

COUNCIL – AGENDA REPORT

Meeting Date: 7 March 2022

Subject: Extended Scene Times for Medical Services

Boards Routed Through: N/A

Date: N/A

Issue:

Council is being presented with information to develop a made in Airdrie solution to address Emergency Medical Services response times with the use of a donation from Ms. Tracy Osborne to enhance Airdrie's First Medical Response program.

Background:

At the November 15, 2021, Council meeting, a notice of motion was brought forward regarding emergency response and a donation for a made in Airdrie solution. Council directed Administration to work with all parties involved and examine a “made in Airdrie” solution to address medical first response within the community, leveraging the generous support of an Airdrie resident for this initiative. Ms. Tracy Osborne is here with us today.

In recent years, there has been a trend towards less availability of ambulances in Airdrie. This has resulted in prolonged emergency response times, delays in receiving emergency care and tie up of resources within the Airdrie Fire Department (AFD).

Emergency Medical Services (EMS) is a Provincial responsibility with the City having limited involvement in decision making beyond medical first response. AFD has a medical first response agreement with Alberta Health Services (AHS). All staff maintain a minimum Primary Care Paramedic (PCP) practice permit and the department operates at an expanded PCP level of service. This includes medication administration, airway management and other interventions typically seen only on ambulances.

AFD has provided this level of service since 2011 following EMS transition (to the Province) and works closely with the Provincial Medical Director Dr. Kevin Hanrahan to modify scope as needed.

The focus of the PCP level of service is on proven life-saving intervention and on bridging the period between calling 911 and arrival of an ambulance. With increasing scene times

and delays that are often 20 minutes or more, this scope has become more relevant in large urban centers where the Fire Department may be on scene a few minutes prior to ambulance arrival.

Lack of EMS resources also places pressure on AFD to provide additional attendants to EMS when patients are in critical condition and need to be transported to Calgary. AFD Administration has met with AHS Operations, AHS Medical First Responder Program Administration and the AHS Medical Director to discuss the challenges of prolonged or absent EMS response times. As a result of these meetings, the following option is being recommended to Council. A generous one-time donation from Ms. Tracy Osborne has now been made and will be used towards this initiative which will positively impact delivery of patient care. She has been made aware of this solution and is agreeable.

Made in Airdrie Solution

AFD will be using the donation to invest in training programs, props and equipment allowing for enhanced patient care at the existing PCP level of service. All AFD response staff maintain status as PCPs or Advanced Care Paramedics. The continuing education programs currently offered require the use of props such as training mannequins to practice skills on and deliver courses such as International Trauma Life Support (ITLS). Updating this equipment increases staff exposure to skill development, quality training and more opportunities to train on shift. Examples of training props are:

- Adding expansion kits to the existing “Crash Kelly Manikins” (training mannequins). This will provide training on visual injuries and procedures such as IV therapy. AFD owns three and the kits can allow training to occur in all three stations.
- Addition of a birthing simulator. AFD currently rents or borrows this type of prop and owning one allows ongoing training to occur.
- Addition of a full body neonatal simulator.
- Addition of a full body child simulator.
- Creation of a high fidelity, hands-on, simulation lab which emphasizes realistic skill development.
- Additional equipment to enhance the current PCP level of service in conjunction with AHS medical direction.

All of the above allows for a more immersive experience and provides the opportunity to interact with a patient and perform advanced procedures. The donation will provide the best use of funding and will benefit the greatest number of responders over a longer period of time. The training props can be re-used and require minimal maintenance. The following next steps will occur:

- Current training programs and services will be altered to include use of new simulation aids.
- A simulation lab will be created at the Chinook Winds Fire Station.

- Work will continue with the Provincial Medical Director to examine the PCP scope and determine if any additional procedures need be added to the AFD Protocols.

Alignment with South Saskatchewan Regional Plan and AirdrieONE:

N/A

Boards Routed Through:

N/A

Alternatives/Implications:

N/A

Communications Plan:

N/A

Recommendation:

That Council accepts the report entitled "Extended Scene Times for Medical Services" and recognizes Ms. Tracy Osborne for her generous donation.

Kevin Weinberger
Director, Community Growth and Protective Services

Presenter:	Kevin Weinberger, Director
Department:	Airdrie Fire Department
Reviewed by:	Mark Locking, Palki Biswas
Attachments:	N/A
Appointment:	Ms. Tracy Osborne