

# Board of County Commissioners

## Agenda Request

Date of Meeting: January 11, 2010

Date Submitted: December 18, 2009

To: Honorable Chairman and Members of the Board

From: Benjamin H. Pingree, County Administrator  
Lindsay Stevens, Assistant County Administrator  
Scott McDermid, Director, Department of Public Safety  
Fran Council, Director, Division of EMS

Subject: Request Board Consideration and Authorization to Apply for the State of Florida EMS County Grant and Approval of the Resolution

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### **Statement of Issue:**

This agenda item requests consideration and authorization to apply for the State of Florida EMS County Grant and approval of the required Resolution.

### **Background:**

The Florida Department of Health, Bureau of EMS manages an EMS Trust Fund that is filled through fees associated with non-criminal civil violations (traffic violations primarily). This trust fund provides grant opportunities to the Counties and EMS agencies of Florida for the improvement of EMS provisions. While there is a matching competitive portion to the grant program, the County Grant Program is neither competitive nor requires any match funding. This program takes a portion of the EMS trust fund and divides it between the Counties, directly proportionate to the civil penalty fines collected within the respective jurisdiction. The primary Florida Statute regarding the County Grant program is copied below:

#### *401.113(2), Florida Statutes*

*The department shall annually dispense funds contained in the Emergency Medical Services Trust Fund as follows:*

*(a) Forty-five percent of such moneys must be divided among the counties according to the proportion of the combined amount deposited in the trust fund from the county. These funds may not be used to match grant funds as identified in paragraph (b). An individual board of county commissioners may distribute these funds to emergency medical services organizations and youth athletic organizations within the county, as it deems appropriate.*

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The County Grant Application Packet (which is incorporated by reference in Chapter 64J-1, F.A.C.) requires action by the Board of County Commissioners; an excerpt is provided below:

*A county resolution certifying the EMS county grant funds received shall be used to improve and expand prehospital EMS and that the funds will not be used to supplant existing county EMS budget allocations (item 4 in the application).*

**Analysis:**

The amount of the County grant award for this year will be \$5,680.00. There is no match required for this grant and its issuance is based on competition. These funds will be used across this fiscal year for various EMS equipment needs. The grant application is due on or before January 12, 2010 and awarding of the grant is anticipated prior to the end of the Department of Health's fiscal year of June 30, 2010.

All purchasing will be done in accordance with the Wakulla County Purchasing Policy as approved by the Wakulla County Board of County Commissioners in July, 2009. All purchases with these funds will adhere to the requirement of EMS provision improvement.

This year we are working on improving our radio dispatch capabilities, these funds would be appropriately used to wire in speakers throughout our stations to allow staff to better hear dispatch signals. Staff is also researching products to improve the ability to monitor Carbon Monoxide levels in the patients who are suspected to have been exposed. These funds would be appropriately expended on adding Carbon Monoxide monitoring to our EMS patient monitoring capabilities. When application is made, there are no specific projects included, only general categories of expenditures which are clearly improvements to the County's EMS system. It should also be noted that the County Attorney has reviewed and approved the Resolution.

**Options:**

1. Authorize submittal of an application for the State of Florida EMS County Grant and approve the Resolution.
2. Do not authorize submittal of an application for the State of Florida EMS County Grant and do not approve the Resolution.
3. Board Direction.

**Recommendation:**

Option #1

**Attachment:**

1. Resolution