

**CITY OF CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA**



Agenda Date:	August 5, 2024
Action Required:	Approval
Presenter:	Michael Thomas, Fire Chief, Samuel Sanders, Jr., City Manager
Staff Contacts:	Michael Thomas, Fire Chief April Wimberley, Assistant City Attorney
Title:	Amend and re-enact city ordinance(s) enabling the Emergency Medical Services Agreement with the Charlottesville Albemarle Rescue Squad (C.A.R.S.) (2nd reading)

Background

In 2017, the City of Charlottesville and Charlottesville Albemarle Rescue Squad (CARS) collaborated to establish emergency medical services for the City with the Charlottesville Fire Department (CFD) as the designated emergency services agency. The City Attorney's office noticed the need for a well-defined funding relationship that aligns with current billing laws and practices. Therefore, a new agreement has been established allowing CARS to continue providing emergency medical services for the City of Charlottesville as a designated component of the Charlottesville Fire Department. The volunteer Charlottesville Fire Company will also come under the umbrella of the CFD. The Charlottesville Fire Department will remain responsible for emergency operations and EMS billing.

Discussion

The City and CARS recently updated their agreement for citywide service delivery parameters. The new agreement now designates certain CARS units as part of CFD and allowances for the operating costs of these services. Additionally, the City Attorney's Office has updated the ordinance section to better reflect the current response model and deployment of EMS services within the City.

Alignment with City Council's Vision and Strategic Plan

Public Safety and provision of medical services for the citizens.

Community Engagement

N/A

Budgetary Impact

\$450,000.00 per fiscal year from the EMS Cost Center GL coded to Contribution to Civic Group.

Recommendation

Staff recommends approval for both the new agreement and the ordinance updates.

Alternatives

The only alternatives to a joint operation, as described, would be to privatize EMS delivery or for CFD to absorb the full EMS response load within the City, which would require approval for additional resources and staffing.

Attachments

1. City-CARS Agreement 7-3-24 CARS Signed (2)
2. City Code - Chapter 12 - Fire Prevention and EMS
3. City Code - Chapter 12 - Fire Prevention and EMS - REDLINED