

Pinellas Suncoast Fire & Rescue District Board of Fire Commissioners



September 17, 2024



**FIRE CHIEF
JEFFREY DAVIDSON**

Pinellas Suncoast Fire & Rescue

**304 FIRST STREET
INDIAN ROCKS BEACH, FLORIDA 33785-2587**

**(727) 595-1117 FAX: (727) 250-0111
www.psfrd.org**

MEETING NOTICE

THIS MEETING IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

September 17, 2024

**The Budget Meeting begins at 6:00 pm
The Workshop begins immediately after the Budget Meeting**

LOCATION:

**Indian Shores Municipal Center
19305 Gulf Boulevard
Indian Shores, FL 33785**

AGENDA

BUDGET MEETING

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

ROLL CALL

ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO AGENDA:

ACTION ITEMS: *Any member of the public may comment on any ACTION ITEM list during this time. Please note the CHAIR will call for public input during the time the ACTION ITEM is being considered by the Board. When called upon to speak, the speaker will state their full name and address. There will be a 3-minute time limit per speaker.¹*

**24-23 Fixing of FY 24/25 Non-Ad Valorem Rates
(Resolution 2024-03)**

Attorney

**24-24 Adoption of FY 24/25 Tentative Millage Rate
(Resolution 2024-04)**

Attorney

¹ Please see Note as to Public Input.

ADJOURNMENT

WORKSHOP

WORKSHOP CALLED TO ORDER

ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO AGENDA:

GENERAL REMARKS FROM THE AUDIENCE: *Any member of the public may comment on any NON-AGENDA or other relevant topic not set on the DISCUSSION ITEM list during this time. When called upon to speak, the speaker will state their full name and address. There will be a 3-minute time limit per speaker.²*

DISCUSSION ITEMS: *Any member of the public may comment on any DISCUSSION ITEM list during this time. Please note the CHAIR will call for public input during the time the DISCUSSION ITEM is being considered by the Board. When called upon to speak, the speaker will state their full name and address. There will be a 3-minute time limit per speaker.³*

- | | |
|--|-----------------|
| 24-20 PSFRD Commission Seat 1
INTERVIEWS | Chair |
| 24-26 Formal Complaint #1 – August 22, 2024
Pinellas Suncoast Professional Firefighters | Attorney |
| 24-27 Formal Complaint #2 – September 3, 2024
David Karpinecz | Attorney |

ADJOURNMENT

REGULAR MEETING

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO AGENDA:

ELECTION OF BOARD POSITION – Secretary Treasurer

² Please see Note as to Public Input.

³ Please see Note as to Public Input.

MONTHLY BUSINESS:

1. Approval of Minutes: July 16, 2024 Special, Workshop, and Regular Meetings
2. Treasurer's Report: July and August, 2024
3. Correspondence

GENERAL REMARKS FROM THE AUDIENCE: *Any member of the public may comment on any NON-AGENDA or other relevant topic not set on the ACTION ITEM list during this time. When called upon to speak, the speaker will state their full name and address. There will be a 3 minute time limit per speaker⁴.*

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- REPORTS:**
1. UNION
 2. COMMISSION
 3. ATTORNEY
 4. FIRE CHIEF

ACTION ITEMS: *Any member of the public may comment on any ACTION ITEM during this time. Please note the CHAIR will call for public comment during the time the ACTION ITEM is being considered by the Board. When called upon to speak, the speaker will state their full name and address. There will be a 3 minute time limit per speaker.⁵*

24-20 PSFRD Commission Seat 1	Attorney
24-28 Selection of Lender for Station 28 via P3	Finance Director
24-29 ALS First Responder (ALSFR) Agreement	Fire Chief
24-25 Formal Complaint #1 – August 22, 2024 Pinellas Suncoast Professional Firefighters	Attorney
24-26 Formal Complaint #2 – September 3, 2024 David Karpinecz	Attorney

ADJOURNMENT

**NEXT MEETING: Budget Meeting, September 24, 2024, at
6:00 p.m. at the Belleair Beach Community Center.**

⁴ Please see Note as to Public Input.

⁵ Please see Note as to Public Input.

**Pinellas Suncoast Fire & Rescue District
Board of Fire Commissioners**

Public Meeting and Public Hearing Information

Requirements for Appeal

Persons are advised that if they wish to appeal any decision made at a meeting/hearing, they will need a record of the proceedings; and for such purpose, they may need to ensure that a verbatim transcript of the meeting is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is made.

It is not the responsibility of the Secretary to provide the above-referenced verbatim record. The Secretary will provide an audio recording of the meeting, upon request and payment for the materials used for the recording.

Public Input

Persons wishing to speak during any Meeting or Public Hearing should try to complete a Citizen Comment Request Card at the entrance of the meeting room and submit the card to the Secretary to the Board. During each session, the Chair will call for Public Input at the appropriate times. The Board wishes to receive public input on all matters set for discussion on the agenda and on relevant topics that are not on the agenda. When recognized by the Chair and called to the podium, speakers should give their name and address for the record.

Persons may speak on an agenda item when the Board has finished their discussion on that item and prior to the vote. To speak on a non-agenda item, speakers will be called during the "General Remarks from the Audience" section of the agenda.

Please note that the Board reserves the right to adjust the time allotted to each speaker as the Chair deems proper to allow for meaningful input and a fair chance to be heard and to allow the Board fair time to undertake its duties and obligations.

When is the appropriate time to address my agenda item at a meeting?

When your non-agenda or agenda item comes up and our Chairperson call for Public Input, that means that the Board desires to take "public input". This is the time to get up and speak. While we understand that some of you might be nervous to speak in public, please note that every effort will be made to help you feel comfortable. When called to the podium, please come to the podium and try to speak so that your input can be heard by the entire Board as well as by the other persons present. Please give your name and address for the record and feel proud that you have participated in "government in the sunshine!"

Accommodations

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 286.26, Florida Statutes, persons with disabilities needing special accommodation to participate in this proceeding, or those requiring language assistance (*free of charge*) should contact the Pinellas Suncoast Fire & Rescue District Administration at (727) 595-1117 ext. 100 no later than forty-eight (48) hours prior to the proceeding. If contact is made after that time the District may not have sufficient time to make special accommodations.

ACTION ITEM 24-23

Fixing of the FY24/25 Non-Ad Valorem

Assessment Rates

(Resolution 2024-03)

RESOLUTION 2024-03

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE PINELLAS SUNCOAST FIRE & RESCUE DISTRICT PROVIDING FOR THE FIXING OF THE RATE OF NON-AD VALOREM ASSESSMENTS BEGINNING FISCAL YEAR OCTOBER 1, 2024, IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE CHARTER OF THE DISTRICT; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, The Charter of the Pinellas Suncoast Fire & Rescue District requires that the rate of non-ad valorem assessments against the assessable real property situated in the District shall be set by Resolution of the Board on or subsequent to February 1 of each year.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE PINELLAS SUNCOAST FIRE & RESCUE DISTRICT, THAT:

SECTION 1. The rate of non-ad valorem assessments against the assessable real property situated in the District shall be as is shown in Exhibit 1 to the Resolution.

SECTION 2. The assessments will be collected on the ad valorem tax bill to be mailed November, 2024, as authorized by section 197.3632, Florida Statutes.

SECTION 3. This Resolution shall remain in full force and effect until supplemented, amended, modified, repealed, discontinued or otherwise altered.

SECTION 4. If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase of this Resolution, or the particular application thereof shall be held invalid by any court, administrative agency, or other body with appropriate jurisdiction, the remaining section, subsection, sentences, clauses, or phrases under application, shall not be affected thereby.

SECTION 5. That this Resolution shall become effective upon the day of adoption.

PASSED AND ADOPTED on this 17th Day of September, 2024.

PINELLAS SUNCOAST FIRE & RESCUE DISTRICT

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:

ATTEST:

Louis R. Snelling IV
Chair

Elizabeth "Betsey" McKenna
Vice Chair

**PINELLAS SUNCOAST FIRE & RESCUE DISTRICT
RESOLUTION 2024-03**

EXHIBIT 1

Single Family Residential	
Single Family Homes, Apartments, Condos	\$360.00
Time Shares	\$360.00
Condo Garage Space, Storage Unit, Boat Slip (separate title)	\$95.00
Vacant Lots: Each Lot	\$95.00
Vacant Lot with XFSB (i.e. Shed, Dock, Barn) Additional	\$25.00
Unplatted Land: Each Acre	\$124.00
Commercial Units: Up to 500 sq. ft.	\$386.00
Per sq. ft. over 500 sq. ft.	\$0.20
(a) With Kitchen - Additional	\$385.00
(b) With Dining Room - Additional	\$385.00
(c) With Bar - Additional	\$385.00
Hotels	\$385.00
(a) With Kitchen - Additional	\$385.00
(b) With Dining Room - Additional	\$385.00
(c) With Bar - Additional	\$385.00
(d) Each Room - Additional	\$115.00
Motels: Rental Units (Efficiencies or Otherwise)	\$265.00
Motels: Manager's or Owner's Quarters	\$260.00
Mobile Home Lots: Rental Space	\$265.00
Mobile Home Lots: Occupied by Manager or Owner	\$260.00
Recreational Vehicle Lots: Rental Space	\$265.00
Recreational Vehicle Lots: Occupied by Manager or Owner	\$260.00
Fuel Pumps (Any Number)	\$625.00
Above Ground Oil Storage Tanks: 5,000 gal or less	\$490.00
Each 1,000 gal or fraction thereof over 5,000	\$85.00

ACTION ITEM 24-24

Adoption of FY 24/25

Tentative Millage Rate

(Resolution 2024-04)

RESOLUTION 2024-04

A RESOLUTION OF THE PINELLAS SUNCOAST FIRE & RESCUE DISTRICT OF PINELLAS COUNTY, FLORIDA, ADOPTING THE TENTATIVE LEVYING OF AD VALOREM TAXES FOR THE PINELLAS SUNCOAST FIRE & RESCUE DISTRICT OF PINELLAS COUNTY, FLORIDA FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024/2025; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the Pinellas Suncoast Fire & Rescue District of Pinellas County, Florida, on September 17, 2024, adopted a Fiscal Year 2024/2025 Tentative Millage Rate following a public hearing as required by Florida Statute 200.065;

WHEREAS, the Pinellas Suncoast Fire & Rescue District of Pinellas County, Florida, held a public hearing as required by Florida Statute 200.065; and,

WHEREAS, the gross taxable value for operating purposes not exempt from taxation within Pinellas Suncoast Fire & Rescue District of Pinellas County has been certified by the County Property Appraiser to the Pinellas Suncoast Fire & Rescue District as \$5,970,516,179.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Pinellas Suncoast Fire & Rescue District of Pinellas County, Florida;

- 1.** The Fiscal Year 2024/2025 operating millage rate is 0.67 mills and there is no rolled-back rate.
- 2.** This resolution will take effect immediately upon its adoption.

PASSED AND ADOPTED at a public hearing on this 17th day of September, 2024.

PINELLAS SUNCOAST FIRE & RESCUE DISTRICT

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:

ATTEST:

Louis R. Snelling IV
Chair

Elizabeth “Betsey” McKenna
Vice Chair

ACTION ITEM 24-25

Adoption of FY 24/25

Tentative Budget

(Resolution 2024-05)

RESOLUTION 2024-05

A RESOLUTION OF THE PINELLAS SUNCOAST FIRE & RESCUE DISTRICT OF PINELLAS COUNTY, FLORIDA, ADOPTING THE TENTATIVE BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2024/2025; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the Pinellas Suncoast Fire & Rescue District of Pinellas County, Florida, on September 17, 2024, held a public hearing as required by Florida Statute 200.065; and

WHEREAS, the Pinellas Suncoast Fire & Rescue District of Pinellas County, Florida, set forth the appropriations and revenue estimate for the Budget for Fiscal Year 2024/2025 in the amount of \$12,326,057.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Pinellas Suncoast Fire & Rescue District of Pinellas County, Florida;

1. The Fiscal Year 2024/2025 Tentative Budget will be adopted.
2. This resolution will take effect immediately upon its adoption.

PASSED AND ADOPTED at a public hearing this 17th day of September, 2024.

PINELLAS SUNCOAST FIRE & RESCUE DISTRICT

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:

ATTEST:

Louis R. Snelling IV
Chair

Elizabeth "Betsey" McKenna
Vice Chair

**PINELLAS SUNCOAST FIRE & RESCUE DISTRICT
TENTATIVE BUDGET
FISCAL YEAR 2024 - 2025**

FY 2024 - 2025		
	Capital Projects Fund	Total Tentative Budget
General Fund		

COMPARATIVE TOTAL GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS	
FY 2023-2024 Adopted Budget	Budget Inc/(Decr)

REVENUES

Ad Valorem, net (Millage per \$1000, 0.67)	\$ 3,800,234	\$ -	\$ 3,800,234	\$ 3,441,760	\$ 358,474
Fire Assessments	4,883,700	-	4,883,700	4,890,250	(6,550)
EMS Funding	2,247,635	350,000	2,597,635	2,149,180	448,455
Intergovernmental Grant Revenue	510,304	-	510,304	624,593	(114,289)
Interest	200,000	-	200,000	163,000	37,000
Miscellaneous	95,000	-	95,000	39,500	55,500
Transfers In (Interfund)	-	239,184	239,184	297,684	(58,500)
Total Revenues	\$ 11,736,873	\$ 589,184	\$ 12,326,057	\$ 11,605,967	\$ 720,090

EXPENDITURES

Public Safety - Fire and EMS:

Personnel Services - Compensation	\$ 4,223,234	\$ -	\$ 4,223,234	\$ 4,080,419	\$ 142,815
Personnel Services - Benefits	2,685,482	-	2,685,482	2,533,474	152,008
Operating Expenses	1,228,146	-	1,228,146	1,039,634	188,512
Capital Outlay	-	589,184	589,184	443,261	145,923
Transfers Out (Interfund)	239,184	-	239,184	297,684	(58,500)
Total Expenditures	\$ 8,376,046	\$ 589,184	\$ 8,965,230	\$ 8,394,472	\$ 570,758

Net change in Fund Balances	\$ 3,360,827	\$ 3,211,495	\$ 149,332
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Pinellas Suncoast Fire & Rescue District
Ten Year Capital Expenditure Plan
Fiscal Year Ending 2025 Through 2034

Reference / Description	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	
Rolling Stock / Fleet:											
FB-27	2019 Fireboat with Trailer					\$180,000					
M-27	2019 Marine Rescue Boat with Trailer					\$28,000					
SR-27	ATV - Beach Rescue						\$25,000				
E-27	2023 Pierce Arrow XT PUC Pumper (Lease)	\$111,411	\$111,411	\$111,411	\$111,411	\$111,411	\$111,411				
P-26 Reserve	2010 Pierce Arrow XT PUC Pumper										
P-27 Reserve	2002 Pierce Enforcer - Reserve Unit										
P-28 Reserve	2010 Pierce Velocity Aerial - Reserve Unit										
R-27	Rescue 27 - County Funded Unit	\$350,000									
S-26	2021 Pierce Enforcer Pumper (Lease)	\$70,273	\$70,273	\$70,273	\$70,273				\$800,000		
T-28	2018 Pierce Velocity 107' Aerial Ladder					\$1,650,000					
DC-27	2021 Tahoe - District Chief						\$80,000				
PS-100	F150 - Fire Chief						\$60,000				
PS-401	2015 Explorer - Fire Inspector							\$40,000			
PS-402	2014 F150 - Fire Inspector		\$57,500						\$45,000		
PS-501	2015 Explorer - Division Chief	\$57,500						\$62,500			
PS-600	2021 Tahoe - Assistant Chief: EMS			\$60,000					\$65,000		
PS-900	F250 - Division Chief						\$75,000				
PS-901	2013 F250 - Mechanic	\$57,500						\$62,500			
<i>PS-Shift Vacant</i>	<i>Vacant - Hold for Shift Pool</i>		\$40,000						\$45,000		
<i>PS-Staff Vacant</i>	<i>Vacant - Hold for Support Staff</i>							\$40,000			
<i>PS-Staff Vacant</i>	<i>Vacant - Hold for Staff Pool</i>					\$28,000					
Total Rolling Stock		\$646,684	\$279,184	\$241,684	\$181,684	\$111,411	\$1,997,411	\$240,000	\$205,000	\$955,000	\$0
Equipment											
Apparatus Air Bags		\$8,000									
SCBA: 35 Air Packs & 70 Air Cylinders per NFPA			\$200,000								
Total Equipment		\$0	\$8,000	\$200,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Rolling Stock & Equipment Capital Plan		\$646,684	\$287,184	\$441,684	\$181,684	\$111,411	\$1,997,411	\$240,000	\$205,000	\$955,000	\$0
\$5,066,058											

NOTES:

- Assets in *Italics* are placeholders for future requirements, not current assets.
- Assistant Chief of EMS vehicle scheduled for replacement with an expected reimbursement of \$50,000 fom Pinellas County in FY 2027 per ALSFR Appendix A.

