

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
Lindsay Stevens, Assistant County Administrator
Fran Councill, EMS Director

Subject: Request Board Consideration and Approval to Apply for a Matching Grant for Automated CPR Devices Through the State of Florida EMS Office

Statement of Issues

This agenda item requests Board consideration and approval for Wakulla County EMS to apply for a matching grant through the State EMS Office for an automated CPR device.

Background

In the recent past, the American Heart Association changed its standards for Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR). These new standards require very rapid compressions of the patient's chest which leads to a higher survival rate. Wakulla County has noted this improvement in survival rates with patients in our County. This new rate of rapid compression results in a major fatigue factor for the person administering CPR. As the CPR administrator becomes increasingly fatigued, the quality of compressions diminishes. Even with extra assistance in the back of the ambulance, the fatigue factor is significant.

Analysis:

Presently, there is an automated CPR device available which can administer compressions during cardiac arrest. Purchase of these devices would significantly reduce or eliminate the problems of fatigue. If four (4) units are purchased by the County for installation in each of the County in-service ambulances the cost would be \$51,000. This grant is a 75/25% matching grant through the State EMS Office and the 25% match would be \$12,750. Wakulla EMS is working on possible community assistance from civic organizations to meet the match for four (4) or less units.

Wakulla EMS is requesting to submit the grant in order to meet the grant deadline. If assistance cannot be found to pay the match, the option would still be open to pull the grant from consideration, without penalty, from the State EMS Office.

Options

1. Approval Wakulla County EMS to apply for grant funding for automated CPR devices.
2. Do not approve Wakulla County EMS to apply for grant funding for automated CPR devices.
3. Board Direction.

Recommendation

Option #1