



LEGISLATIVE MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

FROM: Scott Morgan, Interim City Manager

THRU: Richard E. Stover, Fire Chief

DATE: March 6, 2025

RE: Consideration of Fiscal Year 2024-2025 mid-year budget priorities for the Fire Department (\$281,495).

SUMMARY:

Palm Bay Fire Rescue is requesting to utilize undesignated fund balance in the amount of \$87,324 for Semester One of a three semester course for 25 Firefighters to attend Paramedic school. Semester One will be held in FY25 and subsequent semesters will occur in FY26. Funds for FY26 will be requested during the budget process.

Due to the contractual obligations of I.A.F.F Rank and File article 18.3.2, 18.3.3, article 18.3.4 Supervisors Unit, current employees must obtain State of Florida Paramedic by October 1, 2026, to be eligible for promotion. Additionally, per the new employee job requirements, all new hires must obtain State of Florida Paramedic within three (3) years of their start date. A higher number of paramedics will improve patient care in our growing city and help reduce potential daily staffing shortfalls that we currently encounter.

Palm Bay Fire Rescue is further requesting to utilize undesignated fund balance in the amount of \$194,171 for year one of a five-year agreement for the capital purchase of 14 LifePaks. Funds for the subsequent fiscal years of 2026-2029 will be requested during the budget process for each ensuing year.

Having a mixed fleet of cardiac monitoring devices opens up our users to error and shortfalls. Having one far superior device on half of the fire department's units, not only exposes these errors but removes and excludes half of the city's population from receiving the benefit of the LifePak 35.

The LifePak35 is used in all medical emergencies as a diagnostic tool for basic and advanced life support events. This device also has the capabilities to defibrillate the heart into a rhythm that perpetuates survival chances. The benefits of having a biphasic defibrillator on every fire rescue

unit in the city provide the best chance of survival for individuals in cardiac arrest. Delivering energy to a heart in arrest has been proven to be the most effective action in these critical situations. The LifePak 35 incorporates state-of-the-art technology that enables rescuers to perform uninterrupted chest compressions, identify a wider range of dysrhythmias, and detect heart attacks that might otherwise go unnoticed by older monitors. This advanced technology gives providers the best possible chance at successful resuscitation and early recognition of cardiac events.

REQUESTING DEPARTMENT:

Fire Rescue Department

FISCAL IMPACT:

With Council approval, funding in the amount of \$87,324 to fund Semester One will be allocated from the General Fund, Undesignated Fund Balance, to the appropriate expenditure accounts within the Fire Rescue Department budget. A budget request of \$183,057 will be made to fund three semesters in FY26. This budget request will be a recurring annual expense as I.A.F.F. contract and new hire mandates.

With Council approval, funding in the amount of \$194,171 will be allocated from the General Fund, Undesignated Fund Balance, to the appropriate expenditure accounts within the Fire Rescue Department budget.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Motion to approve the allocation of funds in the amount of \$ 281,495, (\$87,324 for 25 students to attend Paramedic School, and \$194,171 for year one of a five-year agreement for the capital purchase of 14 LifePaks).

ATTACHMENT:

1. Proposal for LifePaks