MINUTES

July 16, 2024



**FIRE CHIEF
JEFFREY DAVIDSON**

Pinellas Suncoast Fire & Rescue

**304 FIRST STREET
INDIAN ROCKS BEACH, FLORIDA 33785-2587**

**(727) 595-1117 FAX: (727) 250-0111
www.psfrd.org**

MINUTES JULY 16, 2024 SPECIAL, WORKSHOP, AND REGULAR MEETINGS

**Indian Shores Municipal Building
19305 Gulf Boulevard
Indian Shores, FL 33785**

SPECIAL MEETING CALLED TO ORDER PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL: Commissioners answering roll call were Chair Louis Snelling, Vice Chair Elizabeth “Betsey” McKenna, Commissioner David Gardella, and Commissioner Heather Koskinas. A quorum was present with Chair Louis Snelling presiding. Attorney Jeff Albinson, Fire Chief Jeffrey Davidson, Finance Director Erin Brooks, Assistant Chief David Karpinecz, Division Chief Patrick Schwab, and Division Chief Louis Stoneburg were also present.

ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS: None.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

24-19 Impasse Hearing

Discussion: Attorney Jeff Albinson briefly paraphrased items in Florida Statute 447.405 to remind the Board of the main points they should be considering during the presentations:

- (1) Comparison of the annual income of employment of the public employees in question with the annual income of employment maintained for the same or similar work of employees exhibiting like or similar skills under the same or similar working conditions in the local operating area involved.
- (2) Comparison of the annual income of employment of the public employees in question with the annual income of employment of public employees in similar public employee governmental bodies of comparable size within the state.

(3) The interest and welfare of the public.

He added that there is no limitation other than consideration for everyone in terms of the length of the presentations.

Attorney Robert McKee introduced himself as the legal representative on behalf of IAFF Local 5374. He mentioned that both parties had previously agreed that presentations will not exceed 30 minutes. Mr. McKee recapped that the Union and the Fire Chief were unable to come to an agreement regarding the compensation to be paid to the members of the Union during the final year of their existing contract. He continued that the Fire Chief declared an impasse and it is now up to the governing body to decide how the situation will be resolved. Mr. McKee stated that the Union is asking the Board to impose the pay increase that the Fire Chief initially agreed to during bargaining and passed out copies of said proposal. Mr. McKee clarified that the proposal indicates that firefighters would receive a 5% pay increase, lieutenants would receive a 4% increase, and district chiefs would receive a 3% increase. Mr. McKee explained that the Union's bargaining team was fine with that proposal, but the Fire Chief rescinded the proposal before it could be taken back to the Union body for ratification. He added that the Union is more than willing to still accept that proposal; however, they would like to offer an alternate proposal to leave things as they are and forgo any pay raises during the last year of the existing Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA). Mr. McKee suggested that pay raises as well as a myriad of other issues can all be discussed simultaneously once both parties begin the bargaining process for the successor CBA. Mr. McKee indicated that items other than pay increases should not be discussed during this wage reopener and should only be discussed once the entire contract is open for bargaining.

Fire Chief Jeffrey Davidson stated that Division Chief Patrick Schwab is distributing handouts that include the current pay plan, the proposed pay plan, and the hours worked by all firefighters of the District from October 1st to July 12th. Chief Davidson explained that the intention of his proposal of enacting a 52-hour work week is to fix a long-term problem. He explained that, historically, firefighters were given paid time off in lieu of pay raises, which has created the problem that there are never enough people on duty, and employees – particularly newer employees – are forced to work a significant amount of overtime. He added that senior employees had also been being paid for holidays that the junior employees were working. Chief Davidson stated that he has been working for the last few years to correct these problems by adding holiday time for the employees physically working the holidays, implementing a 12% increase in exchange for some of the paid time off, and acting officer pay, driver pay, and longevity pay as a percentage of the employee's salary. Chief Davidson stated that the wage reopener built into contract allows the parties to consider negotiating all articles that affect wages, such as articles that involve work hours. He added that the Union brought forward three issues at the beginning of the bargaining process: Recruitment and retention, the amount of overtime being forced on the members, and the disparity in pay for paramedics. Chief Davidson added that he feels the inherent problem regarding the overtime is the lack of hours that are actually being worked, and that is what needs to be corrected, and he also made the offer of giving all paramedics \$10,000 to correct the disparity issue. He explained that as of July 12, 2024, there are 7,764 hours of overtime, with a projection of 11,074 hours that the firefighters will have to work this year. The Chief stated that the Union's first proposal was a 20% pay increase to firefighter paramedics and a 15% increase to firefighter EMTs, which it has been determined would bankrupt the District within seven years and does not solve

any of the issues expressed by the Union. Chief Davidson stated that the Union made a statement that they would go back to the voters in seven years and ask for a tax increase. He stated that is not their choice or their right to do, and that the District spelled out a 20-year plan that is intends on sticking to. He explained that the Union's second proposal was a 10% pay increase across the board, a 48-hour work week, an additional wage increase of 3%, no requirement of sweat hours, and a \$10,000 to \$15,000 incentive for paramedics. He stated that this will bankrupt the District within 10 years and also does not solve the problems brought forward. He explained that he brought forward a proposal to the Union that solved all three of their concerns and offers more money than they proposed: a 15.6% increase in EMT starting pay and 23.8% increase in paramedic starting pay, and a 52-hour work week instead of the current 48-hour work week. Chief Davidson stated that there are firefighters working as low as 26 hours per week, while junior firefighters are working the most hours for the least amount of money. He explained that this proposal by the District puts the firefighters' wages near the top wages in Pinellas County, and added that the 52-hour work week will give stability to the budget and reduce overtime hours. The Chief explained that the switch from a six-week Kelly Day to a 3-week Kelly Day means that personnel will be scheduled for eight more shifts per year, but the eight to 12 unscheduled overtime shifts they are working now will go away. Chief Davidson reviewed a presentation on pay plans based on a 2024 salary study. He explained that the minimum hours needed per week is 43 and stated that 64% of the firefighters do not work those 43 hours without overtime. He added that, even with overtime, 20% still are not working 43 hours per week, and it is the most senior personnel working the least. He added that this causes a scheduling problem, as this means there are not enough trained personnel to fill driver positions and acting lieutenant and district chief roles. He briefly reviewed his plan to add an additional person in October and explained that if the District is not awarded the seven personnel requested in the FEMA SAFER grant, he will ask the Board to add three more firefighters mid-year. Chief Davidson provided a history of negotiation dates and stated that no other proposals were brought forward by the Union. He added that he realized that the District's proposal did not fix any of the problems. Chief Davidson continued that the reason impasse was declared was because the Union stated that they were not going to consider a tentative agreement on May 17th as they were waiting on voting results. He said that collective bargaining law states that a verbal agreement must be reduced to writing and then brought forward to the membership so they know what they are voting on. He also added that the impasse was actually declared by Attorney Tom Gonzalez based on Florida Statute. Further discussion recording the proposed pay plan ensued.

Mr. McKee asked the audience if they understand and agree with all the items brought forward by Chief Davidson. He asked to let the parties go back to the bargaining table where they can discuss additional proposals, and all these issues can be resolved. Mr. McKee stated that he does not feel it is fair to the Commission to be asked to digest all this information and make a decision. He added that the Union has ideas regarding the overtime issue, but stated the Chief does not want to hear the Union's ideas or opinions. Mr. McKee stated that, in the beginning of the bargaining process, the union "started high" and gave themselves room to "bargain down." He explained that the Union will accept the Chief's original proposal, or they will accept to leave things status quo and discuss all these issues when it is time to bargain again. Mr. McKee said that he believes Chief Davidson is using scare tactics to persuade the Commission to make a decision that they may not be in the best position to make tonight.

Chief Davidson stated that the Union never brought any other ideas back to the table. He explained that he is transparent, and anyone is welcome to see the District's budget at any time. Chief Davidson also expressed that he is not willing to leave things "status quo." He asserted that the few personnel who feel the District's proposal is a "bad deal" are the people at the top of the chart (in his presentation) and that is only because they will be required to work more. He added that leaving this status quo will lead to recruitment and retention problems. Chief Davidson spoke to Mr. McKee and told him not to accuse him of using scare tactics and stated that everything he says is a fact. He added that he doesn't "start high to go low," because when he tells the Board that the District needs something, it is all that is needed. Chief Davidson stated that the members should have had the opportunity to vote on the District's proposed pay plan and the fact that they didn't is a violation of collective bargaining laws.

[There was a short break at this time.]

Attorney Jeff Albinson suggested that each side should summarize their proposals to the Board so it is very clear what they are asking the Board to accept or reject.

Mr. McKee stated that the Union is presenting two options. Option 1: Impose Chief's Davidson's "Proposal B." Option 2: Leave things status quo and do not implement any wage increases and allow the parties to bargain over wages and other terms and conditions when they sit down to negotiate the successor contract.

Chief Davidson stated that the District's proposal is to move to the new proposed pay scale and implement a 52-hour workweek with a 6-week Kelly Day, as outlined in the presentation.

Chair Snelling asked for public comment and stated that comments must be kept to a maximum of three minutes.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Michael Lewis – Mr. Lewis stated he is thankful to have Station 28 as the first-due unit to his neighborhood. He explained that PSFRD used to be one of the top counties in the department to work for, but now it is at the bottom. Mr. Lewis stated that he is a union officer and negotiates contracts and stated that some things Chief Davidson said are not factually true. He continued that personnel are not going to work less if more employees are not being hired because those hours still have to be covered. Mr. Lewis said that the District's proposal means that firefighters will be working more hours at a straight time rate and less hours at an overtime rate. Mr. Lewis alluded that he does not feel it is appropriate to include the names of personnel in the presentation. He also stated that some of the people with a low number of hours worked could have been injured, on FMLA, etc. and that all employees are working at least 42 hours. Mr. Lewis inquired as to many hours Chief Davidson works after his paid time off.

Chair Snelling instructed Mr. Lewis to keep his comments civil.

Mr. Lewis stated he doesn't know what he said that was not civil.

Vice Chair McKenna stated that Mr. Lewis should provide facts if he is going to state that Chief Davidson's statements are not factual.

Mr. Lewis stated that one example was that Chief Davidson stated Lealman does not have a Kelly Day but they do.

Nick Stocco – Mr. Stocco introduced himself as the President of Tampa Firefighters Local 754. He stated that he heard that management would like to afford their personnel more time to be home with their families, but stated he does not understand how that is possible if the minimum regularly scheduled hours will increase from 48 to 52. He discussed Tampa Fire Rescue wages compared to PSFRD's wages. Mr. Stocco stated there are better ways to solve this before allowing it to be in a public space. He added that he understands why there were difficulties at the bargaining table if a proposal was offered to them and then taken away. He asserted that if the Union would like the parties to go back to the bargaining table, that is a good option, because management "threw a lot of information" to the Commission. He added that Local 754 stands in solidarity with the Union.

BOARD DISCUSSION

Commissioner Gardella reiterated the options being presented. Attorney Tom Gonzalez stated that the Board can take whatever action they choose. Vice Chair McKenna asked what timeframe this decision encompasses. Attorney Albinson stated that the end of the current CBA is September 30, 2025.

Commissioner Koskinas asked Chief Davidson if he opposes the idea of leaving the contract where it is and starting over when the time is right, and what the reason is for his answer. Chief Davidson stated that he does oppose leaving the contract as-is, because that is when the District is going to have issues. He added that the District has been lucky with its last six hires as they are all "top-notch" employees; however, if they don't begin being paid what they should be paid, they are going to leave, and we will not have anyone to take their places.

Commissioner Koskinas asked Chief Davidson if he thinks the fact that the Union is telling him that they are willing to wait until the contract has ended and the parties return to the bargaining table means that they understand what they are getting and that there is not going to be a "mass exodus." Chief Davidson said that he will not speak for the Union but that that is not what the employees are saying. He stated that new employees are afraid to "raise their hands" to say what they want.

[Vice Chair McKenna asked a question that was inaudible on the recording.] Chief Davidson stated that Mr. Michael Lewis was correct about his error regarding Lealman's Kelly Days, and Assistant Chief Karpinecz caught that during the presentation. Chief Davidson also added that PSFRD has a different funding mechanism than a 700-person department like Tampa Fire Rescue. He stated that the District has received zero paramedic applications with the current starting salaries, and discussed the influx of applicants other departments are receiving, even without Kelly Days and with less vacation time, but an increase in salaries. Further discussion ensued on other like-sized and similar departments' salaries and benefits.

Attorney McKee stated that Union did a survey and the votes were 28 – 9, with the majority of personnel not in favor of the District’s proposal, which is why these proposals need to be discussed further and the ramifications of each. Vice Chair McKenna asked Mr. McKee why the Union did not attend the bargaining session on May 17th. Mr. McKee stated this was due to the Chief declaring an impasse, and the survey was conducted after that. Chief Davidson stated that was not the original survey that was sent out and asserted that the results of the original survey indicated that the majority of personnel were in favor of the District’s proposal. He continued that many personnel stated they had never even seen the proposal and explained that the management team invites all personnel to sit down with them to review the pay scale and proposal. Chief Davidson reiterated that the law says the proposal must be reduced to writing, placed in the polling place, and that everybody can review it and know what they are voting on.

