



**CITY OF SALINAS  
COUNCIL STAFF REPORT**

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**DATE:** August 29, 2017  
**DEPARTMENT:** POLICE DEPARTMENT  
**FROM:** Officer Dale Fors  
**TITLE:** DEPLOYMENT OF SWAT TACTICAL MEDIC VEHICLE

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

It is the recommendation of the Salinas Police Department and the Salinas Fire Department, the City Council accept a donated American Medical Response Ambulance for deployment by the Salinas Police Department SWAT team as a tactical medical equipment vehicle.

RECOMMENDATION:

Recently the Salinas Police Department SWAT team along with the Salinas Fire Department SWAT medics entered into an agreement to accept a used and decommissioned Ambulance from American medical response as a donation. The intent is to utilize the vehicle as an equipment vehicle to store and transport tactical equipment for Salinas SWAT tactical medics. Up until this time, the Salinas Tactical medics have utilized various vehicles from the Salinas Fire Department as they have become available. Without a dedicated vehicle, their effective response time has diminished to critical incident operations and in some cases, deployment with inadequate medical equipment has occurred. It is the recommendation of both the Salinas Police Department and Salinas Fire Department to receive this vehicle and approve the vehicle's use for equipment transportation in conjunction with SWAT operations.

BACKGROUND:

Within the past five years, the Salinas Police Department and the Salinas Fire Department entered into an agreement to implement a tactical medic program. The program, which has been on the cutting edge of tactical medicine in the area, has been a success and serves as a model to other SWAT teams in the State of California. Upon its implementation, the program authorized four Salinas Fire medics to be attached to the Salinas Police Department's SWAT team in order to provide immediate medical care in the "hot zone" during deployment and critical incidents. During the implementation phase, grants were sought from the Office of Emergency Services and awarded to equip the four Salinas Fire Medics with personal protective gear such as ballistic vests and ballistic helmets for protection. Since the program's inception, SWAT tactical medics have attended training twice a month with the team, have responded, and deployed on numerous critical incidents such as call-outs and pre-planned search warrants providing an invaluable medical resource.

Recently, the SWAT team identified a need for a dedicated tactical medic vehicle based on an evaluation of the current program and needs assessment. While searching for available and fiscally conservative options, the opportunity came available to receive a donated vehicle from American Medical Response. The vehicle, which has been decommissioned by AMR, is a 2002 Ford E-350 Diesel utility ambulance with 320,000 miles. Still in good condition and with a continued lifespan due to its diesel engine, it is our opinion the vehicle will serve its purpose and be a responsible option for the Salinas Police Department's SWAT team. It is the intent of the SWAT team to paint the vehicle and remove any ambulance markings from it eliminating any misconception it is an ambulance. It is the intent and understanding of both the Salinas Police department and Salinas Fire department that the vehicle will be used for equipment and tactical medic transport to and from critical incidents and not as an ambulance for transportation of patients. By obtaining this vehicle, the Salinas Tactical Medic Program will be able to respond effectively to critical incidents within the County while reducing costs to the City of Salinas for a new vehicle.

#### DISCUSSION:

Both the Salinas Police Department and Salinas Fire Department administrative staff have reviewed the proposal and acquisition of the donated vehicle. During the review and discussions it has been determined the Salinas Police Department will acquire the vehicle, paint and outfit the vehicle with emergency equipment as necessary and the Salinas Fire Department will store and maintain the vehicle for the foreseeable future of the tactical medic program. Utilization of the decommissioned vehicle has been approved by Monterey County Emergency Medical Services Agency.

#### CEQA CONSIDERATION:

The City of Salinas has determined that the proposed action is not a project as defined by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (CEQA Guidelines Section 15378).

#### STRATEGIC PLAN INITIATIVE:

This item does not specifically relate to one of the Council's Strategic Plan or Goal.

#### FISCAL AND SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT:

With the Acquisition of the donated vehicle, there will be no cost associated with the vehicle acquisition itself. With the acquisition of the vehicle, the City would incur the cost of painting the vehicle. The Salinas Fire Department will provide funding through their budget under general fund allocations. This vehicle is already equipped with emergency lighting and response equipment therefore there is no associated costs for this equipment. This vehicle will be added to the Salinas Police Department's Fleet however, vehicle maintenance will be the responsibility of the Salinas Fire Department.

#### ATTACHMENTS:

Resolution  
PowerPoint