

PINELLAS COUNTY EMS WATER RESCUE GRANT PROGRAM

RESOLUTION 17- 47

A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING AN EMS WATER RESCUE GRANT PROGRAM; PROVIDING FOR ITS PURPOSE; PROVIDING FOR THE PROVISION OF FUNDING TO SUPPORT OPERATIONS, MAINTENANCE, EQUIPMENT AND TRAINING FOR WATER RESCUE PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE ON A COUNTYWIDE BASIS; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, in order to provide Water Rescue services to the citizens and visitors of Pinellas County, it is essential to continue to improve and expand the capability, expertise and resources to handle situations where such emergency services are needed; and

WHEREAS, the fire rescue agencies respond to various waterborne emergency incidents; and

WHEREAS, the fire rescue agencies are all signatories to the automatic aid agreement among all of the fire rescue agencies within Pinellas County and respond without regard to jurisdictional boundaries when emergency calls are received; and

WHEREAS, the County, acting as the Emergency Medical Services Authority, wishes to collaborate with such agencies to establish and sustain a countywide Water Rescue Grant Program that will support enhanced operations, maintenance, equipment and training.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF PINELLAS COUNTY, ACTING AS THE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AUTHORITY (“AUTHORITY”), THAT:

SECTION 1. EMS WATER RESCUE PROGRAM.

- (a) Role. There hereby exists an EMS Water Rescue Grant Program to provide for the enhanced preparedness and response to waterborne medical emergencies and rescue situations through the support of a countywide program that provides funding support for operations, maintenance, equipment and training necessary to improve and expand the capacity and capability of the various fire rescue water rescue resources.
- (b) Purpose of Funding. In exchange for funding, equipment and training from Authority as outlined herein, the fire rescue agencies will make available water rescue resources and personnel, who are trained and equipped to respond to any Water Rescue incident to rescue patients and provide medical treatment throughout Pinellas County.

Water Rescue incidents include, but are not limited to, providing emergency response, medical aid, and search and rescue services operating in water, in all weather and all hazard environments in Pinellas County and its surrounding waters, including environments of extreme weather, flooding, debris, fire, entrapment, ejections from vessel and distressed swimmers.

- (c) Definitions. Unless the context otherwise requires, capitalized terms used herein shall have the following meanings ascribed to them:

“Dive Team” means personnel that provide dive, rescue, recovery and black water rescue services.

“Fire Rescue Boat” or “(FB)” means a specialized vessel that is designed for firefighting, emergency response, medical aid and search and rescue.

“Light Marine” or “(LM)” means a small, powerful and agile vessel such as a personal watercraft with a rescue sled that is used for rescues in many different environments.

“Marine Unit” or “(M)” means a specialized vessel such as a boat or inflatable that is designed to meet individual mission requirements such as emergency response, medical aid, and search and rescue.

“Rapid Diver System” means a fast donning, lightweight, all-inclusive scuba system to be used in place of traditional bulky scuba equipment.

- (d) Water Rescue Coordinators. Participating fire rescue agencies shall designate a named person to serve as a Water Rescue Coordinator to actively participate in the Water Rescue committee, assist with equipment and training needs assessment; assist in the coordination and participation of their individual agency.

SECTION 2. WATER RESCUE FUNDING AND SUPPORT.

- a) Supplemental Operating and Maintenance Funding. The Authority will provide supplemental operating and maintenance funding each fiscal year as indicated in Appendix "A"
- b) Equipment and Training. The Authority will provide equipment and training, which may include instructors and training materials, as described in Appendix "B", but shall not include funding for salaries for students to attend training. Other identified training or equipment needs will be met at the discretion of the Authority's executive director to the extent of budgeted available funds for such purposes. Equipment will be provided to individual fire rescue agencies as determined by the Authority's executive director within the budgetary constraints of this Resolution.
- c) Term & Payment. This program will remain in place until vacated by the Authority. Payments will be made in lump sum each fiscal year for the duration of this program.
- d) Fiscal Non-Funding. In the event sufficient budgeted funds are not available in any fiscal period, the Authority shall notify the fire rescue agencies in writing within five (5) days of the determination of such occurrence.
- e) Not to Exceed Cap. Expenditures for this program shall not exceed \$300,000.00 in any fiscal year. .
- f) Authority Assets. All assets purchased by the Authority shall remain the property of the Authority. Assets may be provided to fire rescue agencies for use through a "hand receipt" process. The Authority will maintain such equipment during the equipment's safe useful life.

SECTION 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

Commissioner Eggers offered the foregoing Resolution and moved its adoption, which was seconded by Commissioner Welch, and upon roll call the vote was:

Ayes: Long, Welch, Eggers, Gerard, Justice, Morroni, and Seel.

Nays: None.

Absent and not voting: None.

APPROVED AS TO FORM

By: 

Office of the County Attorney

**APPENDIX A
OPERATING AND MAINTENANCE FUNDING**

Apparatus Type	Description and Function	Standardized Reimbursement
Dive Team	Search, Rescue and Recovery	\$15,000
Fire Rescue Boat	Boat capable of Firefighting and Rescue	\$10,000
Marine Unit	Boat or rigid hull inflatable boat	\$5,000
Light Marine Unit	Personal watercraft with rescue sled	\$1,000

APPARATUS

Contractor	Light Marine Unit	Marine Unit	Fire Rescue Boat	Dive Team
City of Clearwater	LM44 LM46 LM49	M45 M49	FB44	S51
City of Dunedin			FB60	
East Lake Tarpon Special Fire Control District		M57		
City of Madeira Beach	LM25x2			
Palm Harbor Special Fire Control District		M68	FB68	
Pinellas Suncoast Fire & Rescue District				
City of Safety Harbor			FB52	
City of Seminole		M29		
City of St. Petersburg		M11 M15	FB11	DV11
City of Tarpon Springs			FB69	
City of Treasure Island	LM24			

Note: The Authority's EMS Director may add, change or delete as apparatus is updated by the Providers.

APPENDIX B

EQUIPMENT AND TRAINING

Examples of Authority funded equipment and training include, but are not limited to, the following:

Equipment

Forward Looking Infrared Handheld Thermal Imagers
Forward Looking Infrared Thermal Night Vision Cameras
Rapid Diver System Equipment

Training

Search and Rescue Planner's Course
Rapid Diver and Marine Rescue Training
Communications Exercise
Rescue Boat Operations Course
Search and Rescue Operations Course