

June 11, 2024

Honorable Mayor and City Council
City of Long Beach
California

RECOMMENDATION:

Recommendation to authorize the City Manager, or designee, to execute an Agreement, and all necessary documents, including any subsequent amendments, with the California Firefighter Joint Apprenticeship Committee to allow enrolled paramedic students to participate in advanced life support ambulance supervised field internships, for a period of five years. (Citywide)

DISCUSSION

City Council approval is requested to enter into an Agreement with the California Firefighter Joint Apprenticeship Committee (Cal-JAC) for the facilitation of field supervised internships in Advanced Life Support (ALS) ambulance services for paramedic students. Engaging in these internships is a prerequisite mandated by the State of California for paramedic licensure.

Cal-JAC is an accredited educational institution and operates a Paramedic Academy aimed at equipping enrolled students with the necessary qualifications to become licensed paramedics. As part of the licensure requirements, paramedic students must complete State-mandated coursework, which includes clinical experience through supervised field internships. The Fire Department (FD) is responsible for providing emergency medical services, including Basic Life Support (BLS) and ALS, as well as prehospital care and patient transport to the Long Beach community and qualifies to serve as an agency to provide field supervised internships.

Under this program, the FD will offer a minimum of 480 hours of supervised field experience through its existing ALS ambulance services. Cal-JAC will collaborate with the FD to establish the specific scheduling of days and hours for the supervised field experience. Designated Firefighter Paramedics from the FD will serve as Paramedic Preceptors for assigned Cal-JAC paramedic students. During the internship, students will engage in a minimum of 40 documented ALS patient contacts and will be restricted in performing certain functions.

This partnership between the FD and Cal-JAC is mutually beneficial. It will provide paramedic students from Southern California with exposure to ALS operations within the City of Long Beach. Additionally, participants will be encouraged to explore employment opportunities within the FD, such as Ambulance Operator or Firefighter roles, thereby enhancing the department's recruitment efforts.

This matter was reviewed by Deputy City Attorney Eli Ben-Shmuel on May 17, 2024, and by Budget Development Officer Jennifer Rodriguez on May 3, 2024

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TIMING CONSIDERATIONS

City Council action is requested on June 11, 2024, to ensure the provisions of the Agreement are expeditiously put in place.

FISCAL IMPACT

The Long Beach Fire Department Firefighter Paramedics will provide no fewer than 480 hours of supervised field experience for Cal-JAC students. These Fire Department employees will be compensated a per-diem Paramedic Preceptor pay, which totals \$2,400 in FY 24. This cost is currently unbudgeted and will be absorbed in the General Fund Group in the Fire Department. The Department will continue to assess its budget and will return to City Council to request appropriation for these needs, should the need arise. The cost for this pilot is minimal and is anticipated to be absorbed net of planned budget adjustment requests. This is a pilot for FY 24, and the program cost will be assessed in future years. This recommendation has a minimal staffing impact beyond the normal budgeted scope of duties and a minimal impact on existing City Council priorities. There is no local job impact associated with this recommendation.

SUGGESTED ACTION:

Approve recommendation.

Respectfully submitted,



Dennis Buchanan
Fire

APPROVED:



THOMAS B. MODICA
CITY MANAGER