



THE CITY OF KEY WEST

Post Office Box 1409 Key West, FL 33041-1409 (305) 809-3939

To: Patti McLaughlin, City Manager
From: Keith Hernandez, Division Chief of EMS
Date: August 30th, 2021
Reference: Executive Summary - Paramedic Class

ACTION

Respectfully request the City of Key West City Commission approve an agreement with Southeastern Medical Academy to provide paramedic certification training for 14 Key West Fire Department personnel at a cost of \$109,200 pursuant to City of Key West Code of Ordinances Section 2-797 (4)(b) Best Interest of the City. Authorize the City Manager to enter into an agreement with Southeastern Medical Academy upon the review and consent of the City Attorney.

BACKGROUND

The Key West Fire Department (KWFD) requires paramedics to operate the Emergency Medical Services division and treat/transport patients per Advanced Life Support (ALS) standards set by the State of Florida.

The Collective Bargaining Agreement 2018 - 2021 executed by the City and the International Association of Firefighters Local 1424 provided for 15 paramedics to be trained during the duration of the three-year agreement. To date, one Firefighter has utilized one of the allocated spots, which leaves a total of 14 available training slots.

The City of Key West solicited three quotes.

Southeastern Medical Academy based in Marathon Florida being the lowest cost and best option.

- Southeastern Medical Academy \$7,800/student
Braxton College \$8,500/student
Emergency Education Institute LLC \$8,775/student

The Southeastern Medical Academy will deliver a Paramedic Training Program in accordance with the State of Florida, Department of Education Standards. The training will be done at the fire station classroom, off duty, on a shift friendly basis so all students will be able to attend without interfering with their normal firefighter duties

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and responsibilities.

All Key West Fire Department personnel attending the course will be required to sign an agreement to repay to the City 100% of the paramedic tuition if the employee does not receive his or her Paramedic certification or voluntarily leaves City employment within three (3) years of the date of obtaining the certification.

Southeastern Medical Academy will provide all training and documentation to allow each passing student the opportunity to sit for the State of Florida and National Registry EMT-Paramedic certification examination.

**OPTIONS:**

- Provide 14 KWFD students @ \$7,800/student \$109,200.
- Do not provide a Paramedic Training Program at all \$0.00

**ADVANTAGES:**

The Key West Fire Department requires Florida State certified Paramedics to provide Advanced Life Support (ALS) to transport patients. The additional paramedics will provide a larger pool of available personnel to provide ALS care to residents and visitors of Key West. The program requires more than four or five students to be viable. The additional paramedics will result in a higher level of care to the citizens and guests of Key West.

**FINANCIAL IMPACT:**

The \$109,200 for the outlined paramedic training has been proposed in the Fiscal Year 2021-22 City of Key West budget under Fire Department line item 001-2201-522.55 Training.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

City Commission approve an agreement with Southeastern Medical Academy to provide paramedic certification training for 14 Key West Fire Department personnel at a cost not to exceed \$109,200 pursuant to City of Key West Code of Ordinances Section 2-797 (4)(b) Best Interest of the City.

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