

Agenda Report

May 18, 2020

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council

FROM: Pasadena Police Department

THROUGH: Public Safety Committee (May 13, 2020)

SUBJECT: AUTHORIZE THE INCREASE OF PURCHASE ORDER 1201413 WITH VITAL MEDICAL SERVICES, LLC TO PROVIDE NON-EMERGENT MEDICAL SERVICES TO INMATES HOUSED IN THE PASADENA CITY JAIL FACILITY FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$600,000

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council:

1. Authorize the increase of Purchase Order No. 1201413 with Vital Medical Services, LLC from \$74,999 by \$125,001 a revised not to exceed amount of \$200,000, to continue to provide non-emergent medical services to inmates housed in the Pasadena City Jail, a) Authorize two additional one-year terms not to exceed \$400,000. If the two additional terms are exercised, the total purchase order would be for \$600,000 for a three year period. Competitive Bidding is not required pursuant to the City Charter Section 1002(F), Contracts for professional or unique services.; and;
2. Grant the proposed contract an exemption from the competitive selection process of the Competitive Bidding and Purchasing Ordinance, pursuant to Pasadena Municipal Code Section 4.08.049(B), contracts for which the City's best interests are served.
3. Find that the proposed contract is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3) (Common Sense Exemption).

BACKGROUND:

The Pasadena City Jail books and houses approximately 6,000 inmates annually. Title 15 of the California Code of Regulations, "Minimum Standards for Local Detention Facilities," requires the provision of medical services (sick call) to any inmate complaining or exhibiting indications of illness or injury.

Vital Medical Services, LLC is a medical provider that has been providing on-site non-emergent medical services to inmates housed in the Pasadena City Jail on an "on-call" basis since 2015. Vital Medical is the only company currently providing on-site non-emergent medical services to include booking clearances to Type I jail facilities in Los Angeles County. This has been confirmed through market research pertaining to on call medical services for jail facilities.

Historically, Exer Urgent Care (formally Pasadena Urgent Care) had been the primary non-emergent medical care provider during their regular hours of operation for inmates booked and housed in the Pasadena City Jail. These medical clearances came at a significantly lower rate than Huntington Memorial Hospital, and a lower rate than Vital Medical Services. The use of Exer Urgent Care, however required taking an officer out of the field for an extended period of time to facilitate a needed medical clearance for each inmate. Recently, Exer has dissolved their arrangement with the Pasadena Police Department due to not wanting arrestees in the urgent care facility. Exer personnel will not come to the Pasadena City Jail to perform medical clearances.

Since 2015, Vital Medical Services, LLC (Vital Medical) has been providing non-emergent medical care on-site in the Pasadena City Jail on an on-call basis. The use of Vital Medical does not require an officer to be taken out of service. Cost of medical clearances through Vital Medical is significantly lower than medical clearances at Huntington Memorial Hospital which, in addition to a premium cost, also requires inmates to be transported to the hospital resulting in officers being out of service for an extended period of time.

The use of Vital Medical has allowed the Police Department to save on costs related to medical clearances for arrestees and housed prisoners. Additionally, liability exposure has been reduced significantly, as arrestees and prisoners do not have to leave the secure jail facility to receive medical treatment. Liability associated with the transportation of prisoners and the risk of escape is virtually eliminated when medical treatment is performed in the secure environment of the city jail.

The average time for a medical clearance in which an arrestee or housed prisoner must be transported for treatment outside of the city jail is approximately three hours. The cost for a Police Officer to perform the duties related to an outside medical clearance is \$85 per hour. This means that the average personnel cost of an outside medical clearance is \$256 per clearance. This is the minimum cost per outside clearance, and does not take into account additional costs incurred during the treatment process. The use of Vital Medical eliminates the personnel costs from outside clearances, which were approximately \$47,104 in fiscal year 2019. The cost of a medical clearance through Vital medical is a flat \$542 per clearance, regardless of the medical complaint and associated treatment.

The Police Department currently has an open purchase order with Vital Medical in the amount of \$74,999. To date, approximately \$59,000 of the purchase order has been

expended. Additionally, approximately \$38,000 will be coming due which will exceed the Police Department's current purchase order. With the closing of Exer Urgent Care, it is expected that the cost of medical clearances will further contribute to the exceedance of the purchase order, as Vital Medical will be used with greater frequency.

During FY 2019, Police Department personnel conducted 519 medical clearances with arrestees and housed prisoners. 184 of these clearances were handled through Exer Urgent Care, which is no longer available to the Police Department as an option. Based on this, it is believed that an increase to the existing purchase order not to exceed \$200,000 will be sufficient to cover our current and future costs associated with medical clearances.

Initially, this practice may represent a cost increase depending on the number of people arrested and booked by the Police Department who require medical treatment, however the elimination of the costs associated with taking Police Officers out of the field to perform duties related to medical clearances will represent a cost savings for the city in the long term.

Additionally, this purchase order contract will provide the Police Department with a mechanism to better control the actual costs associated with medical clearances via the flat rate charged by Vital Medical.

The ability of the Police Department to operate more efficiently, coupled with the mechanism to control costs through the almost exclusive use of Vital Medical is expected to represent a long term cost saving to the City. As such, it is in the best interest of the City to move forward with the increase of the purchase order and to allow for two one year extensions of the purchase order contract.

COUNCIL POLICY CONSIDERATION:

The proposed purchase order contract with Vital Medical Services, LLC is consistent with the City Council's Strategic Planning Goal to maintain fiscal responsibility and ensure public safety by providing medical care (sick call) to inmates as required in Title 15 of the California Code of Regulations, "Minimum Standards for Local Detention Facilities."

ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS:

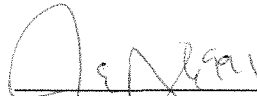
The proposed contract is exempt from CEQA per section 15061(b) (3), the common sense exemption (formerly the "general rule") that CEQA applies only to projects which have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment. Where it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment, the activity is not subject to CEQA. The proposed action is to enter into an agreement with a contractor to provide non-emergency medical services to inmates housed in the Pasadena City Jail Facility. No construction or other

direct physical changes in the environment would occur. Any indirect effects (e.g., emissions from vehicle use associated with the service) would be immeasurably small and would be equal to or less than the indirect effects caused by the current practice.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The total cost of this action will not exceed \$200,000 annually over the term of the purchase order contract. Funding for this action will be addressed by the utilization of existing budgeted appropriations in 10132022 (Special Operations Division- Jail Section). There are no indirect and support costs associated with this contract, nor are any additional FTE's required to support this contract. Once approved, the Police Department will process a change order to purchase order number 1201413 for Vital Medical, LLC.

Respectfully submitted,



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Chief of Police

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Approved by:



STEVE MERMELL
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