

**CITY OF ALBANY  
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA  
STAFF REPORT**

Agenda Date: May 17, 2010  
Reviewed by: BP

**SUBJECT:** Amendment to Measure N of 2000 regarding paramedic engines

**REPORT BY:** Fire Chief Marc McGinn

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**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

That Council direct staff to prepare an ordinance and ballot language for Council to present to the voters on the November 2, 2010 election a measure to amend Measure N of 2000, Advanced Life Support [ALS] paramedic engines, to provide for an annual cost-of-living adjustment.

**BACKGROUND**

In 2000, 78.1% of the Albany voters approved upgrading the current Basic Life Support [BLS] fire engines to Advanced Life Support [ALS] paramedic engines. This measure currently staffs at least one paramedic on each of the two fire department's engines during all shifts (24/7/365) at a fixed cost of \$18 per parcel per year. This ensures paramedic engines will respond to all medical calls even when the paramedic ambulance is not available. Additionally, Measure N currently provides annual monies to periodically purchase a new ambulance, monthly continuing education training, and paramedic equipment.

**DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS**

Since the advent of paramedic response, the fire department's annual engine responses have increased from 200 to 1600. This eight-fold increase has added greatly to the wear on the department engines, effectively decreasing their useful life.

Beginning in fiscal year 2010-2011 the paramedic engine program will be operating in a deficit. This proposal calls for an amendment to Measure N in November by asking Albany voters to approve an annual Consumer Price Index (CPI) increase, not to exceed five percent. CPI increases have averaged an approximate 2% annually over the past six years. If this measure is approved, the percentage increases will mirror the existing EMS ambulance assessment increases. This proposed increase would fund a paramedic engine reserve fund and cover additional operating costs incurred by the dramatic increase in the number of annual engine responses.

It should be noted an amendment to Measure N was placed on the November, 2008 ballot as Measure EE providing for a four (4) percent annual inflator clause. The measure, which required two-thirds (66.7%) voter approval, lost by a vote of 64% yes and 36% no.

**SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT**

N/A

**FINANCIAL IMPACT**

An annual CPI adjustment, using 2% inflation factor, would increase money received from this measure by an average of 39 cents per year or \$3.94 over a 10-year period. Single-family homes and condominiums would shoulder approximately 60% of the assessment while commercial properties would bear approximately 40% of the costs.

Using an estimate of a 2 percent annual CPI adjustment, over the next ten year period, the taxpayer cost and revenue receipts are anticipated as follows:

2011 - \$18.36	.36 x 8074 benefit units =	\$2,907
2012 - \$18.73	.73 x 8074 benefit units =	\$5,894
2013 - \$19.10	1.10 x 8074 benefit units =	\$8,881
2014 - \$19.48	1.48 x 8074 benefit units =	\$11,950
2015 - \$19.87	1.87 x 8074 benefit units =	\$15,098
2016 - \$20.27	2.27 x 8074 benefit units =	\$18,328
2017 - \$20.68	2.68 x 8074 benefit units =	\$21,638
2018 - \$21.09	3.09 x 8074 benefit units =	\$24,949
2019 - \$21.51	3.51 x 8074 benefit units =	\$28,340
2020 - \$21.94	3.94 x 8074 benefit units =	\$31,812