

CITY COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION

Ordinance amending the 2017-2018 Operating Grants and Donations Fund adopted on November 27, 2017, as previously amended, to increase the appropriation by \$169,307 and authorizing acceptance of King County Emergency Medical Services (KCEMS) funds from the Department of Public Health (PHSKC), in the amount of \$169,307 to continue the CARES1 Response Unit; establishing a project within the Operating Grants and Donations Fund; appropriating unanticipated and future revenues to that fund; and authorizing the expenditure of said grant funds.

Jay Hagen, Fire Chief, 452-6892
Dave Beste, Battalion Chief, 452-6982
Fire Department

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Ordinance will allow the transfer of funds from King County Emergency Medical Services (KCEMS) to the Bellevue Fire Department to fund a unit staffed by professional social workers to respond with firefighters to members of the community that may need social services. This will allow the department to spend the necessary time with the community member to connect them with the social services they need, at the time they need them.

RECOMMENDATION

Move to adopt Ordinance No. 6422.

If approved, effective date: 09/27/2018

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS

The Bellevue Fire CARES program addresses the needs of “frequent, low acuity” 911 callers and other citizens in need of assistance not available from a responding EMT or paramedic in the course of an EMS response. Without their underlying needs being met, these callers and other citizens often become high utilizers of the 911 system and hospital emergency departments.

Firefighters and police officers report that sometimes neither they nor a resident know the available appropriate community resources to meet an individual’s needs, thus engaging the trained and knowledgeable CARES team is invaluable. A CARES referral often results in advocates connecting individuals who have frequent or single non-emergent situations with early prevention solutions or intervention services so that current issues do not later become emergency situations or result in loss of life. In response to these identified areas of opportunity, as well as feedback from fire crews desiring a more immediate response from CARES, Bellevue piloted the CARES1 Response Unit.

Beginning August 1st, 2017 and funded through grants, Bellevue staffed a unit with professional social workers. This unit operates weekdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. (during the hours that community services are open) and is available to respond anywhere in Bellevue Fire Department’s service area. Bellevue firefighters and police officers can call the unit to respond, at the time of incident, to any type of call, from minor, non-emergency (low acuity) to life threatening. Unlike the CARES follow-up unit staffed by

Master of Social Work students, the Response Unit can work with residents at the time of the call, during their time of greatest need, while the individual is still in crisis. This can result in an initial diversion of the individual from the ER and potentially in a long-term solution to the needs that resulted in the 911 call.

Following a tiered model, once CARES1 has completed their initial engagement with the client, the case is turned over to the CARES team for ongoing referrals and coordination. This leaves CARES1 available and in-service to the fullest extent possible for additional incidents. CARES1 may be added to a call at the request of the responding unit and is able to meet the initial response unit at the scene, meet them at the emergency room or stay at the scene to engage with family members when a patient has been transported. CARES1's engagement of residents at the time of the crisis has reduced the number of individuals who decline services or with whom CARES is unable to make contact for follow-up.

This agreement will fund one year of services and is designed to evaluate the effectiveness of a resource unit (CARES1) consisting of two paid professional social workers who respond non-emergency to both BLS and ALS type calls. This allows for the CARES1 resource unit to be free to respond to all types of incidents and other community requests, while the CARES student advocates spend the time necessary to follow up with patients and clients. It is believed that having a resource available to interact with patients at the time of their emergency will encourage them to accept help and connect them with the needed resources.

POLICY & FISCAL IMPACTS

City Contracting Policies:

Bellevue City Code 4.28.040A: Council approval is required for contracts greater than \$90,000.

City Council Vision Priorities 2018-2020: Regional Leadership and Influence - Bellevue will lead, catalyze, and partner with our neighbors throughout the region.

City Financial Policy:

Pursuant to RCW35A.34.200(d), the expenditures in the final budget shall constitute the City's appropriations for the fiscal biennium. Under provisions of State law and the City's operating procedures, the operating budget may be amended by an ordinance that amends the original budget and states the sources of funding for incremental appropriations.

This is a reimbursement to continue the CARES1 Response Unit from Department of Public Health/King County Emergency Medical Services (KCEMS) Division through December 2018. This program was initially funded in late 2017 through a short-term grant that ended in December 2017. Adopting this Ordinance will appropriate \$169,307 in the Operating Grants and Donations Fund to be received from KCEMS. The total program cost included in this award is \$169,307 and does not require a City match. Additional long-term funding to continue this program is currently being sought and discussed through the 2020-2025 KCEMS Levy planning process.

OPTIONS

1. Adopt the Ordinance amending the 2017-2018 Operating Grants and Donations Fund adopted on November 27, 2017, as previously amended, to increase the appropriation by \$169,307 and authorizing acceptance of King County Emergency Medical Services (KCEMS) funds from the Department of Public Health (PHSKC), in the amount of \$169,307 to continue the CARES1 Response Unit; establishing a project within the Operating Grants and Donations Fund; appropriating unanticipated and future revenues to that fund; and authorizing the expenditure of said grant funds.
2. Do not adopt the Ordinance and provide alternative direction to staff.

ATTACHMENTS & AVAILABLE DOCUMENTS

Proposed Ordinance 6422

AVAILABLE IN COUNCIL LIBRARY

Proposed Agreement from King County Public Health