Union President Gregory Hott – President Hott stated that the Union sent a survey to the membership to see if they were willing to entertain a 52-hour work week. He stated that the Union never agreed to change the work schedule and felt that a wage opener should only include bargaining over wages. President Hott stated that many other departments with 6-week Kelly Days are in the process of working their way to 3-week Kelly Days as the District currently has, and reduced hour work weeks are happening for the benefit of firefighters’ mental health. He continued that he feels the District’s current 48-hour week has been paid for year after year with all of the things the firefighters have given up, and if this is taken away, it is still just another trade for money. President Hott stated that the Union just wants a simple wage increase and that their position is that if the work schedule is to be bargained, it should be done when the entire contract is open and not during a wage reopener. Chair Snelling stated that is not true and the work schedule can be bargained at this time. President Hott stated that the membership does not need to be the top paid in the County and just wants competitive salaries with a competitive benefits package now that the District is receiving the ad valorem funding. Chair Snelling reiterated that the Union never presented anything new during bargaining. President Hott stated that he was not as present as he should have been due to paramedic school but believes the Union and the District were at a stalemate due to not wanting to change the 48-hour work schedule. Chair Snelling asked President Hott why he would be willing to negotiate the work schedule a year from now, to which President Hott replied that the entire contract will be open, and the multiple affected articles can be bargained. President Hott mentioned that Chief Davidson admitted to not understanding the FLSA pay, which is immediately going to cost the District an additional \$150,000 in overtime hours with the 52-hour work week. He continued to explain that FLSA law states that anything over 53 hours per week is time and a half, unless sweat hours are incorporated, which they were not at first, but then added to the proposal as time went on, which is another reason why things changed with the support. President Hott stated that the Chief’s proposed pay scale was included with the survey that was sent out to the membership and the vote was 28 – 9, not in favor of the Chief’s proposal. President Hott added that the current CBA was written before he was Union President and that he would like to “hammer out” an entirely new contract next year. Chair Snelling mentioned to President Hott that his concerns involved more than just wages. President Hott stated that there are a lot of concerns, but the overtime is not always operational – sometimes it is to put a rescue in service, sometimes it is to staff the squad as an engine. He added that the squad is staffed as an engine due to the SAFER grant, which the District will need to begin paying for after three years, which is the same if the District is awarded the seven personnel requested in the most recent SAFER application process. He stated that is a lot of money that will have to be spent, and the

Union feels that they should be able to receive a simple wage increase.

Vice Chair McKenna asked President Hott if he feels that letting personnel work as many overtime hours as they currently are is good for their mental health. President Hott stated that the District's personnel never work more than 48 hours at a time, and if the District is staffed appropriately to cover the benefit there will not be any overtime. Chair Snelling added that will be some time from now, and a lot of hours will still be generated for the remainder of the year. President Hott stated that he would like to see the Chief's formulas for this deficit and stated that the Union has asked what the impact of the Chief's proposal would be on the overall budget and received no response.

Fire Chief Davidson stated that the District implemented new software that breaks down all the different types of overtime. He stated that the 7,766.25 hours as of July 12th is only overtime hours that are caused by vacancies, or when a driver, officer, or paramedic are needed. He continued that those hours do not include EMS overtime or any other overtime; those are separate categories. Chief Davidson stated that, as far as the FLSA comment is concerned, he has already explained to the Commission that he overextended; and, as far as the ad valorem revenue comment is concerned, it was never intended to pad the wages of personnel and was only intended to keep the District afloat. The Chief continued to discuss upcoming necessary operating expenses of the District. He stated that the "fix" is adding more people, but the District is actually in need of three lieutenants because the deficit is caused by not having enough people who are acting officers. He continued that, in order to fix that, he would need to currently hire three people from the outside but stated that he wants personnel to grow with the organization, so lieutenant testing will be put off for a few months to give the District's personnel the opportunity to get the qualifications they need to sit for the exam. Chief Davidson discussed that administrative chiefs have worked 296 hours for free to cover overtime for the district chief position. Chief Davidson also stated that that he personally works 80 hours per week, many weeks. He added that the comment about the "stalemate" means the same thing as "impasse." Chief Davidson also discussed that there are potentially only three other departments in Florida that have implemented a 42-hour work week and discussed the financial implications of such.

A motion to accept the District's proposal as outlined in the charts with this offer.

MOTION: COMMISSIONER GARDELLA SECOND: COMMISSIONER MCKENNA

Discussion: Vice Chair McKenna stated that she is disappointed that the District has put itself in this position and stated that she believes that because there was no money for so many years the entire problem was created from exchanging time off for deserved increases. She added that, regarding any mistakes that were made in the numbers, she has full faith in Finance Director Erin Brooks and the recent audit process. She added that, while prices do increase and things change, she does not feel comfortable going back to the voters in just seven years. Vice Chair McKenna said that she would like to see if what the Chief is proposing works; if it doesn't, then the Board can reassess at that time.

[There were comments from random audience members at this time.]

Commissioner Koskinas stated that she is voting against it. She continued that the animosity in

the room is bad for the department and that she does not feel that the Commission should put themselves in a position to decide what is best for the firefighters at this stage of the process. She asserted that she does not feel that either proposal is great and thinks both parties can do better. She added that she had not previously given thought to the various reasons someone's hours worked could be lower than normal as mentioned earlier. She added, however, that if someone is in fact not pulling their weight, they need to do better. Commissioner Koskinas stated that she wants the parties to go back to the bargaining table. She stated that there is distrust and passing the District's proposal at this time will cause significant resentment.

Finance Director Brooks informed Commissioner Koskinas that the Union did request financial information and there were multiple brainstorming sessions, so if there is a better way to get the information out so that everybody understands, she is welcome to suggestions. Commissioner Koskinas stated that "people don't know what they don't know," and that while Director Brooks knows the numbers inside and out, maybe more of a "grass roots" approach should be taken with the firefighters. Commissioner Koskinas said that she is willing to help in these efforts. Further discussion ensued among Board members. Vice Chair McKenna mentioned that she is worried about the new hires, and Commissioner Koskinas said she believes that the animosity may end up having an even more significant impact on recruitment and retention.

Chair Snelling stated that he feels not adopting the proposal will cause a recruitment issue and added that other fire departments all over Pinellas County are receiving plenty of applications.

Kayla Zeiner – Mrs. Zeiner introduced herself as the wife of a PSFRD lieutenant. She stated that the reason people are not applying is because of the animosity in this department and that it is well known throughout the County. She added that she believes her husband will now be targeted.

Melanie Zeiner – Mrs. Zeiner introduced herself as the parent of a PSFRD lieutenant. Mrs. Zeiner stated that she has watched her son fight for what he believes in, but he feels like he is fighting a no-win battle. She discussed her son's character and stated that she believes he has been let down by this department. Mrs. Zeiner stated that she thinks the parties should look at the entire contract all at once at this point.

Commissioner Koskinas stated that her concern is that if the Commission takes action tonight on anything other than maintaining the status quo, that it is a disservice to all people in the Fire District, as this directly impacts the safety of the people who live here. She stated that she would rather there be a couple of unfilled positions rather than an implosion of the District. She asserted that the District will be better served by the parties working through their differences.

Attorney Albinson mentioned that the CBA can be amended before the current expiration if both parties agree.

Commissioner Gardella stated that he appreciates the numbers and data and discussed that he understands the parties have been working on this for a long time. He said that he believes it would be wise to go with 12% raise across the board and cut down on the current overtime.

Commissioners Koskinas and Snelling opposed; MOTION FAILED 2 – 2

A motion to accept the Union’s proposal of maintaining the status quo with a strong recommendation to go back to the bargaining table.

MOTION: COMMISSIONER KOSKINAS SECOND: COMMISSIONER SNELLING

Commissioners McKenna and Gardella opposed; MOTION FAILED 2 – 2

Attorney Tom Gonzalez stated that there must be a resolution to the impasse. He explained that the status quo would remain, as that is effectively what the Board is doing in terms of not voting in favor of either proposal, for the remainder of the Collective Bargaining Agreement until its expiration of September 30, 2025.

ADJOURNMENT

The Special Meeting was adjourned at 8:29 p.m.

WORKSHOP CALLED TO ORDER at 8:54 p.m.

ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO AGENDA:

24-20 PSFRD Commission Seat 1

GENERAL REMARKS FROM THE AUDIENCE: None.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

24-20 PSFRD Commission Seat 1

[This item was moved from the Regular Meeting to the Workshop.]

Attorney Albinson stated that he and District Administrator Kim Hampton spent a lot of time talking with the Supervisor of Elections office to ensure the District is following the proper protocol and applicable Florida Statutes. He explained that the timing worked out in such a way that no person qualified for Commission Seat 1 for the November 2024 general election. He reminded the Commission that Commissioner Schear resigned at the end of the June meeting, but his term does not end until November. Attorney Albinson explained that FS 191.005(5) indicates that if there is a resignation before the end of a commissioner’s term, the Board can appoint someone to fill that seat through to the end of the regular term; however, this would mean someone would be appointed for only a few months until the November election, and nobody qualified for the election. He explained that it seems that in the case that nobody has

qualified to run for the election, Florida Statute authorizes the Board to appoint someone to fill that spot until the next general election, which will be November 2026. The District has called for applications and has received two applications, and both resumes included in the agenda packet. He asked if the Board would like to make a decision based on the resumes provided or invite the candidates, as is normally done, to interview with the Board at the August meeting and the Board can make a selection at that time.

Commissioners Gardella and Koskinas stated that they will each not be in attendance at the August meeting. Commissioner Gardella asked if he can join by phone. District Administrator Hampton stated that the meeting is listed on the TRIM notices that have been mailed out by the Tax Collector for the adoption of the non-ad valorem rate resolution. Attorney Albinson said that he will look into a solution.

ADJOURNMENT

REGULAR MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO AGENDA:

24-22 Purchase of Two (2) Administrative Vehicles (Ford F-250s)

Discussion: Chief Davidson explained to the Board that the Capital Improvement Plan indicates that the District is to purchase a replacement truck in October of this year. He informed the Board that Division Chief Schwab was involved in a vehicle crash in his District vehicle due to another party pulling out and side-swiping his vehicle. He continued that the insurance company has totaled the vehicle, and a new vehicle will need to be purchased. In working on this, he explained, two identical trucks have been identified that are \$4,000 less than the State bid and follow the District's procurement process and purchasing policies. He stated that he is requesting that, instead of waiting until October, the Board authorizes him to purchase both trucks now, and a budget amendment will be drafted. Chief Davidson explained that he is worried if they wait, it could potentially take six months to find another one or there could be a price increase. He added that in addition to totaling the vehicle, the insurance company is going to give the District some money back for the emergency lighting and sirens and other items that cannot be transferred over, as well as decals.

Finance Director Brooks informed the Board that there is a gap in the purchase price of the new vehicle versus what will be collected from insurance but stated that she is not sure what that gap is at this time but could potentially be around \$25,000. Division Chief Schwab said that \$27,000 is being reimbursed by the insurance company. Chair Snelling asked what the cost is for both trucks. Director Brooks said the cost is \$65,865 for one vehicle with a light package, which would be duplicated for the second vehicle less the light package. Chief Davidson discussed that if the District is able to move forward with adding a training chief in the next budget to offset some of the district chief overtime, a vehicle will be needed for that person anyway.

A motion to authorize the purchase of both trucks at this time.

MOTION: COMMISSIONER MCKENNA SECOND: COMMISSIONER GARDELLA

All in favor, MOTION PASSED unanimously.

MONTHLY BUSINESS:

1. Approval of Minutes: June 18, 2024 Workshop and Regular Meetings
July 1, 2024 Special Meeting

Discussion: None.

**A motion to approve the minutes of the June 18, 2024
Workshop and Regular Meetings, and the July 1, 2024 Special Meeting.**

MOTION: COMMISSIONER GARDELLA SECOND: COMMISSIONER MCKENNA

All in favor, MOTION PASSED unanimously.

2. Treasurer's Report: June, 2024

Discussion: Attorney Jeff Albinson read the Treasurer's Report for the period ending June 30, 2024. Attorney Albinson stated that the investment program is in accordance with policy at \$10.4 million held in interest earning accounts, \$3 million of which is restricted for Station 28, and \$250,000 in non-interest checking. General fund: Fiscal year to date tax receipts total \$8.06 million. Prevention revenue totals \$124,000. Investment interest totals \$374,000. EMS monthly receipts are on schedule, totaling \$1.61 thousand. Apparatus repairs expense line item is trending to be over budget by year end due to unexpected repairs to Truck 28 and Pumper 28 (Reserve #2). All other general fund revenues and operating expenses are projected within budget.

A motion to approve the June, 2024 Treasurer's Report.

MOTION: COMMISSIONER MCKENNA SECOND: COMMISSIONER GARDELLA

All in favor, MOTION PASSED unanimously.

3. Correspondence: Chair Lou Snelling read an email from Mr. Lawrence Schear supporting a candidate for the position of Seat 1, Mr. Mark Bolling.

GENERAL REMARKS FROM THE AUDIENCE: None.

REPORTS:

1. **UNION:** None.
2. **COMMISSION:** None.

2. **ATTORNEY:** None.

3. **CHIEF’S REPORT:** Chief Davidson stated he will make sure everything gets fixed. He added that there was a potential candidate that now does not want to leave the department he is with due to the vote. He reiterated that his biggest concern is that the new firefighters will begin to leave.

Commissioner Koskinas stated that there was a “weirdness” in the room tonight and she can feel that there are issues with morale. She stated that she is sensing a distrust, and it needs to be worked out. She stated that, while she understands the salary and overtime issues, people need to come to work happy, and that must be the priority over everything else. Chief Davidson said that there is something going and that he will get to the bottom of it. He added that he always tries to do the best thing for everyone and mentioned that recently an employee was having a personal issue and he took that person to a park just to talk and make sure they were okay. He said that he does not understand where the disconnect is coming from, but he will look into.

GENERAL REMARKS FROM THE AUDIENCE: None.

ACTION ITEMS:

24-20 PSFRD Commission Seat 1

[This item was discussed during the Workshop.]

There being no further business to come before the Board, the Regular meeting was adjourned in due form at 9:09 p.m.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

Louis R. Snelling IV
Chair

Kimberly G. Hampton
District Administrator

Date Approved

ACTION ITEM 24-29

ALSFR Agreement

**EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
ALS FIRST RESPONDER AGREEMENT**

**PINELLAS SUNCOAST
FIRE & RESCUE DISTRICT**

October 1, 2024

PINELLAS COUNTY
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AUTHORITY
12490 Ulmerton Road
Largo, Florida 33774

**EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
ALS FIRST RESPONDER AGREEMENT**

AGREEMENT made this _____ day of _____, 2024, between the PINELLAS SUNCOAST FIRE & RESCUE DISTRICT, a Florida municipal corporation ("Contractor"), and the PINELLAS COUNTY EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AUTHORITY, a special district ("Authority").

RECITALS

1. The Authority is a special district created for the purpose of providing Emergency Medical Services throughout Pinellas County ("County"), pursuant to Chapter 80-585, Laws of Florida and Chapter 54, Article III, Pinellas County Code, as amended ("The Acts").
2. The Authority has determined that a single-tier all Advanced Life Support ("ALS") EMS system with a first responder component and a transport component is in the best interest of public safety, health and welfare.
3. The Authority has contracted with various municipalities and independent special fire districts in the County to provide First Responder Services (as defined herein) and has also contracted with an Ambulance Contractor to provide ALS emergency and non-emergency transport services.
4. The Authority wishes to continue to provide for the long-term direction and financial stability of the entire Emergency Medical Services system through working with the First Responder agencies to control costs.
5. Authority is authorized to enter into agreements for Emergency Medical Services and the Contractor is willing and able to provide First Responder Services (as defined herein).

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual covenants, terms and conditions herein set forth to be kept and performed by and between the parties hereto, it is agreed as follows:

ARTICLE I
THE AGREEMENT

SECTION 101. RECITALS AND PURPOSE. The foregoing recitals are hereby incorporated and made part of this Agreement. The purpose of this Agreement is to define the obligations and responsibilities of the Parties hereto with respect to the provision of ALS First Responder Services in the County.

SECTION 102. COOPERATION. The Parties shall cooperate and use all reasonable efforts, pursuant to the terms of this Agreement, to facilitate the terms of this Agreement. Accordingly, the Parties further agree in good faith to mutually undertake resolution of disputes, if any, in an equitable and timely manner so as to limit the need for costly, time-consuming, adversarial proceedings to resolve such disputes.

