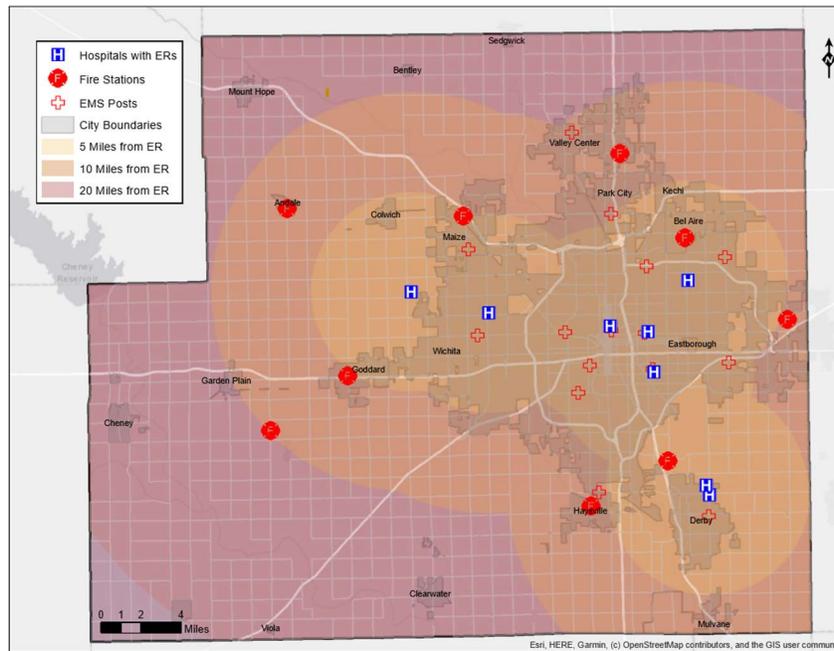
Emergency medical services (EMS) play a vital role in responding to requests for assistance, triaging patients, and providing emergency medical treatment and transport for ill persons. However, unlike patient care in the controlled environment of a healthcare facility, care and transports by EMS present unique challenges because of the nature of the setting, enclosed space during transport, frequent need for rapid medical decision-making, interventions with limited information, and a varying range of patient acuity and jurisdictional healthcare resources. EMS personnel and equipment are often the first line of response for patients with confirmed or possible coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). XXXXXXXX County, like many areas in the United States, continues to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and associated community transmission within the County. As of May 12, 2020, XXXXXXXX County has confirmed 512 COVID-19 cases and 20 associated deaths.

In order to ensure that EMS personnel and departments are using best practices for interacting with COVID-19 patients and preventing further community transmission, the U.S. Center for Disease Control has issued COVID-19 specific guidance to responding departments and service providers. This guidance, issued in February 2020 and updated March 10, 2020, details emergency protective measures that EMS staff should be implement when responding to all calls for response events. In addition to utilizing increased PPE and special care measures, the guidance also establishes best practices for cleaning EMS transport vehicles after transporting a potential or confirmed COVID-19 patient. Elements of this guidance are detailed below:

- After transporting the patient, leave the rear doors of the transport vehicle open to allow for sufficient air changes to remove potentially infectious particles.
- The time to complete transfer of the patient to the receiving facility and complete all documentation should provide sufficient air changes.
- When cleaning the vehicle, EMS clinicians should wear a disposable gown and gloves. A face shield or facemask and goggles should also be worn if splashes or sprays during cleaning are anticipated.
- Ensure that environmental cleaning and disinfection procedures are followed consistently and correctly, to include the provision of adequate ventilation when chemicals are in use. Doors should remain open when cleaning the vehicle.
- Routine cleaning and disinfection procedures (e.g., using cleaners and water to pre-clean surfaces prior to applying an EPA-registered, hospital-grade disinfectant to frequently touched surfaces or objects for appropriate contact times as indicated on the product's label) are appropriate for severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) in healthcare settings, including those patient-care areas in which aerosol-generating procedures are performed.
- Products with EPA-approved emerging viral pathogens claims are recommended for use against SARS-CoV-2. Refer to List Nexternal icon on the EPA website for EPA-registered disinfectants that have qualified under EPA's emerging viral pathogens program for use against SARS-CoV-2.
- Clean and disinfect the vehicle in accordance with standard operating procedures. All surfaces that may have come in contact with the patient or materials contaminated during patient care (e.g., stretcher, rails, control panels, floors, walls, work surfaces) should be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected using an EPA-registered hospital grade disinfectant in accordance with the product label.
- Clean and disinfect reusable patient-care equipment before use on another patient, according to manufacturer's instructions.

