

**CITY OF SAN ANTONIO
INTERDEPARTMENTAL MEMORANDUM
FIRE DEPARTMENT**

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Robert Ojeda, Fire Chief

THROUGH: Terry M. Brechtel, City Manager

COPIES: J. Rolando Bono, Deputy City Manager; Chief Mike Miller, Emergency Management Coordinator; File

SUBJECT: Authorizing the Acceptance of Grant Funds from the Department of Health and Human Services

DATE: October 31, 2002

SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This ordinance authorizes the acceptance of grant funds in the amount of \$50,000 from the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to the San Antonio Fire Department (SAFD) for a period beginning October 1, 2002 and ending September 30, 2003. These funds will be utilized to sustain planning, equipping, and training of the Metropolitan Medical Response System (MMRS), a system established as a primary resource for response to Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) incidents.

Staff recommends approval.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In 1997, the DHHS Office of Emergency Preparedness (OEP) awarded MMRS development contracts to twenty-five metropolitan areas in the United States, including San Antonio. These contracts were made available to provide initial assistance for local jurisdictions to develop an integrated response plan, purchase special pharmaceuticals and equipment, and identify the training requirements for an MMRS as a principal resource in responding to the health and medical needs resulting from a nuclear, biological, chemical, radiological, and/or explosive WMD incident.

The MMRS approach has resulted in an improved local health and medical response to all natural and technical disasters. MMRS response capability has been built through successful utilization of multiple sources of federal, state, and local funding. The challenge is to maintain the systems and partnerships that have been initiated among local, state, and federal government agencies, as well as community health care providers. These cooperative planning activities and interactions must be preserved; skilled personnel must be retained; specialized stockpiles and

equipment maintained; and local response plans periodically tested. These funds will assist the City in maintaining and further developing its local MMRS.

POLICY ANALYSIS

The City has previously applied for and received funds for MMRS development. These funds will help defray the costs of maintaining the local MMRS. Additionally, the MMRS supports the joint City-County Anti-Terrorism Plan.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact to the General Fund. The grant funds will allow the Fire Department to replenish supplies and equipment and continue training.

COORDINATION

This ordinance has been coordinated with the Finance Department.



Robert Ojeda
Fire Chief



Mike Miller
Assistant Chief



J. Rolando Bono
Deputy City Manager

Approved:



Terry M. Brechtel
City Manager