SECTION 103. CONTRACT DOCUMENTS. The following Appendices are attached to and made part of this Agreement:

- Appendix A.** ALS First Responder Profile
- Appendix B.** ALS First Responder Contractors
- Appendix C.** EMS Equipment
- Appendix D.** EMS Financial Information Attestation Form
- Appendix E.** Instructor Reimbursement Form
- Appendix F.** EMS Coordination Duties and Responsibilities

Subject to Section 912, this Agreement, together with the foregoing Appendices, constitutes the entire Emergency Medical Services ALS First Responder Agreement between the Parties with respect to the provision of ALS First Responder Services, except to the extent that HIPAA (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act) requires additional agreements, which will be handled separately, and shall supersede any prior agreement, contract or memorandum of understanding between the Parties regarding such services.

SECTION 104. SCOPE OF SERVICES. The services to be performed by the Contractor under this Agreement include the following:

- (a) The response of an ALS First Responder Unit to the scene of an EMS Incident.
- (b) The on-scene Patient care by Field Personnel.
- (c) The continuation of Patient care, when Contractor's Paramedic accompanies the Patient during transport by the Ambulance Provider or medical helicopter.
- (d) The transport of Patients to a medical facility by a Rescue Unit shall be in accordance with Florida Statute 401.33 and the then current Medical Operations Manual, Transport Protocols.
- (e) The episodic utilization of CME Instructors and Public Educators/Community Paramedics by participating Contractors.

Such services shall be provided in accordance with the terms and conditions of this Agreement. The specific terms and conditions of this Agreement shall govern and prevail over this Section 104.

ARTICLE II **DEFINITIONS**

SECTION 201. WORDS AND TERMS. Unless the context otherwise requires, capitalized terms used herein shall have the following meanings ascribed to them:

“ALS” means Advanced Life Support.

“ALS First Responder Services” means the response of an ALS First Responder Unit to an EMS Incident and, if necessary, on-scene Patient care by EMTs and Paramedics, all in accordance with the protocols of the Authority.

“ALS First Responder Station” means any location designated by the Contractor and approved by the Authority at which an ALS First Responder Unit, with the minimum staffing required herein, is located.

“ALS First Responder Unit” means any of the ALS permitted vehicles provided by Contractor under this Agreement and listed on Appendix A; each of which is equipped to provide Advanced Life Support services and is used for rapid

response to an EMS Incident. ALS First Responder Units may include, but not be limited to: ALS engines, Transport capable rescue units and non-Transport capable rescue units.

“Advanced Life Support” means treatment of life-threatening medical emergencies through the use of techniques such as endotracheal intubation, the administration of drugs or intravenous fluids, cardiac monitoring, and cardiac defibrillation by a qualified person, pursuant to rules of the Department.

“Advanced Practice Paramedic” or “APP” means a certified paramedic who, through additional training and demonstration of expertise, is authorized by the EMS Medical Director to perform specific diagnostic and/or therapeutic modalities beyond the usual scope of practice of a certified Paramedic. The APP's expanded scope of practice applies only during the operation of, and in support of, the specific special operations team to which they are trained and certified as defined in the EMS Rules and Regulations.

“Ambulance” means a vehicle constructed, equipped and permitted as an ALS Ambulance, pursuant to the rules of the Department for the transportation of Patients.

“Ambulance Contractor” means the entity selected by the Authority to provide ambulance service countywide.

“Annual Compensation” means the professional services fee listed on Appendix A, as may be adjusted pursuant to the terms of this Agreement.

“Annual External Audit” means an audit conducted by an external certified public accountant, retained by the Contractor, who at the end of each Fiscal Year verifies and attests that the Contractor has complied with the requirement to utilize EMS funds solely for EMS purposes in accordance with Section 706 through the submission of the form shown on Appendix D.

“Authority” means the Pinellas County Emergency Medical Services Authority, a special district established by Chapter 80-585, Laws of Florida, as amended.

“Authority Funded Unit” means an ALS First Responder Unit authorized and funded by the Authority pursuant to the terms of this Agreement.

“Automatic Aid/Closest Unit Response Agreement” means the agreement by and

between every political subdivision and fire control districts within Pinellas County dated October 16, 1990.

“BLS” means Basic Life Support.

“BLS First Responder Unit” means a vehicle equipped to provide Basic Life Support only.

“Basic Life Support” means treatment of medical emergencies by a qualified person through the use of techniques described in the Emergency Medical Technician Basic Training Course Curriculum of the United States Department of Transportation.

“CAD” means the computer aided dispatch system.

“Caller” means a person accessing the response system by telephone.

“Condition 1” means the normal operation of the EMS System in which Patient Transport is handled by the Ambulance Contractor.

“Condition 3 Medical” or “Condition 3M” means the procedure to allow ALS First Responder Transport of Patients utilizing Rescue Units during peak periods at the request and approval of the Executive Director or designee.

“Continuing Medical Education” or “CME” means the medical education training program, through distance learning or classroom-based courses, provided in accordance with the EMS Rules & Regulations.

“CME Instructor” means a County Certified Paramedic, County Certified EMT or County Certified nurse, employed and approved by a Contractor or the Ambulance Contractor, who meets the qualifications set forth in the EMS Rules & Regulations and is approved by the Medical Director. CME Instructors may be utilized to teach regular CME classes, specialized Courses, EMS System orientation or serve as a subject matter expert, curriculum developer or to complete a specific task assignment.

“Contractor” means any one of the entities described on Appendix B.

“Contractor Funded Unit” means an ALS First Responder Unit, approved by the Executive Director, which is funded and operated by the Contractor for their operational flexibility, but, the additional Unit is not necessary for the Contractor to meet its obligations under the terms of this Agreement.

- “County”** means Pinellas County, Florida, a political subdivision of the State of Florida.
- “County Certified”** means authorized to work in the EMS System in accordance with requirements established by the Medical Control Board, the Medical Director and approved by the Authority.
- “Course”** means any individual CME offering available online through a sufficient number of classroom-based training classes. Regular CME Courses, whether online or classroom based, will be two (2) hours in duration.
- “Department”** means the State of Florida Department of Health.
- “Disaster”** means an occurrence of a severity and magnitude that normally results in death, injuries and/or property damage and that cannot be managed through routine procedures and resources of the EMS system.
- “Emergency Medical Technician” or “EMT”** means any person who is trained in Basic Life Support, who is County Certified and who is certified by the Department to perform such services in emergency situations.
- “Emergency Medical Services” or “EMS”** means the services provided by the Contractor pursuant to Section 104.
- “EMS Advisory Council”** means the advisory board established by the Special Act.
- “EMS Districts”** means the districts designated by Authority pursuant to the Special Act and Resolution 14-66, as may be amended.
- “EMS Emergency”** means any occurrence or threat thereof in the County, any municipalities therein, or in Pasco, Hillsborough or Manatee County, which may result in unusual system overload and is designated as an EMS Emergency by the Executive Director or Authority.
- “EMS Equipment”** means the equipment listed on Appendix C, as may be amended from time to time by the Executive Director.
- “EMS Incident”** means an emergency or non-emergency request processed through the Regional 9-1-1 Center that needs or is likely to need medical services.
- “Emergency Response”** means, for the purposes of measuring response time compliance in Section 403, the act of responding to a request for services in which the Priority Dispatch Protocols have determined that red lights and sirens will be used.

“EMS Mill” means the ad valorem real property tax imposed by the Authority pursuant to the “Special Act”, Laws of Florida, as amended.

“EMS Ordinance” means Chapter 54, Article III of the Pinellas County Code, as may be amended.

“EMS System” means the network of organizations and individuals, including, but not limited to the Authority, Ambulance Contractor, the Contractors, the EMS Advisory Council, the Medical Control Board and the Medical Director, established to provide Emergency Medical Services in Pinellas County.

“Executive Director” means the Director of the EMS System, or his or her designee.

“First Due Unit” means the ALS First Responder Unit, within Contractor’s primary response area, predetermined to be the nearest to the EMS Incident, in accordance with Section 409 hereof.

“Field Personnel” means Paramedics and EMTs employed by Contractor.

“First Responder Services” means ALS First Responder Services.

“Fiscal Year” means the year commencing on October 1 of any given year and ending on September 30 of the immediately succeeding year.

“Force Majeure” means any act, event, or condition, other than a labor strike, work stoppage or slowdown, that has had or may reasonably be expected to have a direct material adverse effect on the rights or obligations of either Party under this Agreement, and such act, event, or condition is beyond the reasonable control of the Party relying thereon as justification for not performing an obligation or complying with any condition required of such Party under this Agreement, and is not the result of willful or negligent action or a lack of reasonable diligence of the Party relying thereon. Such acts or events may include but shall not be limited to: an act of God (except normal weather conditions for the County), epidemic, landslide, or similar occurrence, an act of the public enemy, war, blockade, insurrection, riot, general arrest or restraint of government and people, civil disturbance or similar occurrence.

“Just Culture” means the framework of assuring patient safety through error prevention and process improvement; assuring and improving the quality of Patient care and Client services; supporting a professional environment and culture that

encourages and supports our Certified Professionals; understands human errors occur and how accountability is assured through consoling, coaching, counseling, Remedial Training or corrective action.

“Learning Management System” means the integrated fire and EMS software system utilized by Provider Agencies for online training, classroom-based training attendance tracking, in-service education; dissemination of administrative and medical control directives, tracking receipt of protocols and directives, skill assessment and testing results. Authority’s staff and Medical Director shall have administrative rights to upload Emergency Medical Services Continuing Medical Education and post CME curriculum, in-service training modules, administrative and medical control directives, run attendance and grade reports for all students, and reports for CME Instructor activity. All Contractors will utilize the common software platform, Target Solutions, or a successor software product as determined by the Authority upon agreement with the CME steering committee as defined in the EMS Rules & Regulations.

“Medic Unit” means a non-Transport capable ALS First Responder Unit.

“Medical Case Review” means a review conducted by the EMS Medical Director or designee, with all Certified Professionals involved with a case, to closely examine the care of a Patient using a positive and educational approach to determine where gaps in knowledge or errors occurred. Such Medical Case Reviews shall be conducted with a Just Culture framework to ensure a positive and supportive culture that encourages quality Patient care.

“Medical Control” means the medical supervision of the EMS System provided by the Medical Director.

“Medical Control Board” means the board appointed by Authority pursuant to the EMS Ordinance and having the duties and responsibilities set forth in the EMS Ordinance.

“Medical Direction” means supervision by Medical Control through two-way communication or through established standing orders, pursuant to rules of the Department.

“Medical Director” means a licensed physician, or a corporation, association, or

partnership composed of physicians, which employs a licensed physician for the purpose of providing Medical Control to the EMS System.

“Medical Operations Manual” means the clinical guidelines, prepared for the EMS System and approved by the Medical Control Board, as the same may be amended from time to time.

“On-Scene Equipment Exchange Program” means the Authority’s program whereby an equipment item, such as backboards and immobilization devices, which may be amended by the Executive Director, is employed by Contractor in the course of preparing a Patient for transport and the ambulance personnel replaces the same from its own on-board inventory.

“Paramedic” means a person who is trained in Basic and Advanced Life Support, who is County Certified, and who is certified by the Department to perform Basic and Advanced Life Support procedures pursuant to the provisions of state statute, regulations and the Medical Operations Manual.

“Party” or “Parties” means either the Authority or the Contractor, or both, as the context of the usage of such term may require.

“Patient” means an individual who is ill, sick, injured, wounded or otherwise incapacitated and is in need of or is at risk of needing medical care.

“Priority Dispatch Protocols” means the protocols adopted by the Authority, and as may be amended from time to time, governing the EMS System’s response to the different types of service requests.

“Public Educator/Community Paramedic” means a County Certified Paramedic or County Certified EMT, or approved public educator employed and approved by a Contractor or the Ambulance Contractor, who meets the qualifications set forth in the EMS Rules & Regulations and is approved by the Medical Director. Public Educators/Community Paramedics may be utilized to teach CPR, first aid, drowning prevention, fall prevention or any other type of EMS specific public education, or prevention program or established community paramedic/outreach program or to complete a specific task assignment related to EMS public education/community outreach.

“Regional 9-1-1 Center” means the Communications Center and related telephone,

radio and data systems operated and maintained by Pinellas County as the countywide Public Safety Answering Point for the purpose of receiving 9-1-1 calls from citizens; providing emergency medical dispatch following the Priority Dispatch Protocols; providing for the dispatch of all BLS and ALS First Responder Units to EMS Incidents; and providing for the ongoing communications via radio and wireless data systems.

“Rescue Unit” means a transport capable ALS First Responder Unit.

“Response” means the act of responding to a request for services, which act begins when ALS First Responder Units are dispatched to an EMS Incident.

“Response Time” means the period of time commencing when an ALS First Responder Unit is dispatched to an EMS Incident and ending when Contractor's first ALS First Responder Unit arrives on the scene of the incident.

“Rules and Regulations” means the rules and regulations adopted by the Authority, which is subject to amendment.

“Run Cards” means the Regional 9-1-1 Center's computer aided dispatch software database that, based upon the location of the EMS Incident and a predetermined listing of ALS First Responder Units which the Contractor has determined to be the closest by travel time or most appropriate in ranked order, recommends the closest or most appropriate ALS First Responder Unit(s) to respond to EMS Incidents, or successor methods such as global positioning satellite (GPS) automatic vehicle location (AVL) systems.

“Special Act” means Chapter 80-585, Laws of Florida, as amended.

“Special Events” means non-emergency events, such as sporting events, parades, festivals and other group or mass gatherings, which may require BLS or ALS medical coverage.

“State” means the State of Florida.

“State of Emergency” means a Disaster which has been declared by proclamation of the State, County or a municipality in the County.

“Total Unit Hour Compensation” means Unit Hour Compensation multiplied by the number of Authority Funded Units provided by this Agreement.

“Traffic Preemption System” means a comprehensive system provided by the Authority

that overrides the normal operation of traffic signals during the emergency response of an ALS First Responder Unit to reduce Emergency Response Times and increase safety. Such system changes the upcoming traffic signal to green or holds a green signal so the ALS First Responder Unit can safely proceed through the intersection.

“Transport” means the transportation of Patients to a medical facility by Ambulance or Rescue Unit.

“Uncontrollable Circumstance” means a Force Majeure, an EMS Emergency or a State of Emergency.

“Unforeseen Circumstances” means circumstances which could not reasonably be foreseen by the Parties at the time of execution of this Agreement.

“Unit Compensation” means the Annual Compensation in a Fiscal Year divided by the number of Authority Funded Units provided by this Agreement.

“Unit Hour Compensation” means the Unit Compensation divided by Eight Thousand, Seven Hundred and Sixty (8,760) Hours.

SECTION 202. TERMS GENERALLY. Whenever the context may require, any pronoun shall include corresponding masculine, feminine and neuter forms. The words “include”, “includes” and “including” shall be deemed to be followed by the phrase “without limitation”, except as the context may otherwise require. The words “agree”, “agreement”, “approval” and “consent” shall be deemed to be followed by the phrase “which shall not be unreasonably withheld or unduly delayed”, except as the context may otherwise require.

ARTICLE III **REPRESENTATIONS**

SECTION 301. REPRESENTATIONS OF AUTHORITY. Authority represents to Contractor that each of the following statements is presently true and correct:

(a) **Existing.** Authority has all requisite power and authority to carry on its

business as now conducted and to perform its obligations under this Agreement and each document contemplated hereunder to which it is or will be a party.

(b) **Due Authorization**. This Agreement has been duly authorized by all necessary action on the part of and has been or will be duly executed and delivered by Authority and neither the execution and delivery thereof, nor compliance with the terms and provisions thereof or hereof contravenes any existing law, judgment, government rule, regulation or order applicable to or binding on Authority.

(c) **Enforceability**. This Agreement constitutes a legal, valid and binding obligation of Authority enforceable against Authority in accordance with the terms thereof, except as such enforceability may be affected or limited by applicable bankruptcy, insolvency or similar laws, from time to time in effect, which affect creditor's rights generally and subject to usual equitable principles in the event that equitable remedies are involved.