The implementation of this guidance reduces the availability of emergency transportation vehicles, potentially placing life and safety of residents of XXXXXXXX County at peril. To mitigate this risk and appropriately respond to the increased emergency needs of XXXXXXXX County during this pandemic event, XXXXXXXX County EMS will employ the use of two (2) rural and quick response vehicles to be utilized for both transporting asymptomatic potential or confirmed COVID-19 patients in need of non-life threatening but urgent care. Additionally, implementation of CDC guidance for cleaning / disinfecting emergency transportation vehicles is less burdensome for the proposed rural and quick response vehicles – minimizing downtime while increasing availability of ambulatory response vehicles for life threatening and emergency response purposes.

Rural / suburban response accounts for approximately 10% of total calls for service, or 3794 of 22,800 YTD 2020. Approximately 19% of the rural / suburban calls for service were flagged as potential COVID through 5/18/20. Overall call volume has been trending upward by about 3% annually over the past few years. Call volume decreased by approximately 19% during the period between about March 20 through May15, 2020, but is increasing and trending toward levels seen in the early first quarter 2020. Below, the EMS posts in XXXXXXXX County are detailed with distance buffers overlays. As demonstrated in the figure, while access to rural areas of the County and associated transport to hospitals may be adequately addressed by the existing emergency medical transportation fleet, the COVID-19 pandemic event, coupled with economic reopening activities has the potential to increase the burden on these critical ALS services. As a result, the addition of two (2) rural quick emergency response support serves the intended purpose of building responding capacity and providing a necessary benefit to the residents of XXXXXXXX County.



### **Allowable Use**

The U.S. Treasury has provided guidance regarding the agency's interpretation of section 601(d) of the Social Security Act, and has concluded that the following activities are allowable utilizing Coronavirus Relief Funds:

1. Medical Expenses
  - Emergency medical response expenses, including emergency medical transportation, related to COVID-19.
2. Public health expenses such as:
  - Expenses for public safety measures undertaken in response to COVID-19
4. Expenses of actions to facilitate compliance with COVID-19-related public health measures
5. Any other COVID-19-related expenses reasonably necessary to the function of government that satisfy the Fund's eligibility criteria.

While the costs associated with purchasing new vehicles for the intended purpose is not explicitly outlined in the guidance provided by the Treasury, the associated benefit of increasing availability of more robust and sophisticated lifesaving transportation equipment while also providing safe, prompt and efficient emergency medical transportation of COVID-19 persons of interest and confirmed positive individuals meets a reasonable justification to consider it to be an allowable use. Further, the increased burden of complying with CDC disinfection guidance and the efficiency and reduced complexity involved with adhering to this guidance for the proposed sport utility vehicles lends reasonable justification to their intended use. And finally, because the Treasury guidance empowers recipients of Coronavirus Relief Fund proceeds to determine what is both necessary and reasonable, based on the dynamic but highly localized conditions in their respective community, should the Board of County Commissioners approve the use of CRF proceeds for the proposed expense as a necessary cost in light of the details outlined above, the compliance risk would be considered low.

### **Cost Reasonable Analysis**

The pricing of proposed vehicle purchases will be consistent with established pricing negotiated through a competitive procurement between the State of XXXXXX or an approved XXXXXXXX County RFB process, and the procurement will occur consistent with XXXXXXXXX County procurement policies and allowable exceptions in emergency/exigent circumstances. An alternative to purchasing and outfitting vehicles outright is leasing vehicles, however lease arrangements may prohibit the required level of modifications that would be required to comply with AMS best practices.