

**CITY OF TAMARAC  
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM  
FIRE RESCUE DEPARTMENT**

**TO: Jeffrey L. Miller**  
City Manager

**DATE: July 7, 2009**

**THROUGH: Diane Phillips**  
Assistant City Manager

**RE: TR11645: Accepting a grant award and  
executing an Agreement with Stryker for  
Hydraulic Stretchers**

**FROM: Jeff Moral**  
Interim Fire Chief

**Michael Gresek**  
Special Projects Coordinator

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**Recommendation:**

To accept a state grant for \$42,055 and enter into an agreement for the purchase from Stryker hydraulic stretchers and patient lift-assist devices in an amount not to exceed \$56,073 grant and City match, and place the above referenced item (TR11645) on the agenda for the July 22, 2009 City Commission Meeting.

**Issue:**

The Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Emergency Medical Services provides EMS grants to local governments for the provision of Emergency Medical Services enhancement and improvement. Tamarac was awarded a grant in the amount of \$42,055 with a City match in local finds of \$14,018 to purchase hydraulic stretchers and patient lift-assisting devices.

**Background:**

The City was awarded a \$42,055 State matching grant award from the Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Emergency Medical Services for the provision of hydraulic stretchers and patient lift-assist devices to be utilized on Tamarac Fire Rescue vehicles for patient transfer and transport. The Grant application is attached along with the award letter and vendor quotation. The Resolution provides for acceptance and execution of this Agreement and any subsequent agreements that may be required pending legal review and approval.

Currently, Tamarac Fire Rescue has five (5) Ferno (34x) "Pro-Flexx" stretchers on our main frontline rescues and three (3) Squadmate stretchers "93ES" and "93EX" styles on our reserve apparatus. The Ferno stretchers were purchased 2001-04 and the Squadmates in 1995-96. Based on power stretcher research, it was determined that a stretcher will be raised and lowered seven times per call. Based on an average number of 6,296 patients transported yearly from 2004 through 2008, our EMS personnel were exposed to 220,360 individual

opportunities of sustaining injury or injuring a patient as the stretcher was raised and lowered during those calls. In 2007-08, Tamarac Fire Rescue had a 79% increase (18 more incidents) in stretcher and patient lifting accidents from 2007 to 2008. In 2008, TFR had 18 strains and sprains and of these, 12 were from moving patients during patient handling and transfer. Of the 12 cases, 11 were neck and back injuries directly related to patient lifting and stretcher handling, including patient loading and unloading (City Risk Management figures). Most importantly among these cases, there is a sub-category of individuals that sustained neck or back disc herniations as well as shoulder and upper back injuries accounting for 53% of total TFR injuries. From 2005 to 2008, the direct medical cost of “closed” cases (97 incidents) was \$15,520 and cost due to lost time averaged a week to two weeks. However, lost time, employee back-fill, overtime and light duty assignments accounted for approximately \$85,370 and \$109,400 in 2007 and 2008, respectively.

In 2008, TFR evaluated three power stretchers; they were the Ferno, Stryker and Milwaukee models. Due to incompatibility issues with other stretcher manufacturers, the Ferno and Stryker models were evaluated in the field resulting in Stryker model being chosen by our crews for ease of use and durability. In addition, for those patients that require a lift assist device to move from the bed, floor, bathroom or other area would be deployed to assist personnel on scene. Our units would be equipped with power stretchers and patient lift assist devices to improve the employee’s ergonomic working conditions by reducing the workload of stretcher raising, lowering and patient loading into the rescue. Also, these new stretchers will provide a higher patient weight limit up to 650-700 lbs. Finally, two TFR personnel suffered serious patient lifting and stretcher transport injuries in early 2009 that resulted in additional expenses to the City that most likely would have been prevented if this equipment was in place.

This grant award provides for the purchase of the necessary equipment including: five (5) power (hydraulic) stretchers and accessories and patient lift assist devices. These devices will be placed on each of the frontline rescue units as well as a reserve unit.

This project supports the City’s Mission, Vision and Values. The following goals are met through this project:

Goal #1 (Inclusive Community) – this strategy identifies customers and their needs as well as continues our EMS system’s performance against those needs for effective and efficient patient transport.

Goal #2 (Strong Economy) – this strategy leverages tax dollars by identifying alternative funding sources as evidenced by seeking of grant funded support.

Goal #5 (Vibrant Community) – this strategy provides support and services to our citizens by improving patient care and safe transport to the closest appropriate hospital.

Attached please find the Resolution, 2009 Grant Application (Exhibit A), vendor award letter (Exhibit B), vendor quotation (Exhibit C), and Lee County competitive stretcher process (Exhibits D, E, F)

**Fiscal Impact:**

The grant amount awarded to the City for this project is \$42,055 (Project Code GT09L, Account #153-4520-522.64-10); the City's fiscal commitment is \$14,018 (Account # 120-4520-522.64-10) to meet the 25% grant match requirement. Total Project cost is \$56,073. These funds are available in the approved FY09 Fire Recue budget.

Grant Program Breakdown:

State Grant Award (75%)	\$42,055.00	
City Grant Match (25%)	<u>\$14,018.00</u>	
<b>State Matching Grant Total</b>		<b>\$56,073.00</b>
 Stryker Quotation for stretchers (Exhibit C)	 \$47,145.00	
Stretcher Trade-in Allowance	<u>\$ 2,500.00</u>	
Stretcher Purchase Total	\$44,645.00	
 Grant/Quote Difference		 \$11,428.00

Additional Supplies Purchase:

Patient Lift Assist Devices (various suppliers) (bariatric patient canvas soft stretchers, slide boards, pneumatic patient lifters, etc.)	\$11,428.00	
 Grant Balance		 <u>\$0.00</u>

There are no known unusual purchasing or legal requirements related to this item.

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Jeff Moral, Interim Fire Chief

cc: Tom Sheridan, Division Chief  
Michael Gresek, Special Projects Coordinator  
Christine Cajuste, Controller  
Rick Spencer, Accounting Supervisor  
Kareyann Ashworth, Management & Budget Analyst  
Karen Greene, Budget Technician