(d) **Financial Capability**. Authority is fully capable, financially and otherwise, to perform its obligations hereunder, subject to availability of funds lawfully appropriated for the purposes provided in this Agreement.

(e) **No Litigation**. There are no pending, or to the knowledge of Authority, threatened actions or proceedings before any court or administrative agency to which Authority is a party, questioning the validity of this Agreement or any document or action contemplated hereunder, or which are likely, in any case or in the aggregate, to materially adversely affect the consummation of the transactions contemplated hereunder.

SECTION 302. REPRESENTATIONS OF CONTRACTOR. Contractor represents to Authority that each of the following statements is presently true and correct:

(a) **Existing**. Contractor is a Florida municipal corporation or independent special district having all requisite power and authority in Florida to carry on its business as now conducted, to own or hold or otherwise control its properties, and to enter into and perform its obligations under this Agreement and under each instrument described herein to which it is or will be party.

(b) **Due Authorization**. This Agreement has been duly authorized by all necessary action on the part of and has been duly executed and delivered by Contractor

and neither the execution and delivery thereof, nor compliance with the terms and provisions thereof or hereof contravenes any existing law, judgment, government rule, regulation or order applicable to or binding on the Contractor.

(c) **Enforceability.** This Agreement constitutes a legal, valid and binding obligation of Contractor enforceable against Contractor in accordance with the terms thereof, except as such enforceability may be limited by applicable bankruptcy, insolvency or similar laws, from time to time in effect, which affect creditor's rights generally and subject to usual equitable principles in the event that equitable remedies are involved.

(d) **No Litigation.** There are no pending, or to the knowledge of Contractor, threatened actions or proceedings before any court or administrative agency to which Contractor is a party, questioning the validity of this Agreement or any document or action contemplated hereunder, or which are likely, in any case or in the aggregate to materially adversely affect the consummation of the transactions contemplated hereunder.

(e) **Financial Capability.** Contractor is fully capable, financially and otherwise, to perform its obligations hereunder subject to availability of funds lawfully appropriated for the purposes provided in this Agreement.

ARTICLE IV

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF CONTRACTOR

SECTION 401. VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT.

(a) **Obligation to Provide Vehicles.** At all times during the term of this Agreement, Contractor shall provide the number of Authority Funded Units described on Appendix A. Contractor reserves the right to select and acquire vehicles and apparatus used in the performance of this Agreement.

(b) **Maintenance of Vehicles and Fuel.** Contractor shall be responsible for the maintenance and repair of ALS First Responder Units and for furnishing maintenance, equipment, supplies, repairs, spare parts, replacement vehicles and fuel. Contractor shall maintain records of maintenance and fuel in order to document that ALS First Responder Units are maintained and used in accordance with this Agreement.

(c) **Staffing of Vehicles.** Each ALS First Responder Unit shall be staffed in compliance with Chapter 401, Florida Statutes, with a minimum of one (1) Paramedic. Contractor shall maintain records of staffing in order to document that ALS First Responder Units are staffed in accordance with this Agreement.

(d) **Equipment and Supplies.** With the exception of equipment maintained by the Authority in Section 507, Contractor shall furnish and maintain all EMS Equipment, required to be provided by the Contractor pursuant to Appendix C. Contractor shall also be responsible for the cost of replacing outdated medical supplies as provided in Section 504, which are lost through inadequate stock rotation; as well as the cost of medical supplies which are lost, stolen, damaged, or unaccounted for due to Contractor's negligence. The Authority shall be responsible for the cost of any medical supplies which are lost, stolen, or damaged due to a cause other than Contractor's negligence. Contractor shall be subject to the Authority's On-Scene Equipment Exchange Program.

(e) **Medical Communications Equipment.** Contractor shall be responsible for the replacement of all medical communications equipment that is lost, stolen or damaged due to Contractor's negligence. Contractor shall also be responsible for all routine maintenance of such equipment. The Authority shall be responsible for the replacement of any medical communications equipment that is lost, stolen or damaged due to a cause other than Contractor's negligence.

(f) **Inspections.** Contractor shall allow representatives of the Authority and of the Medical Director to inspect ALS First Responder Units, equipment and ALS First Responder Stations as may be reasonably required to determine compliance with this Agreement.

(g) **Patient Care Reporting System Equipment.** Contractor shall be responsible for the replacement of all field equipment for the Patient Care Reporting System (e.g. notebook computers) that is lost, stolen or damaged due to Contractor's negligence. The Authority shall be responsible for the replacement of field equipment for the Patient Care Reporting System that is lost, stolen or damaged due to a cause other than Contractor's negligence.

SECTION 402. PRIORITY DISPATCH PROTOCOLS. Contractor shall respond to EMS Incidents in accordance with the then current Priority Dispatch Protocols. Contractor

and the Authority shall cooperate in implementing periodic enhancements and improvements to the Priority Dispatch Protocols.

SECTION 403. RESPONSE TIME. Response Time to not less than ninety percent (90%) of all EMS Incidents in a Fiscal Year which are (1) prioritized as an Emergency Response; (2) are within Contractor's EMS District; and (3) for which Contractor's ALS First Responder Unit is determined, in accordance with Section 409, to be the First Due Unit, shall be within seven (7) minutes and thirty (30) seconds or less; provided, however, that such Response Time standard shall not be applicable to Responses which occur during periods of Uncontrollable Circumstances or to Responses to remote areas or areas of limited accessibility, as requested by Contractor and approved by the Executive Director. The Authority and the Contractor desire to maintain Response Times for each EMS District at or below the Response Times now enjoyed by each respective EMS District. Such level of service is met by Authority Funded Units.

SECTION 404. CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION.

(a) **Field Personnel.** Contractor shall make available its EMS personnel for Continuing Medical Education as required by state regulation, Rules and Regulations and the Medical Control Board. Satisfactory participation by Contractor's Field Personnel in Continuing Medical Education provided and made available by the Authority shall constitute fulfillment of this obligation. Contractor shall be responsible for ensuring that its Field Personnel attend Continuing Medical Education training, either in classroom-based training or distance learning methods as determined by the Medical Director, in accordance with the Rules and Regulations. Contractor may prepare and submit to the Executive Director a report evaluating performance of the CME program. Contractor shall use any prepared forms that the Authority requests it to use for this evaluation.

(b) **CME Instructors.** Contractors will use their best efforts to provide a sufficient number of CME Instructors to conduct courses. The Authority will use its best efforts to provide a sufficient number of classes available at regional training sites on days, times and shifts necessary to maximize the availability of First Responder units and ambulances up to one hundred eighty (180) classes per regular CME Course or ninety (90) classes for paramedic only CME Courses. Contractors understand the Authority is

responsible for the provision of CME instruction and if the pool of CME Instructors made available by the Contractors is deemed inadequate or insufficient by the Authority, the Authority may elect to provide the CME program directly or through another means.

SECTION 405. MEDICAL QUALITY CONTROL.

(a) **Medical Director.** The Medical Director of the EMS System shall also serve as medical director of Contractor's EMS or ALS First Responder Services. Contractor may not use or employ another Medical Director for the provision of Emergency Medical Services within Contractor's EMS District.

(b) **Rules and Regulations: Protocols.** Contractor shall fully comply with the Rules and Regulations, including the protocols established in the Medical Operations Manual.

(c) **Ride-Along.** Contractor shall allow the Medical Director and the Executive Director or their representative to ride in ALS First Responder Units during Responses to EMS Incidents. However, such representatives shall conduct themselves in a professional and courteous manner, shall not interfere with Contractor's employees in the performance of their duties, except as necessary to assure protocol compliance and good Patient care, and shall at all times be respectful of Contractor's employee/employer relationship. The Medical Director, Executive Director, or their representatives, shall provide proof of employment, proof of workers' compensation insurance and shall complete any waiver or release forms which may be required by the Contractor prior to riding in ALS First Responder Units.

(d) **On-Scene Patient Care.** Contractor shall comply at all times with the Authority's protocol for on-scene control of Patient care. If Contractor's Paramedic is requested to ride to the hospital with the Ambulance Contractor's Paramedic, Contractor's Paramedic shall comply. Contractor's Paramedic may also decide to ride to the hospital with Ambulance Contractor's Paramedic. Contractor shall be responsible for the return of the Paramedic from the hospital.

(e) **Special Events.** In the event Contractor provides either BLS or ALS medical coverage at a Special Event in their EMS District, Contractor shall be under the

auspices of the Authority, the Medical Control Board and the Medical Director. In providing medical coverage at a Special Event, Contractor shall comply with the Rules and Regulations and with the protocols established in the Medical Operations Manual. Authority Funded Units will not be used for dedicated special events coverage without the written approval of the Executive Director. Contractor and Authority will notify each other of large-scale Special Events, which may require additional resources or adversely affect the EMS System, to ensure coordinated event coverage.

(f) **Quality Assurance**. Contractor shall adhere to the quality assurance and quality management program established by the Medical Director and shall participate in quality assurance reviews.

SECTION 406. MEDICAL CASE REVIEWS. Medical Case Reviews may include access to data, records review, written and verbal statements by Field Personnel and EMS Coordinator, and attendance at interviews and informal and formal hearings, in accordance with the then current EMS Rules and Regulations and Florida Statute 401.425. Contractor shall cooperate in obtaining such records, verbal and written statements and ensure that its Field Personnel attend Medical Case Reviews when reasonably requested.

SECTION 407. PERSONNEL.

(a) **Training and Qualifications**. All Field Personnel employed by the Contractor in the performance of work under this Agreement shall be trained and qualified at a level consistent with the standard established by the Authority for delivering Patient care and shall hold appropriate credentials in their respective EMS profession.

(b) **Standard of Conduct**. Contractor's personnel shall conduct themselves in a professional and courteous manner at all times. Contractor shall address and correct any departures from this standard of conduct. Contractor's Field Personnel shall be easily identified as EMTs or Paramedics while on scene of an EMS Incident.

(c) **Part-Time Employment**. Contractor shall not unreasonably restrict its employees from seeking or performing part-time employment with Authority's Ambulance Contractor.

(d) **EMS Coordinator.** Contractor shall designate a County Certified Paramedic as the EMS Coordinator who will be responsible for performing or supervising, at a minimum, the duties and responsibilities of EMS Coordination in accordance with **Appendix F.**

SECTION 408. EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

(a) **State of Emergency Assistance within Pinellas County.** Immediately upon notification by the Authority of a State of Emergency within Pinellas County, Contractor shall commit such resources as mutually agreed upon by the Parties, given the nature of the State of Emergency and shall assist in accordance with applicable plans and protocols mutually agreed upon by the Parties. During a State of Emergency, Contractor shall be released from the requirements of Section 403 and the time requirements of Section 704(a). When Contractor ceases providing assistance with the State of Emergency, Contractor shall resume normal operations as rapidly as is practical and notify the Authority's authorized representative that Contractor is able to resume normal operations considering exhaustion of personnel, need for restocking and other relevant considerations.

(b) **State of Emergency Assistance Outside of Pinellas County.** Contractor shall manage any State of Emergency assistance response outside of Pinellas County in a manner which does not prevent Contractor from rendering services in accordance with this Agreement.

(c) **EMS Emergency.** Immediately upon notification by the Authority of an EMS Emergency, Contractor shall assist in the locality where the EMS Emergency has occurred. The level of assistance provided by Contractor shall be mutually agreed upon by the Parties. During an EMS Emergency, the Contractor shall be released from the requirements of Section 403. When Contractor ceases providing assistance during an EMS Emergency, Contractor shall resume normal operations as rapidly as is practical considering exhaustion of personnel, need for restocking, and other relevant considerations. During the course of an EMS Emergency, Contractor shall use best efforts to continue to provide local ALS emergency coverage.

(d) **Condition 3M.** During periods of Condition 3M, Contractors with Rescue

Units shall Transport Patients from EMS Incidents to area hospitals. Contractor shall follow the then current Medical Operations Manual Protocols or medical control directives.

(e) **Mutual Aid**. Mutual aid responses outside of Pinellas County, rendered by the Contractor outside of Pinellas County that are not due to a State of Emergency or EMS Emergency, shall be performed in accordance with the terms and conditions of this Agreement.

SECTION 409. AUTOMATIC AID/CLOSEST UNIT RESPONSE. Upon notification by the Regional 9-1-1 Center of an EMS Incident, Contractor shall provide ALS First Responder Services in accordance with the Automatic Aid/Closest Unit Response Agreement. The ALS First Responder Unit which is predetermined to be the closest to the emergency scene, by the Run Cards, shall be dispatched without regard to EMS District or jurisdictional boundaries. In the event that the Automatic Aid/Closest Unit Response Agreement is terminated, Contractor shall provide ALS First Responder Services in accordance with the then current Run Cards for all EMS Incidents. The Contractor's authorized representative will periodically, or at the request of the Authority, update their Run Cards to ensure their accuracy and coordinate any changes with any affected Contractor(s).

SECTION 410. MEDICAL SUPPLIES AND INVENTORY CONTROL. Contractor shall establish and implement inventory control procedures for the stocking and use of medical supplies. Contractor shall report, as of September 30th during each year this Agreement is in effect, the balance of all medical supplies held by the Contractor in inventory. Such report will list the item's identification number, the item's description, and the quantity held. Contractor will report the quantity of medical supplies which are lost, damaged, or unaccounted for, due to Contractor's negligence, and medical supplies unusable due to inadequate stock rotation. Contractor agrees to not maintain more than thirty (30) days of medical supplies in stock based upon historical use. Contractor shall maintain inventory records that identify all ALS First Responder Unit supplies issued from stock and will keep stock under lock so that access is limited to only authorized personnel. Contractor shall adhere to inventory control procedures that the Authority may require, as

long as they are reasonable and prudent. Contractor shall follow all federal, state and local laws and protocols in the distribution and handling of controlled substances. Contractor shall provide list of personnel authorized to receive controlled substances from the warehouse and any change to such list.

SECTION 411. PATIENT CARE REPORTING SYSTEM. Contractor shall cooperate with the Authority in refining and improving the fully integrated, electronic patient care reporting system. This system shall meet the information needs of the Contractor, the Medical Director, the Medical Control Board and the Authority. Contractor shall gather and enter data into the Authority's electronic patient care reporting system for every Patient encountered and every EMS Incident responded to by the Contractor's Field Personnel. Operating costs of this information system shall be the responsibility of the Authority. The Executive Director shall determine the start date and implementation timeline to ensure seamless implementation in the EMS System.

The database of the Authority's patient care reporting system shall be fully comprehensive, including complete and integrated information on all EMS System activities beginning with the receipt of an EMS Incident; dispatch activities and Response Times; every Patient assessment and all treatment rendered while Contractor's Field Personnel are attending the Patient. Contractor shall require Field Personnel to comply with the completion of patient care reports and the data entry requirements of the EMS System and ensure the accuracy and completeness of such reports, as approved and periodically revised by the Authority. Authority agrees that the procedures used to implement and operate the electronic patient care reporting system shall be mutually agreed upon by the Parties.

Contractor shall have unlimited access, regardless of storage location or medium, to electronic patient care reports generated by the Contractor's EMS personnel and all dispatch-related data.

Contractor and Authority shall work collaboratively to evaluate software and data systems utilized in the delivery of ALS First Responder Services to ensure data is readily available to perform quality assurance and quality improvement by the Contractor and the Authority and such systems support Field Personnel in rendering patient care and

responding to EMS Incidents.

SECTION 412. UTILIZATION OF REGIONAL 9-1-1 CENTER.

