

David Feldpausch
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Memorandum

To: Livingston County Board of Commissioners
Fr: David Feldpausch, EMS Director
Date: 10-23-2024
Re: Cardiac Monitor Replacement

The EMS department is in need of replacement of its current Cardiac Monitors. These were last replaced in 2017 and generally have a 5-10 Year life span. So, we are entering that time frame. We have recently begun to experience occasional issues with them nothing catastrophic, but this is another sign that we need to start the replacement process before we do have a critical failure.

We have explored a few options for replacement including a factory tour to see firsthand the production and testing process. We have decided that we would like to go with the Life Pack 35 from Stryker. This is the latest model and was just released this past year. We have several other medical devices that we have purchased from Stryker and their quality and service after the sale have been second to none. As we move to more Stryker equipment it also gives us better buying power and as technology advances connectivity between devices.

I was initially concerned about the financial impacts of this large purchase on our fund balance but the option to purchase over three years significantly softens that impact and allows us to maintain a better fund balance in our Capital replacement account. You may recall I generally only purchase with cash, and I am not a fan of long-term debt. The interest rate for this purchase is currently less than we are earning on our investments making the decision much easier. I know that the current rates are likely to drop as the Fed reduces lending rates, but I am still much more comfortable with the terms of this purchase.

Cardiac Monitors are the largest capital purchase that we make (outside of our standard vehicle replacements) because we must replace them all at once and cannot phase them in over time. This is probably the most critical piece of medical equipment that we carry on the ambulance and having disparate devices on different vehicles would add too much stress to an already highly stressful career.

The timing of the Fiscal Reserve policy which you are also reviewing is not a coincidence. We are committed to the long-term success and stability of our department and this purchase will put us ahead of the curve with major capital replacement needs and set us on a path for long term sustainability.

There is some urgency to this request in that I know we will be facing a January 2025 price increase that has yet to be announced. Based on the current inflation that we all deal with on a daily basis I expect that it will be significant, and I want to be ahead of that price increase.

As always, I welcome any questions or comments.

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