

August 18, 2020

Barry Burton  
Pinellas County Administrator  
315 Court Street #601  
Clearwater, FL 33756

re: Pinellas County EMS-ALS First Responder Program Enhancement Requests for FY21

Dear Mr. Burton,

At the Pinellas County Board of County Commissioner's meeting on August 6, 2020, the Pinellas County EMS-ALS First Responder Program Enhancement Requests for FY21 were discussed at the request of Commissioner Eggers. Three additions to the FY21 budget were discussed and are to be followed up on at the BOCC meeting on August 20, 2020.

On March 9, 2020, the City of Dunedin Commission approved Resolution 20-05 supporting the City Manager's request for the County to provide an EMS Rescue Unit in the FY21 budget. Dunedin met with County staff during the budget process and we requested that the County approve the addition of Rescue 60 (for ½ of the 1<sup>st</sup> year) in FY21. Engine 60 is the sole unit that responds to calls from station 60 and is supplied with one County paid Paramedic position. The County's analysis of daily responses by E60 is 9.4 calls making it the busiest engine in the County, now that Palm Harbor has added Medic 65 to their station. The 9.4 calls leaves us 0.6 calls short from meeting the requirements of County Resolution 09-37 to have a Rescue unit funded by the County. It was our desire to convert E60 to a Contractor funded unit and activate R60, giving us two ALS units for that station.

Station 60's zone is heavily populated with Assisted Living and Skilled Nursing facilities that require frequent assistance. Currently when E60 is out on a call or at required training, E61 and E62 are the most frequent units brought in to cover additional calls. In 2019, E61 responded to 332 calls in 60's zone and E62 responded to 334 calls, this in turn affects their respective areas. Some of these affects were mentioned in the August 6, 2020 BOCC meeting by Director Fogarty as he related to the increased Palm Harbor and Clearwater calls that were due to the need to cover 61 and 62's zones. R48, E48, E50 and E51 from Clearwater also handled a combined 140 calls in 60's zone in 2019.

The County Enhancement Request Summary Analysis for R60 states, "*Response Times in Zones 61 and 62 are >90% which may justify adding a Rescue unit to improve response times – see Optima Study.*" To our knowledge, the Optima Study was never used by County staff for determining what additional units would be funded in FY21. The current Resolution 09-37 does not address the use of any response studies such as Optima.

The City of Dunedin would like to request that County Staff and the BOCC consider granting the request by Dunedin and add R60 to the list of approved enhancements for the FY21 budget. The request was for the unit to be funded for six months starting on April 1, 2021. The requested budget amount would be \$271,000 for the staffing and \$200,000 for a Rescue vehicle. This will greatly enhance the service that Dunedin and the County are providing to the citizens and visitors in the downtown area of Dunedin and allow for other units to remain available for service in their respective zones further eliminating extended response times.

We would like to request that the County review/revise Resolution 09-37 in the near future to include data from the Optima Study (or other relevant studies) to assist in making a determination on how units are added to the County EMS system.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of these requests.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jennifer K. Bramley". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Jennifer K. Bramley, ICMA Credentialed Manager  
City Manager

CC: City Commission  
Fire Chief Jeff Parks