

Agenda Report

TO: CITY COUNCIL DATE: June 22, 1998
FROM: CITY MANAGER
SUBJECT: PURCHASE OF AMBPAC INC., DATAPORT SOFTWARE

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that City Council authorize the City Manager to enter into a contract with AMBPAC Inc., for the purchase of DataPort software in an amount not to exceed \$32,824.85. The proposed contract is exempt from competitive bidding, pursuant to City Charter, Section 1002(f) contracts for professional or unique services.

It is further recommended that the City Council grant this contract a partial exemption from the competitive selection process of the Affirmative Action in Contracting Ordinance, pursuant to Pasadena Municipal Code 4.09.060(C)(1), contracts for which the City's best interests are served.

BACKGROUND

In 1997, the City of Pasadena provided paramedic service to 9,487 residents, visitors and people who worked in the City of Pasadena. Although the City uses an automated system, developed by AMBPAC Inc., for generating paramedic bills, all information taken at the site of a call is recorded manually on pre-printed forms. These forms are then sent through the City's interoffice mail to the Department of Finance for processing. On an average, two to four days elapse from the time of an incident to the time billing information is received in Finance. In addition, often times information is not properly recorded on the forms and must be sent back to the Fire Department for correction, thus delaying billing.

Experience has shown that there is a direct correlation between the prompt billing and receipt of payment. Given this, Fire and Finance department's staffs have jointly explored means of reducing billing cycles.

AMBPAC Inc., the developer of the existing billing system, has developed a remote data-capture program (Dataport) that enables paramedics to capture patient data in the field and transfer it electronically to the billing system, located in the Department of Finance. In addition, medical information can also be transmitted to the Emergency Medical Service Agency and area hospitals electronically. As a result, the implementation of the DataPort software will increase revenues received through account accuracy for paramedic billing and eliminate duplication of effort. The implementation of this

software is part of the Fire Department's effort to bring about Continuous Quality Improvement to medical service delivery system.

While there are certainly other firms capable of providing a remote data-capture system such as that developed by AMBPAC, any non-AMBPAC product would need additional programming to interface properly with the existing AMBPAC billing system. In order to ensure a seamless integration and avoid any potential of incompatibility the City's best interest would be served by purchasing the product developed by AMBPAC.

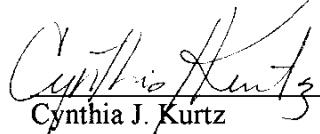
This recommendation was discussed at the Public Safety Committee meeting on April 20, 1998. Questions were raised as to the cost to be incurred to implement the DataPort system and what savings will be realized or additional revenues generated. The Fiscal Impact section of this agenda report addresses these two issues. Councilmember Streator has agreed to let this agenda report go directly to Council since there will be no further Public Safety Committee meetings in this fiscal year.

FISCAL IMPACT


The total cost for the necessary number of site licenses of AMBPAC's Dataport software is \$32,825. The Fire Department would purchase five (5) laptop computers at a total cost of \$22,407.75. All other computer hardware to be used with the new system is already owned by the Fire Department and the Department of Finance. The cost of purchasing the software will be split between the Fire Department and the Department of Finance. Funds are available in the budgets of both departments.

Revenue is expected to increase by at least \$90,000 as a result of increasing the billing cycle turnover.

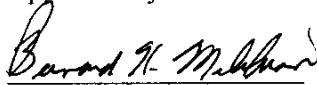
Respectfully submitted,


Cynthia J. Kurtz
Acting City Manager

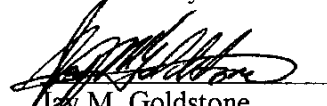
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