

# **Board of County Commissioners**

## **Agenda Request**

Date of Meeting: January 20, 2009

Date Submitted: January 5, 2009

To: Honorable Chairman and Members of the Board

From: Benjamin H. Pingree, County Administrator  
Fran Councill, EMS Director

Subject: Request for Board Consideration and Approval to Apply for a State EMS Grant for Vehicle Mounts and a Supervisor Laptop

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### **Statement of Issues**

This agenda item requests Board consideration and approval to apply for a State EMS Grant for vehicle mounts and a supervisor laptop.

### **Background**

Wakulla EMS began transitioning to electronic run reports in the 2007 EMSTARS grant cycle. In 2007, the State EMS Department provided the “Tuff Book” computers and billing software at no cost to the County. In addition, last year, the EMSTARS grant provided software and training at no cost to the County. This year, the EMSTARS funding may be prioritized for EMS Services who are trying to transition to automated run reports. Since there may be insufficient funding in the EMSTARS grant program, Wakulla County EMS is seeking a backup grant source through the State of Florida EMS matching grant program to purchase vehicle mounts and a supervisor laptop.

### **Analysis:**

To facilitate the protection of the “Tuff Book” computers and to increase ease of use, it would be helpful to install truck mounts in the cab of the ambulances to “dock” the computers.

Additionally, purchase of an additional laptop for the County EMS supervisor would help in the quality assurance aspect of the documentation and collection of data. An additional supervisor’s computer would provide immediate access to run report and patient information from the supervisor vehicle. Wakulla County EMS would be applying for \$5,900 for both the vehicle mounts and the supervisor laptop through the State of Florida EMS Office matching grants program. Under the 75/25% grant, the County match would be \$1,475. Under the 90/10% grant, the County match would be \$590. The Wakulla County EMS budget could fund the 90/10% option and community support would be sought for the balance if the 75/25% grant is successful.

Both the EMSTARS Grant and the Matching Grant Programs are administered through the State of Florida EMS Office. This office supports dual applications and will automatically cancel the grants that are not awarded. If there is sufficient funding in the EMSTARS Grant, the EMSTARS grant will be prioritized over the matching grants by the State EMS office.

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**Option**

1. Approve Wakulla EMS to apply for a State EMS Grant for vehicle mounts and a supervisor laptop.
2. Do not approve Wakulla EMS to apply for a State EMS Grant for vehicle mounts and a supervisor laptop.
3. Board Direction.

**Recommendation**

Option #1