(a) Regional 9-1-1 Center. Contractor shall utilize the Regional 9-1-1 Center for the dispatch of all BLS and ALS First Responder Units to EMS Incidents. Contractor shall utilize the Regional 9-1-1 Center's radio and data systems to include, but not limited to, computer aided dispatch (CAD) software, mobile communications terminal software, and the County's public safety and intergovernmental voice and data radio system.

Contractor shall provide and maintain all fire station alerting systems, base stations, pagers, fire station computers and peripherals, all mobile and portable radios except as provided in Section 503, and mobile communications terminals and radio modems to communicate with the Regional 9-1-1 Center's radio and data system following the County's technical specifications.

Authority shall provide and maintain, at no cost to the Contractor, all necessary broadband networking from Fire Stations to the Regional 9-1-1 Center's data system, access to the County's 800MHz High Performance Data (HPD) system, and cellular airtime for all Authority and Contractor Funded Units and reserve Units following the County's technical specifications.

Authority shall provide a mutually agreed upon appropriate planning phase, cost analysis, changes in the County's technical specifications, and implementation plan for any future upgrades or system changes.

Contractor shall ensure all frontline ALS First Responder Units are equipped with GPS enabled mobile communications terminals running mobile CAD software. Contractor shall ensure GPS enabled mobile communications terminals are kept in working order and repaired in a timely manner to ensure efficient and accurate dispatch.

(b) Requests for Emergency Medical Assistance. Should Contractor receive any request for emergency medical assistance, including walk-ins, Contractor shall record the address and telephone number of the caller, obtain the location and nature of the emergency, shall immediately respond to the request for emergency medical assistance, if appropriate, and

shall immediately advise the 9-1-1 Center of the information received, and the Response initiated by Contractor, if any.

SECTION 413. COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT. Contractor is encouraged to make available to their local community, health promotions and prevention education (i.e., CPR training, public access defibrillation programs, drowning prevention, health risk assessments). The programs may be developed by the individual contractor or in coordination with the Medical Director or the Authority.

Contractor may elect to participate in the Authority's public education/prevention/community outreach/community paramedic programs that are established, as set forth in the EMS Rules and Regulations and approved by the Medical Director. Public Educators/Community Paramedics may be utilized to teach CPR, first aid, drowning prevention, fall prevention or any other type of EMS specific public education, or prevention program or established community paramedic/outreach program.

SECTION 414. LICENSURE AND CERTIFICATION. Contractor shall maintain the appropriate licensure with the Department as an ALS provider. Contractor or Contractor's employees, as the case may be, shall be responsible for payment of any fees associated with EMS and Paramedic certification and recertification using funds provided under this Agreement.

SECTION 415. ACCURATE INFORMATION. Any news releases, statements, or public information given by the Contractor's or Authority's personnel to the public or the media shall accurately reflect the design and operation of the EMS system.

SECTION 416. CRIMINAL JUSTICE INFORMATION SERVICES (CJIS). Contractor shall ensure all Personnel that have access to the CAD System and system information have received criminal background screening by the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) to the CJIS Level

2 requirements and have complied with all initial and ongoing training requirements. Personnel that have been denied CJIS Level 2 clearance shall not access the CAD System. Contractor shall have in place local policy to ensure that all rules required by the FDLE surrounding access to CAD and the information contained within are strictly followed.

ARTICLE V

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF AUTHORITY

SECTION 501. MEDICAL DIRECTION AND CONTROL. The Authority shall be responsible for providing, or cause to be provided, Medical Direction and Medical Control to the Contractor.

SECTION 502. CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION. Authority shall provide and make available to Contractor a Continuing Medical Education training program at multiple, regionally located training sites and not at a single, centralized training site. Authority shall endeavor to utilize distance learning methodologies and technology to deliver CME training whenever possible.

SECTION 503. MEDICAL COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT. Authority has provided, or shall provide, as applicable, one (1) 800 MHZ Mobile Radio, and one (1) 800 MHZ Portable Radio for each Authority Funded Unit. Authority funded Medic Units and Rescue Units will receive one (1) additional 800 MHZ Portable Radio. The radio equipment shall be installed in the Authority Funded Units by the Contractor and become Contractor's property. Contractor shall be responsible for such equipment, as provided for in Section 401(e) hereof. Authority shall be responsible for replacing such equipment at the end of its reasonable useful life, as determined by the Authority. The Authority's plan is phased replacement of this equipment over the term of the Agreement subject to available funding.

SECTION 504. MEDICAL SUPPLIES. The Authority shall provide and replace, as

necessary, without cost to Contractor, the medical supplies used by Contractor in rendering Patient care under this Agreement. The Authority shall deliver, or cause to be delivered, all medical supplies, except controlled substances, every two weeks to Contractor's designated medical supply receiving location. Contractor's authorized representative shall sign for and pick up controlled substances at a central location designated by the Authority. The Authority shall not be responsible for costs of replacing inventory items lost, stolen, damaged or unaccounted for due to Contractor's negligence but the Authority shall be responsible for the costs of replacing inventory items lost, stolen damaged or unaccounted for due to a cause other than Contractor's negligence. Where applicable, Contractor shall relocate supplies nearing their expiration dates to ALS First Responder Units serving areas of higher demand within their EMS District. All medications and supplies shall be returned to the Authority not later than sixty (60) days after the respective expiration dates. If such medications and supplies are not returned to Authority within sixty (60) days after their respective expiration dates, or at the direction of the Medical Director, Contractor shall be charged for the replacement of such supplies. A fully comprehensive narcotic control system shall be provided by the Authority to include boxes, electronic locks, and web-based tracking software.

SECTION 505. EXTRAORDINARY MODIFICATIONS. Notwithstanding the provision of Section 401(b) hereof, Authority shall separately provide and fund any modifications to ALS First Responder Units or equipment which may be required by the Authority and which do not constitute routine maintenance, repair or replacement.

SECTION 506. BILLING. The Authority shall have sole responsibility for submitting claims for transports made by either the Authority or by Contractor.

SECTION 507. ECG EQUIPMENT AND MAINTENANCE. The Authority shall provide all electrocardiogram (ECG) monitoring/defibrillation equipment for Authority Funded and Contractor Funded Units including adequate spare equipment (up to 30% above the number of Units). Contractor agrees to continue using the Contractor's current equipment on any Contractor Funded Units over its useful life which equipment will be

maintained by the Authority and repaired or replaced at the Authority's option. The Authority shall be responsible for replacing such equipment at the end of a reasonable useful life, as determined by the Authority. At the point that the equipment is replaced with new equipment, the Contractor will transfer ownership of the equipment being replaced to the Authority who will trade in the used equipment to reduce the cost of replacement. Contractor shall be responsible for any repairs that are necessary due to Contractor's negligence.

SECTION 508. BIOHAZARD WASTE COLLECTION. The Authority shall provide or cause to be provided, the collection and disposal of all biohazard waste from ALS First Responder Stations on a periodic basis, no less than monthly. Contractor shall follow any procedures necessary for biohazard waste to be collected.

SECTION 509. PATIENT CARE REPORTING SYSTEM EQUIPMENT. Authority shall provide, as applicable, a ruggedized notebook or tablet computer for each Authority Funded and Contractor Funded Unit including adequate spare equipment (up to 30% above the number of Units). The equipment shall be utilized on Authority Funded Units and Contractor Funded Units by the Contractor for the purpose of completing electronic patient care reports. Only Authority authorized software and peripherals may be utilized to ensure a highly reliable and coordinated system. Authority provided patient care reporting system equipment shall remain property of the Authority. Contractor shall be responsible for such equipment, as provided for in Section 401(g) hereof. Authority shall be responsible for maintaining such equipment and replacing it at the end of a reasonable useful life, as determined by the Authority. Contractor agrees to continue using the Contractor's current equipment on any Contractor Funded Units over its useful life which equipment will be maintained by the Authority and repaired or replaced at the Authority's option. The Authority shall be responsible for replacing such equipment at the end of a reasonable useful life, as determined by the Authority.

SECTION 510. TRAFFIC PREEMPTION: Authority shall provide and maintain a countywide Traffic Preemption System in cooperation with the County and municipal traffic control systems. Traffic Preemption System equipment shall be provided for

frontline Authority Funded and Contractor Funded ALS First Responder Units. The Authority shall also provide Traffic Preemption System equipment for reserve ALS First Responder Units through a phased implementation subject to available funding. Authority shall be responsible for maintaining such equipment and replacing it at the end of a reasonable useful life, as determined by the Authority.

ARTICLE VI

INSURANCE AND INDEMNIFICATION

SECTION 601. MINIMUM INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS. Contractor shall be self-insured or shall pay for and maintain at least the following insurance coverage and limits as listed below. Insurance coverage and limits shall be evidenced by delivery to the Authority of: a certificate of insurance executed by the insurer(s) listing coverage and limits, expiration dates and terms of policies and all endorsements whether or not required by the Authority, and listing all carriers issuing said policies; and, a certified copy of each policy, including all endorsements. Where applicable, Contractor shall submit to Authority a letter from Contractor's Risk Manager stating that Contractor is self-insured, or the amount of insurance per claim and per occurrence, any gap and the amount of excess insurance up to its coverage. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in this Agreement, Contractor does not waive any immunity or limitation of liability it may have under the doctrine of sovereign immunity or Section 768.28 Florida Statutes. The following insurance requirements shall remain in effect throughout the term of this Agreement (unless Contractor is self-insured, in which case Contractor shall not be required to comply with the following insurance requirements):

- (a) Provide Workers' compensation insurance as required by Florida Law.
- (b) Provide commercial general liability, employers' liability and commercial vehicle liability insurance that reflects the limits of liability for governmental entities in accordance with Section 768.28(5), F.S., should the State Legislature change these limits, coverage consistent with the revised limits shall be obtained.
- (c) Professional Liability Insurance, including errors and omissions, with

minimum limits of \$1,000,000 per occurrence; if occurrence form is available; or claims made form with “tail coverage” extending three (3) years beyond the ending date of this Agreement. In lieu of “tail coverage” the Contractor may submit annually to the Authority a current certificate of insurance proving claims made insurance remains in force throughout the same three (3) year period. This coverage is subject to statutory and regulatory requirements of Federal, State or local law.

(d) Personal and/or Bodily Injury including death and property damage liability Insurance with minimum limits of \$1,000,000 Combined Single Limit insurance in excess of all primary coverage.

SECTION 602. ADDITIONAL INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS. To the extent that Contractor maintains insurance policies rather than being self-insured, each insurance policy shall include the following conditions by endorsement to the policy:

(a) Each policy shall require that forty-five (45) days prior to expiration, cancellation, non-renewal or any material change in coverage or limits, a notice thereof shall be given to Authority. Contractor shall also notify Authority within twenty-four (24) hours after receipt of any notices of expiration, cancellation, non-renewal or material changes in coverage received by said Contractor from its insurer.

(b) Companies issuing the insurance policy, or policies, shall have no recourse against Authority or County for payment of premiums or assessments for any deductibles which all are at the sole responsibility and risk of Contractor.

(c) The Authority shall be endorsed to the required policy or policies as an additional insured, exclusive of professional liability insurance. The additional insured clause covers the actions of the Contractor while providing services under the terms of this Agreement.

(d) The policy clause “Other Insurance” shall not apply to any insurance coverage currently held by the Authority or the County, to any such future coverage, or to County’s Self-Insured Retention of whatever nature.

SECTION 603. LIABILITY. Contractor and Authority agree to be fully responsible for their own acts of negligence or their respective agents' acts of negligence when acting within the scope of their employment, and agree to be liable for any damages resulting from said negligence. Nothing herein is intended to serve as a waiver of sovereign immunity or the limits of liability contained in Section 768.28, Florida Statutes, by the Contractor, County or Authority. Nothing herein shall be construed as consent by Contractor or Authority to be sued by third parties in any manner arising out of this Agreement. Contractor is not liable for the causes of action arising out of the negligence of the Authority, its employees or agents, or arising out of the negligence of any persons or entities contracted by, appointed by, or approved by the Authority to provide services related to this Agreement (including but not limited to other Contractors, the Ambulance Contractor, Medical Control Board and Medical Director).

Authority is not liable for the causes of action arising out of the negligence of the Contractor, its employees or agents, or arising out of the negligence of any persons or entities contracted by, appointed by, or approved by the Authority to provide services related to this Agreement (including but not limited to other Contractors, the Ambulance Contractor, Medical Control Board and Medical Director).

This Section 603 shall survive expiration or earlier termination of this Agreement.

ARTICLE VII

COMPENSATION AND OTHER FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

SECTION 701. COMPENSATION.

(a) **FY 2024–2025.** Authority and Contractor have agreed to an amount reflecting Contractor's submitted budget for EMS services during Fiscal Year 2024 – 2025. The approved budget amounts for the Fiscal Year commencing October 1, 2024, shall be equal to that shown on Appendix A.

(b) **Budget Submissions for FY2025–2026 through FY2029-2030.** Contractor shall submit a budget by April 1st each year for the following Fiscal Year for

the Authority's review and approval. Budget shall be prepared in the same manner as the budget submitted for FY 2024-2025, so long as said budget is less than a three (3) percent increase from the prior Fiscal Year and the Authority shall pay Annual Compensation to Contractor in accordance with said approved budget.

(c) Funding for Rescue Unit, Medic Unit and Staff Vehicle Replacement.

Authority will provide funding for Authority funded rescue units, medic units and the proportionate share of EMS Coordinator staff vehicles. Fire engines and other fire apparatus are not subject to EMS vehicle replacement funding. Units will be replaced after at least five (5) years, but no more than seven (7) years, of frontline service. Contractor represents that its projected capital replacement needs are as shown in Appendix A. The Authority shall determine a standardized reimbursement amount for rescue units, medic units and staff vehicles each Fiscal Year based upon the then current market rate for such vehicles as stated in the EMS Authority's annual budget and capped therein. The amounts for FY24-25 are rescue units (\$350,000), medic units (\$125,000), and staff vehicles (\$75,000). Reimbursements are made upon delivery of the vehicle along with documentation being provided to the Authority that includes the receipt of the purchase order, invoices, proof of payment and any other documents required by The Authority.

(d) Rescue Unit Transport Compensation.

Authority shall reimburse Contractor, monthly in arrears, for Transports by Rescue Units that comply with the Medical Operations Manual Transport Protocol at a rate of \$100.00 per Transport. Rescue Unit Transports that do not comply with the Medical Operations Manual Transport Protocol shall not be reimbursable.

(e) Unit Hours. Authority may purchase Unit Hours to staff additional Rescue Units to Transport Patients at the Authority's discretion through its Executive Director. The Authority shall reimburse the Contractor for its actual costs of salary and benefits up to \$75.00 per hour for each crew member of a two-person crew (Paramedic/Paramedic or Paramedic/EMT) for overtime or backfill costs for hours that are actually performed and preapproved in writing by the Authority. Such additional Units or Unit Hours may be used

routinely, episodically, or during peak demand periods to maintain the level of service and Response Times for Ambulance Services. Personnel from different Contractors may be paired to place additional Rescue Units in service.

(f) **Payment.** Payments shall be paid monthly in arrears in (approximately) equal monthly installments.

(g) **Station/Overhead Allowable Costs.** Contractor shall be reimbursed for station and overhead costs in accordance with Resolution 14-65 or a successor Resolution or 1%, whichever is greater, approved by the Authority. Such payment shall be made by the Authority to the Contractor after receipt of the audit attestation shown in Appendix D.

