

# **Board of County Commissioners**

## **Agenda Request**

Date of Meeting: January 25, 2010

Date Submitted: January 8, 2010

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 Councill, Director, Division of EMS

Subject: Request Board Consideration and Authorization to Apply for the State of Florida EMS Matching Grant to Obtain Oxygen Lift Systems

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### **Statement of Issue:**

This agenda item requests Board consideration and authorization to apply for the State of Florida EMS Matching Grant to obtain Oxygen Lift Systems for each ambulance.

### **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 (primarily traffic violations). Other than 15% that is used for the administration of the Bureau; the remainder of the trust fund is used to provide grant opportunities to the Counties and EMS agencies of Florida, specifically for the improvement of EMS provisions.

The EMS matching grant program is subdivided into two categories:

1. Matching Grant Program has a 75% State and 25% County match funding.
2. Rural Matching Grant Program has a 90% State and 10% County match funding.

Unlike previous years, this years grants that are eligible for the rural county category no longer require separate applications to be submitted. One application will provide access to both the standard match and rural match grants

An excerpt from this year's grant advertisement is copied below:

*All rural applications will be assessed for both 75% and 90% state funding unless the rural applicant writes on the first page of its application "Solely consider for 90% grant." Rural agencies should not send two applications for the same project or extra copies. All other applications will be evaluated for 75% funding.*

The primary Florida Statute authorizing the 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:*

*(b)Forty percent of such moneys must be used by the department for making matching grants to local agencies, municipalities, emergency medical services organizations, and youth athletic organizations for the purpose of conducting research, increasing existing levels of emergency medical service, evaluation, community education, injury-prevention programs, and training in cardiopulmonary resuscitation and other lifesaving and first aid techniques*

*(1)At least 90 percent of these moneys must be made available on a cash matching basis. A grant made under this subparagraph must be contingent upon the recipient providing a cash sum equal to 25 percent of the total department-approved grant amount.*

*(2) No more than 10 percent of these moneys must be made available to rural emergency medical services, and notwithstanding the restrictions specified in subsection (1), these moneys may be used for improvement, expansion, or continuation of services provided. A grant made under this subparagraph must be contingent upon the recipient providing a cash sum equal to no more than 10 percent of the total department-approved.*

**Analysis:**

The purpose of this grant is to prevent potential staff back injuries by purchasing an oxygen lift system for all 8 ambulances. The Oxygen “M” cylinder, which is the main patient oxygen supply, resides in a side compartment of the ambulance. It is heavy steel and weighs, on average, 73 pounds when full. Currently the cylinder is changed out by hand which means it is physically taken to the ambulance and then is lifted up 2 feet and worked into the side compartment. It is 4 ½ feet tall and 8 inches in diameter which makes lifting very difficult, especially in terms of proper lifting mechanics.

If awarded the grant, match funding will be allocated from the EMS Operating Supplies budget. The table below represents the requested grant amount and match cost.

Cost	Cost	Standard Grant 75%/25%		Rural Grant 90%/10%	
Per Unit	Total	State Portion	County Match	State Portion	County Match
\$2,427.00	\$19,416.00	\$14,562.00	\$4,854.00	\$17,474.40	\$1,941.60

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The grant application is due on or before February 12, 2010 and grant award is anticipated prior to the end of the Department of Health's fiscal year of June 30, 2010.

**Options:**

1. Authorize submittal of an application to the State of Florida EMS Matching Grant Program for the purchase of Oxygen Lift Systems.
2. Do not authorize submittal of an application to the State of Florida EMS Matching Grant Program for the purchase of Oxygen Lift Systems.
3. Board Direction.

**Recommendation:**

Option #1