



MEMORANDUM

City of Venice

Fire Department

TO: Manuel Rivera, City Manager

THROUGH: Julia Cardinal, Fire Chief

FROM: Paige Godfrey, Deputy Chief

DATE: October 30, 2019

COUNCIL APPROVAL: Yes

MEETING DATE: November 7, 2019

STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL: Provide Efficient, Responsive Government with High Quality Services

SUBJECT: Request Council Approval to Purchase Lund University Cardiac Assist System (LUCAS) Chest Compression System

Background: Venice Fire Rescue responded to 4,101 calls in FY19 of which 2,513 (61.2%) were EMS related. Among the EMS calls, we responded to at least 43 cardiac arrest. It should be noted that many calls do not initiate as cardiac arrest yet patient's condition deteriorate and the call becomes a cardiac arrest.

For any cardiac related call, it is vital to have the ability to provide properly executed CPR for extended periods of time. The four (4) key factors of proper compressions are depth, speed, rhythm and duration. Interruptions in CPR for more than 10 seconds at a time reduces the chance of survival dramatically. During the best of transport conditions, interruptions in manual CPR can be expected: moving a patient on to a transport gurney, loading into a rescue, unloading at a facility and then transitioning to a facility bed. Circumstances which make this difficult to achieve include the location, angle and size of the patient. Among the most difficult scenarios is having to respond to a cardiac patient on a marine rescue. The ability to provide proper manual compressions is challenging even in the best of weather conditions let alone attempting to perform CPR on a boat in stormy seas.

The LUCAS has several features that ensure proper delivery of CPR which increases survivability. Its solid bottom structure supports the body ensuring the effectiveness of compressions unlike a bed mattress that absorbs the compression. Due to an efficient battery life, it has the ability to operate for extended periods of time. The electronic components direct for proper depth and pattern of compression.

There are two additional positive outcomes for the emergency responder when using a LUCAS. There is increased safety as the responder may remain properly seated (using a seatbelt) during the transport. The second is decreased risk of back strain/pain due to performing manual CPR for extended lengths of time.

Requested Action: Council to approve purchase of a LUCAS unit for an amount of \$15,000.00.

City Attorney Review/Approved: N/A

Risk Management Review: N/A

Finance Department Review/Approved: N/A

Funds Availability (account number): 001-1103-526-52.00

ORIGINAL(S) ATTACHED:

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