(h) **Extraordinary Budget Increase.** If any proposed budget submitted by Contractor to the Authority for the following Fiscal Year should exceed three (3) percent of the prior Fiscal Year's budget, Authority and Contractor agree to reopen this Section 701 to negotiate, no later than May 1st of the then current Fiscal Year, the Annual Compensation for the following Fiscal Year. For any Fiscal Year in which Section 701 is reopened to negotiate the Annual Compensation for the following Fiscal Year, if Authority and Contractor cannot reach agreement on the Annual Compensation by June 30th, this Agreement shall terminate on the last day of the then current Fiscal Year. Contractor and Authority must approve the final negotiated Appendix "A" prior to the beginning of the next Fiscal Year if the proposed budget for the following Fiscal Year will exceed three (3) percent increase from the prior Fiscal Year's budget.

SECTION 702. CME AND PUBLIC EDUCATION REIMBURSEMENT.

(a) **Learning Management System.** The Authority shall reimburse annually, in the first payment in each Fiscal Year, the Contractor's cost for the use of the Learning Management System for its students. Such reimbursement shall be fifty percent (50%) of the costs of use of the Learning Management System up to \$60.00 per student per Fiscal Year (does not include payment for student training time). The reimbursement amount shall not exceed \$125,000.00 in any Fiscal Year.

(b) **Reimbursement for CME Instructors.** The Authority shall reimburse each Contractor for the actual cost of salary and benefits up to \$75.00 per hour for overtime or

backfill costs for the Contractor's CME Instructor hours that are actually performed and preapproved in writing, through the published master EMS training calendar by the Authority. Contractor may establish a rate of pay for CME Instructor which shall be subject to the \$75.00 per hour cap. The Authority shall not reimburse Contractor for the personnel costs for students to attend Courses or CME Instructor hours that are not preapproved in writing. Contractor shall submit invoices to Authority utilizing Appendix E within twenty (20) days following the last day of each month. The Authority shall process such invoices for payment within twenty (20) days of receipt or reject the invoice if it is incomplete or inaccurate. Contractor shall be reimbursed monthly in arrears. For each year during the term of this Agreement, the total compensation amounts shall be established through the Authority's budget process, but in no event, shall the cumulative compensation to all Contractors for all payments under this provision, and payment for the analogous training provisions of the Ambulance Services Agreement, as amended, for any Fiscal Year exceed the amount budgeted by the Authority. The reimbursement amount shall not exceed \$1,000,000.00 in any Fiscal Year. It is recognized by the Parties that no payment may be compelled or made without a budget amendment approved by the Authority for any compensation that exceeds the total compensation authorized through the Authority approved budget for CME training. It is further agreed and understood among the Parties that the Authority may not compel the Contractors to incur expenses beyond the Authority's approved budget amount until such time as a budget amendment raising such budget is approved.

(c) Reimbursement for Public Education/Prevention/Community Paramedic Programs. The Authority shall reimburse each Contractor for the actual cost of salary and benefits up to \$75.00 per hour for overtime or backfill costs for the Contractor's Public Educator/Community Paramedic hours that are actually performed and preapproved in writing, through the published master EMS public education/prevention/community paramedic calendar, by the Authority. Contractor may establish a rate of pay for Public Educator/Community Paramedic which shall be subject to the \$75.00 per hour cap. The Authority shall not reimburse Contractor for the personnel costs for Public Educator/Community Paramedic hours that are not preapproved in

writing. Contractor shall submit invoices to Authority utilizing Appendix E within twenty (20) days following the last day of each month. The Authority shall process such invoices for payment within twenty (20) days of receipt or reject the invoice if it is incomplete or inaccurate. Contractor shall be reimbursed monthly in arrears. For each year during the term of this Agreement, the total compensation amounts shall be established through the Authority's budget process, but in no event, shall the cumulative compensation to all Contractors for all payments under this provision, and payment for the analogous training provisions of the Ambulance Services Agreement, as amended, for any Fiscal Year exceed the amount budgeted by the Authority. The reimbursement amount shall not exceed \$250,000.00 in any Fiscal Year. It is recognized by the Parties that no payment may be compelled or made without a budget amendment approved by the Authority for any compensation that exceeds the total compensation authorized through the Authority approved budget for Public Education/Community Paramedic programs. It is further agreed and understood among the Parties that the Authority may not compel the Contractors to incur expenses beyond the Authority's approved budget amount until such time as a budget amendment raising such budget is approved.

(d) Reimbursement for Participation in Countywide Quality Improvement Committees. The Authority shall reimburse each Contractor for the actual cost of salary and benefits up to \$75.00 per hour for overtime or backfill costs for the Contractor's Field Personnel to participate in countywide quality improvement committees based upon the hours worked which have been preapproved in writing by the Executive Director or designee. The Authority shall not reimburse Contractor for the personnel costs that are not preapproved in writing. Contractor shall submit invoices to Authority utilizing Appendix E within twenty (20) days following the last day of each month. The Authority shall process such invoices for payment within twenty (20) days of receipt or reject the invoice if it is incomplete or inaccurate. Contractor shall be reimbursed monthly in arrears. For each year during the term of this Agreement, the total compensation amounts shall be established through the Authority's budget process, but in no event, shall the cumulative compensation to all Contractors for all payments under this provision, and payment for the analogous training provisions of the Ambulance Services Agreement, as

amended, for any Fiscal Year exceed the amount budgeted by the Authority. The reimbursement amount shall not exceed \$25,000.00 in any Fiscal Year. It is recognized by the Parties that no payment may be compelled or made without a budget amendment approved by the Authority for any compensation that exceeds the total compensation authorized through the Authority approved budget for quality improvement committees. It is further agreed and understood among the Parties that the Authority may not compel the Contractors to incur expenses beyond the Authority's approved budget amount until such time as a budget amendment raising such budget is approved.

(e) **Reimbursement for Participation in Countywide Advanced Practice Paramedic Medical Training.** The Authority shall reimburse each Contractor for the actual cost of salary and benefits up to \$75.00 per hour for overtime or backfill costs for the Contractor's Advanced Practice Paramedics to attend and participate in countywide medical training for special operations teams based upon the hours worked which have been preapproved in writing by the Executive Director or designee. The Authority shall not reimburse Contractor for the personnel costs that are not preapproved in writing. Contractor shall submit invoices to Authority utilizing Appendix E within twenty (20) days following the last day of each month. The Authority shall process such invoices for payment within twenty (20) days of receipt or reject the invoice if it is incomplete or inaccurate. Contractor shall be reimbursed monthly in arrears. For each year during the term of this Agreement, the total compensation amounts shall be established through the Authority's budget process, but in no event, shall the cumulative compensation to all Contractors for all payments under this provision, and payment for the analogous training provisions of the Ambulance Services Agreement, as amended, for any Fiscal Year exceed the amount budgeted by the Authority. It is recognized by the Parties that no payment may be compelled or made without a budget amendment approved by the Authority for any compensation that exceeds the total compensation authorized through the Authority approved budget for Advanced Practice Paramedic medical training. It is further agreed and understood among the Parties that the Authority may not compel the Contractors to incur expenses beyond the Authority's approved budget amount until such time as a budget amendment raising such budget is approved.

SECTION 703. DEDUCTION FOR FAILURE TO PROVIDE FIRST RESPONDER

UNIT. In the event Contractor fails to provide an ALS First Responder Unit or substitutes a BLS First Responder Unit instead of an ALS First Responder Unit, for an extended period (as described below) of time and without the advance approval of the Authority, the Authority may deduct an amount equal to the Contractor's Unit Hour Compensation multiplied by each hour or portion thereof for each day or portion thereof that the Contractor has failed to provide an ALS First Responder Unit. Such deduction shall be made from the following monthly Annual Compensation payment. For purposes of this Agreement, an extended period of time means, with respect to mechanical problems and personnel, more than four (4) consecutive hours in any given day, and with respect to training, more than ten (10) hours in any given day; provided however that Section 703 shall not be applicable when the Executive Director has waived the provisions of Section 703, or when Contractor has failed to provide an ALS First Responder Unit or substitutes a BLS First Responder Unit during periods of Uncontrollable Circumstances.

SECTION 704. PROVISION OF BILLABLE PATIENT CARE REPORT.

In the event that the Contractor transports a Patient, in compliance with the then current Medical Operations Manual transport protocols, Contractor shall provide a billable Patient Care Report to the Authority within four (4) business days from the date of service. The report shall include, at a minimum, the medical reason for Transport, the Patient's condition, the Patient's demographic information, the Transport mileage, and all medical care rendered. Contractor's Field Personnel shall obtain the Patient's signature and any other signatures necessary to process a bill.

SECTION 705. ADJUSTMENT FOR EXTRAORDINARY COST INCREASES.

Contractor may apply for and receive prospective compensation adjustments to the Annual Compensation as necessary to offset documented increases in Contractor's cost of production directly resulting from increases in the prices paid by Contractor for fuel due to Unforeseen Circumstances and subject to the following stipulations:

- (a) Contractor must document, using generally accepted accounting

procedures, the actual financial impact of the increased fuel prices upon Contractor's costs of production.

(b) Only the effects of increased direct fuel prices-excluding any effects of increased fuel consumption, overhead allocations and indirect costs-shall be considered.

SECTION 706. FUNDS TO BE USED SOLELY FOR EMS FIRST RESPONSE.

Contractor recognizes that monies received hereunder are derived from the EMS Mill and that the EMS Mill, pursuant to referendum, has been dedicated solely to the provision of Emergency Medical Services. Contractor, therefore, agrees that funding provided under this Agreement will be used strictly for the provision of the services described herein. Contractor shall have an Annual External Audit conducted by a Certified Public Accounting firm to verify the Authority funded EMS income, Authority funded EMS expenditures, and Authority funded EMS reserves. The Annual External Audit shall include the "EMS Financial Information Attestation Form" prepared by the Contractor and signed by the Contractor's auditor. The required "EMS Financial Information Attestation Form" is attached as Appendix D. Contractor shall provide to Authority the audited financial statement that includes the "EMS Financial Information Attestation Form" within ten (10) business days of Contractor's receipt of the Annual External Audit. The cost of the Annual External Audit will be expended from Contractor's EMS funds. Contractor shall ensure that personnel cost reimbursements from the Authority for special operations training, continuing medical education instruction, public education, or other reimbursements are not funded twice (i.e. funding provided in the submitted budget and reimbursement made by the Authority.)

SECTION 707. FUTURE/ADDITIONAL SERVICES. Contractor understands that, in the future, health care delivery and Emergency Medical Services may evolve to include pathway management, an expanded scope of practice, primary care services or other activities where EMS resources provided under this Agreement may be used. Contractor and Authority shall discuss the manner in which such additional services shall be affected, evaluate the relationship of such services; and determine the impact of such services on

the EMS system. Contractor's obligations shall be limited to those specifically set forth in this Agreement. Contractor shall not be responsible for providing any additional services unless Contractor agrees in writing to provide such additional services.

SECTION 708. ADDITIONAL UNITS.

(a) **Authority Funded.** During the term of the Agreement, the Authority may determine that additional Authority Funded Unit(s) are needed. Additionally, Contractor may request that consideration be given for approval of an additional Authority Funded Unit. If the Authority determines that additional Authority Funded Unit(s) are needed from Contractor, then Authority and Contractor shall negotiate a mutually agreeable compensation for such additional Authority Funded Unit(s). In those instances where the Contractor requests Authority to approve additional Authority Funded Unit(s), the Authority shall meet with the Contractor to determine the need for the requested Authority Funded Unit(s). If approved, the Authority will negotiate a mutually agreeable compensation for such additional Authority Funded Unit, Units or Unit Hours. Compensation for such additional Authority Funded Unit(s), or Unit Hours, shall begin upon approval by the Authority through the approval of an updated Appendix "A" by the Parties.

(b) **Contractor-Funded.** Contractor and Authority understand that the EMS System is a unified, integrated system requiring the cooperation of all providers in the EMS System. To ensure coordinated implementation of any improvements to the EMS System and to ensure the integrity of the EMS System, if Contractor desires to operate additional ALS First Responder Unit(s) as a Contractor Funded Unit, Contractor will obtain approval from the Authority in writing prior to operating the Contractor Funded Unit. Contractor may elect to cease operation of a Contractor Funded Unit at its sole discretion. Contractor is responsible for all costs associated with staffing, equipping and operating such Contractor Funded Units. The Authority shall provide Medical Control and medical equipment and supplies for authorized Contractor Funded Units.

SECTION 709. AUDITS AND INSPECTIONS. At any time during normal business hours, and as often as may reasonably be deemed necessary, representatives of the

Authority or Medical Director may observe Contractor's operations. Contractor shall make available to Authority for its examination, its records with respect to all matters covered by this Agreement, and Authority may audit, examine, copy, and make excerpts or transcripts from such records, and may make audits of all contracts, invoices, materials, payrolls, inventory records, records of personnel, daily logs, conditions of employment, and other data related to all matters covered by this Agreement to the extent permitted by law.

Contractor shall make available to the Medical Director its records with respect to all clinical matters covered by this Agreement and the Medical Director may audit, examine, copy and make excerpts or transcripts from such records and inspections to the extent permitted by law.

The Authority's right to observe and inspect operations or records in Contractor's business office shall, however, be restricted to normal business hours, and reasonable notification shall be given the Contractor in advance of any such visit.

Records relating to contract activities shall be retained for three (3) years from final payment in each year.

All representatives of the Authority, Medical Control Board and Medical Director who observe Contractor's operations or audit or examine Contractor's records shall conduct themselves in a polite manner; complete any training required by law; and not interfere with Contractor's employees' duties. Audits and inspections shall be done to the extent permitted by law.

SECTION 710. FISCAL NON-FUNDING. In the event sufficient budgeted funds are not available for a new Fiscal Year, the Authority shall timely notify Contractor of such occurrence prior to the end of the current Fiscal Year and this Agreement shall terminate on the last day of current Fiscal Year.

ARTICLE VIII

TERM AND TERMINATION

SECTION 801. TERM. The initial term of this Agreement shall be for five (5) years,

commencing October 1, 2024 and ending at midnight September 30, 2029, unless this Agreement is earlier terminated as provided for herein in this Agreement. This Agreement may be extended for an additional five (5) year period following the initial term, provided that the Parties mutually agree in writing to such extension which is subject to Authority and Contractor approval prior to July 1, 2029, which is subject to Authority, City Council or District approval prior to September 30, 2029. References in this Agreement to "Term" shall include the initial term of this Agreement and all extensions thereof. The effective date of this agreement shall be retroactive to October 1, 2024 for reimbursement purposes.

SECTION 802. TERMINATION.

(a) **By Authority for Cause.** This Agreement may be terminated by the Authority for cause upon twenty (20) days written notice to Contractor. For purposes of this section 802(a), "cause" shall mean (1) the event that Contractor, for any reason, fails to meet the licensing requirements in the State of Florida pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 401, Florida Statutes, or (2) a material breach by Contractor of any term, covenant or warranty contained in this Agreement; provided, however, that in the case of a breach of any term, covenant or warranty, the Authority shall provide written notice of such breach and Contractor shall have the opportunity to cure such breach within twenty (20) days of receipt of such notice or within such additional period of time mutually agreed upon by the Parties.

(b) **By Contractor for Cause.** This Agreement may be terminated by Contractor for cause upon twenty (20) days written notice to the Authority. For purposes of this section 802(b), "cause" shall mean a material breach by the Authority of any term, covenant or warranty contained in this Agreement; provided, however, that in the case of a breach of any term, covenant or warranty, Contractor shall provide written notice of such breach and the Authority shall have the opportunity to cure such breach within twenty (20) days of receipt of such notice, or, within such additional period of time mutually agreed upon by the Parties.

(c) **By Authority or Contractor without Cause.** This Agreement may be terminated without cause by Contractor or the Authority upon six (6) months written notice to the other Party.

