



City of Grand Island

Tuesday, August 22, 2006

Council Session

Item G13

#2006-238 - Approving Request for Use of Ambulance at the Mission of Mercy Event.

Staff Contact: Jim Rowell

Council Agenda Memo

From: Jim Rowell, Fire Chief
Meeting: August 22, 2006
Subject: Standby Ambulance
Item #'s: G-13
Presenter(s): Jim Rowell, Fire Chief

Background

Doctor Anderson has requested that an ambulance be on standby at the Heartland Event Center during the Mission of Mercy event. People can receive free dental care during this two day event. Doctor Anderson is also asking that the standby fee for the ambulance be waived. Doctor Anderson had already contacted the fire department asking for help at the event and eight people had volunteered before this request to provide an ambulance and waive the fee .

Discussion

The use of fire department personnel at the event has been addressed by asking fire department employees to volunteer to work the event as first responders. This would not include the use of city equipment or vehicles. Should the need arise, an ambulance already on duty would respond to provide care and transport the patient. The request to have the ambulance standby and waive the ambulance standby fee, which is \$75 per hour or a total of \$1,650.00, also creates additional cost.

The fire department personnel volunteering at the event are no longer working outside of their employment as first responders. Because the vehicle and equipment are present, they are now working as they would be on their regular duty. This is not just the loss of the fee but it creates the situation, which requires the city to pay them their pay as they are on duty, which would be at the overtime rate for the 22-hour duration of the event and amount to \$1,112.53. This figure does not include the cost of taxes and other benefits.

The standby fee was created to offset these cost as minimally as possible and as you can see from the figures provided, it just barely does that.

The fact that eight people have volunteered to work at this event is evidence of our support of the event based on its humanitarian value. This information is in no way intended to take away from that value but is to insure that the information given to council provides the details necessary for consideration of this request.

Alternatives

It appears that the Council has the following alternatives concerning the issue at hand. The Council may:

1. Move to approve
2. Refer the issue to a Committee
3. Postpone the issue to future date
4. Take no action on the issue

Recommendation

City Administration recommends that the Council approve providing a standby ambulance and waving of the standby fees.

Sample Motion

Motion to approve.

R E S O L U T I O N 2006-238

WHEREAS, on September 22 and 23, 2006, the Mission of Mercy will provide free dental care at the Heartland Events Center to those in need; and

WHEREAS, the Central District Health Department is serving as the point agency for the Mission of Mercy, with many other agencies and individuals contributing time, resources expertise, etc.;and

WHEREAS, a request has been made to have a City of Grand Island ambulance on stand-by for such event, which will be staffed by City of Grand Island paramedics; and

WHEREAS, it is further requested that any fees associated with the use of such stand-by ambulance be waived.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GRAND ISLAND, NEBRASKA, that a stand-by ambulance shall be made available, and staffed by City of Grand Island paramedics for the Mission of Mercy event at the Heartland Events Center on September 22 and 23, 2006.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the fee for the use of the stand-by ambulance for such event is hereby waived.

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Adopted by the City Council of the City of Grand Island, Nebraska, August 22, 2006.

Jay Vavricek, Mayor

Attest:

RaNae Edwards, City Clerk

Approved as to Form ☐ _____
August 17, 2006 ☐ City Attorney