(d) **Provision of Emergency Medical Services upon Termination.** In the event of termination of this Agreement by either Contractor or the Authority, Contractor shall continue to participate in the EMS System and Emergency Medical Services shall be provided in Contractor's EMS District in accordance with the Special Act and EMS Ordinance, and the Authority shall compensate Contractor in accordance with the Special Act.

SECTION 803. RESOLUTION OF DISPUTES. To the extent that Contractor and Authority cannot, after good faith attempts, resolve any controversy or dispute that may have arisen under this Agreement, except for any dispute concerning the Annual Compensation or §701, Contractor and Authority shall appoint an ad-hoc committee consisting of one mutually agreed upon representative from the Medical Control Board, the EMS Advisory Council, and the Pinellas County Fire Chiefs Association to facilitate a timely and effective resolution. The ad-hoc committee shall meet as often as necessary under the circumstances in an attempt to resolve the controversy or dispute. The committee shall review each Party's submittal of its interpretation of the Agreement and may request additional information as necessary. The committee shall complete its review within sixty (60) days of the date that the Committee is notified of the controversy or dispute (unless the Parties mutually agree to extend this period of time) and submit any recommendation to the Pinellas County Administrator and Contractor. All recommendations and other actions of the committee shall be non-binding. After the committee has submitted its recommendation to the Pinellas County Administrator and Contractor, either Party may thereafter refer the matter to non-binding mediation in the State of Florida. If the Parties do not agree upon representatives for the committee, if either Party chooses not to engage in mediation or if the Parties engage in mediation but mediation fails to resolve the dispute, either Party may pursue its legal remedies, including the Chapter 164 process, and, including, but not limited to, filing a complaint (including but not limited to a complaint for injunctive relief) in the appropriate court possessing competent jurisdiction.

ARTICLE IX
MISCELLANEOUS

SECTION 901. NON-DISCRIMINATION IN EMPLOYMENT. The Contractor will not discriminate against any applicant for employment because of age, race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation or national origin. Contractor agrees that applicants will be employed, and that employees are treated during employment, (e.g. layoff or termination, promotion, demotion, transfer, rates of pay and compensation, and selection for training, including apprenticeship), without regard to age, race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation or national origin. The Contractor will post in conspicuous places, available to all employees and applicants for employment, notices setting forth the provisions of this nondiscrimination clause.

SECTION 902. NOTICES. All notices, consents and agreements required or permitted by this Agreement shall be in writing, and, as applicable, shall be transmitted by registered or certified mail, return receipt requested, with notice deemed to be given upon receipt; postage prepaid, and shall be addressed as follows:

If to Authority: Executive Director, Pinellas County EMS Authority
 Pinellas County EMS & Fire Administration
 12490 Ulmerton Road – Suite 134
 Largo, Florida 33774

If to Contractor: See Appendix B

SECTION 903. ENTIRE AND COMPLETE AGREEMENT. Subject to Section 912, this Agreement, as amended, and all Appendices hereto, constitute the entire and complete agreement of the Parties and supersedes all prior and similar agreements and amendments with respect to the services to be provided hereunder. This Agreement, unless provided herein to the contrary, may be modified only by written agreement duly executed by the Parties with the same formality as this Agreement.

SECTION 904. OTHER DOCUMENTS. Each Party agrees to execute and deliver any instruments and to perform any acts that may be necessary or reasonably requested in order to give full effect to this Agreement.

SECTION 905. APPLICABLE LAW. Florida Law shall govern the validity, interpretation, construction and performance of this Agreement.

SECTION 906. WAIVER. Unless otherwise specifically provided by the terms of this Agreement, no delay or failure to exercise a right resulting from any breach of this Agreement shall impair such right or shall be construed to be a waiver thereof, but such may be exercised from time to time and as often as may be deemed necessary. Any waiver shall be in writing and signed by the Party granting such waiver. If any representation, warranty or covenant contained in this Agreement is breached by either Party and thereafter waived by the other Party, such waiver shall be limited to the particular breach so waived and shall not be deemed to waive any other breach under this Agreement.

SECTION 907. SEVERABILITY. In the event that any provision of this Agreement shall, for any reason, be determined to be invalid, illegal, or unenforceable in any respect, the Parties hereto shall negotiate in good faith and agree to such amendments, modifications, or supplements of or to this Agreement or such other appropriate actions as shall, to the maximum extent practicable in light of such determination, implement and give effect to the intentions of the Parties as reflected herein.

SECTION 908. CONTRACTOR IS INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR. The Parties agree that throughout the term of this Agreement, and during the performance of any obligations hereunder, Contractor is an independent contractor in all respects and shall not be the agent, servant, officer, or employee of the Authority or Pinellas County.

SECTION 909. NO THIRD-PARTY BENEFICIARIES; ASSIGNMENT. This Agreement is not intended, nor shall it be construed, to inure to the benefit of any third person or entity not a party hereto, and no right, duty or obligation of the Contractor under this Agreement, shall be assigned to any person, private association or corporation, not-for-profit corporation, or public body without the prior written consent of the Authority.

SECTION 910. HEADINGS. Captions and headings in this Agreement are for ease of reference and do not constitute a part of this Agreement.

SECTION 911. COUNTERPARTS. This Agreement may be executed in more than

one counterpart, each of which shall be deemed an original.

SECTION 912. NO WAIVER OF RIGHTS UNDER SPECIAL ACT. This Agreement, and specifically its provisions related to the Annual Compensation, is being entered into to resolve a dispute between the parties regarding the determination of the Annual Compensation to be paid to Contractor by the Authority. Authority and Contractor have worked together in good faith to reduce spending under the EMS Mill based upon the extraordinary economic times facing local governments at present. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in this Agreement, it is the intent of Contractor and Authority that any actions or determinations taken in order to reach agreement herein not be seen as a waiver of any rights, claims or defenses that either the Contractor, or the Authority may have under the Special Act. Furthermore, Contractor does not necessarily agree that the Annual Compensation provided under this Agreement constitutes reasonable and customary cost reimbursement by the Authority as required by the Special Act, and, by entering into this Agreement does not waive any rights, claims or defenses that Contractor may have with regard to the determination of reasonable and customary costs in any year not governed by this Agreement. Therefore, the Annual Compensation paid to the Contractor pursuant to this Agreement shall not be used as evidence in any dispute regarding the reasonable and customary costs to be reimbursed by the Authority to the Contractor.

[Signature Page to Follow]

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the parties hereto, by and through their undersigned authorized officers have caused this Agreement to be executed on this _____ day of _____, 2024.

ATTEST:
KENNETH BURKE, CLERK

PINELLAS COUNTY EMERGENCY
MEDICAL SERVICES AUTHORITY
By and through its Board of County
Commissioners

by: _____
Deputy Clerk

by: _____
Chairman

Countersigned:

PINELLAS SUNCOAST
FIRE & RESCUE DISTRICT

by: _____
Chairperson, Board of Commissioners

Attest:

by: _____
Secretary/Treasurer

Appendix A
ALS First Responder Profile

Contractor	Pinellas Suncoast
EMS District(s)	Pinellas Suncoast EMS District
Authority Funded Units	Engine 26 Engine 27 Truck 28
Contractor Funded Units	Rescue 27** (episodic)
EMS Coordination	EMS Administrative Coordinator – 1 FTE (Pinellas Suncoast 600)
FY24-25 Annual Compensation	\$2,247,635
Projected Capital	FY24-25 Rescue 27 FY25-26 None FY26-27 EMS Coordinator Vehicle FY27-28 None FY28-29 None

** Authority funded capital and contractor funded staff

Appendix B
ALS First Responder Contractors

City Manager
CITY OF CLEARWATER
112 S. Osceola Avenue
Clearwater, FL 33756

City Manager
CITY OF DUNEDIN
P O Box 1348
Dunedin, FL 34697

Chairman, Board of Commissioners
EAST LAKE TARPON
SPECIAL FIRE CONTROL DISTRICT
3375 Tarpon Lake Boulevard
Palm Harbor, FL 34685

City Manager
CITY OF GULFPORT
2401 53rd Street South
Gulfport, FL 33707

City Manager
CITY OF LARGO
P O Box 296
Largo, FL 33779-0296

Chairman, Board of Commissioners
LEALMAN
SPECIAL FIRE CONTROL DISTRICT
4360 55th Avenue North
St. Petersburg, FL 33714

City Manager
CITY OF MADEIRA BEACH
300 Municipal Drive
Madeira Beach, FL 33708

City Manager
CITY OF OLDSMAR
100 State Street West
Oldsmar, FL 34677-3655

Chairman, Board of Commissioners
PALM HARBOR
SPECIAL FIRE CONTROL DISTRICT
250 W. Lake Road
Palm Harbor, FL 34684

City Manager
CITY OF PINELLAS PARK
P O Box 1100
Pinellas Park, FL 33780-1100

Chairman, Board of Commissioners
PINELLAS SUNCOAST
FIRE & RESCUE DISTRICT
304 First Street
Indian Rocks Beach, FL 33785

City Manager
CITY OF SAFETY HARBOR
750 Main Street
Safety Harbor, FL 34695-3597

City Manager
CITY OF ST. PETE BEACH
155 Corey Avenue
St. Pete Beach, FL 33706-1701

City Manager
CITY OF SEMINOLE
9199 113th Street North
Seminole, FL 33772-2806

City Clerk
CITY OF SOUTH PASADENA
7047 Sunset Drive South
South Pasadena, FL 33707-2895

City Manager
CITY OF TARPON SPRINGS
324 Pine Street East
Tarpon Springs, FL 34689

City Manager
CITY OF TREASURE ISLAND
120 108th Avenue
Treasure Island, FL 33706-4794

Appendix C **EMS Equipment**

Provided by the Authority:

- All Medical Supplies and Equipment authorized by the Authority.

EKG Monitor / Defibrillator and AEDs

- Stryker Lifepak 15 V4+ EKG Monitor Defibrillators with the minimum clinical specifications: biphasic defibrillation, external pacing, 12 lead acquisition/transmission, pulse oximetry, waveform capnography, and non-invasive blood pressure monitoring.
- Preventative maintenance/repair, cases, wireless data connectivity, battery chargers and batteries as needed.
- All EKG disposable supplies and cables to include, but not limited to, EKG electrodes, Defib/Pacing pads, AED Pads, Q-CPR Meters, and pads, 5 Lead Limb and Chest cables, EKG Main/Therapy/12 Lead Cables, Patient Cables, NIBP cuffs and hoses, Pulse Oximetry cables and probes, and Capnography disposable supplies. Durable accessories will be replaced periodically due to wear and tear. Durable accessories that are lost, stolen, or damaged will be subject to Section 507 of this agreement.

Stryker Lifepak 15 V4+ EKG Monitor Defibrillators or successor model, in the same configuration above shall be utilized for reserve and spare equipment. The specific quantity shall be determined by the Authority.

Provided By Contractor:

- Rescue equipment required by the Department or Florida Law

Appendix D
EMS FINANCIAL INFORMATION ATTESTATION FORM

Instructions:

In accordance with the ALS First Responder Agreement, funds provided by the EMS Authority must be used solely for EMS Allowable Costs. Any unspent balance at the conclusion of a fiscal year must be accounted for and returned to the EMS Authority.

The following form is provided for consistent cost reporting and shall be submitted within ten (10) business days of Contractor's receipt of Annual External Audit.

To be completed by Contractor:

City or Fire District (Contractor) _____

Fiscal Year _____

Name of Person Completing Form _____

Phone Number and Email Address _____

- 1. EMS Funding Received by Contractor \$ _____
- 2. EMS Allowable Costs Incurred by Contractor \$ _____
- 3. Difference (If excess, amount due to Pinellas County) \$ _____

**PLEASE INCLUDE A COPY OF ANNUAL AUDIT AND
SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION AS NEEDED.**

I certify the costs identified, in line 2 above, are related to EMS Authorized positions and units and comply with the EMS Allowable Cost Standards contained in Pinellas County EMS Resolution 09-38. I certify that I have reviewed payroll registers, salary and benefit actual expenditures, actual relief staffing costs incurred to maintain continuous staffing of Authority authorized positions, and actual costs of supervision, fuel, maintenance and repairs and other allowable costs.

Signature and Date, Contractor's External Auditor

Appendix E

Instructor Reimbursement Form

Appendix F

EMS Coordination Duties and Responsibilities

LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION/REGULATORY

1. State EMS License and vehicle permits are maintained and renewed.
2. All Federal and State Laws and Administrative Codes are followed.
3. All EMS Rules & Regulations and Medical Operations Manual Protocols are followed.
4. Coordinates and monitors activities of the Contractor as to its function to provide Advanced Life Support (ALS) First Responder Services.
5. Regularly inspects Contractor's agency, units and personnel for compliance with all regulatory requirements for personnel certification and training and equipment and supplies.
6. State recertification of Field Personnel is completed in a timely manner.
7. All paperwork for the County Certification of Field Personnel is submitted in a timely manner.

LIASION

8. Serve as the liaison between the Contractor, the EMS Medical Director and the Authority's Executive Director for matters related to ALS First Responder Services.
9. Ensure a positive and collaborative relationship is maintained.
10. Ensure that the EMS Medical Director is notified of reportable incidents in a timely manner.
11. Participate regularly in EMS-related meetings.

EQUIPMENT AND LOGISTICS

12. Controlled Substances are handled in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.
13. ECG Monitors, Tablet Computers and other assets provided by the Authority are kept in good working order and assets managed and tracked.
14. Vehicles and medical bags are stocked in accordance with the Medical Operations Manual.
15. Only necessary Medical Supplies and Equipment are maintained to reduce loss to inadequate stock rotation.
16. Maintain security and record keeping of all medications held by the Contractor.
17. Maintain Level "C" Personal Protective Equipment and Ballistic Vests/Helmets.
18. Hand receipts for assets are signed and Inventory control procedures are followed.

PATIENT CARE REPORTS

19. Patient Care Reports are filed and reviewed in accordance with procedure established by the Medical Director using quality management software.
20. Review EMS patient care reports to ensure proper care and treatment and determine areas for improvement.
21. ALS First Responder Transport Patient Care Reports are properly documented and submitted.

PERFORMANCE METRICS

22. Reviews and monitors response times, customer satisfaction, clinical performance, and other performance metrics to attain and maintain a high level of service and to correct performance deficiencies when noted.

QUALITY ASSURANCE

23. Investigates complaints from patients and concerned citizens, manages Quality Assurance Reviews and Medical Case Reviews in accordance with the EMS Rules & Regulations.
24. Prepare and forward justification for Certificates of Merit or other recognition requests for individuals who, by their actions, have performed exceptionally and deserve acclaim.
25. Determine the proficiency and skill level of provisional Paramedics and EMTs prior to recommending County Certification.
26. Attending and actively participating in EMS-related meetings and quality improvement committees.

CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION

27. Ensure that all Contractor Field Personnel comply with continuing medical education and other training requirements in accordance with the EMS Rules & Regulations.
28. Assist in the coordination of CME Instructors, Equipment and Training Sites.
29. Monitor the clinical competence of Field Personnel through the observation of training.

FIELD RESPONSE AND SUPERVISION

30. Routinely responds to EMS Incidents to oversee clinical competence and Patient care in accordance with procedures established by the Medical Director.
31. Respond to large-scale EMS Incidents to assist in incident command, triage, logistics, or other duties as indicated by the magnitude of the incident.

INFECTION CONTROL OFFICER

32. Ensures the Contractor has an active Designated Infection Control Officer and infection control program.
33. Coordinate with the Ambulance Contractor, EMS Medical Director, Public Health and Hospitals to ensure all significant exposure incidents are actively managed. This shall include making notifications, verification and documentation of exposures, and ensuring any treatment and medical follow-up occur.