COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

For the meeting of: 10/8/2024

File #: 24-1413

To: Board of Supervisors

From: DHHS: Public Health

Agenda Section: Consent

Vote Requirement: Majority

SUBJECT:
Southern Trinity Area Rescue - Service Area/Zone IV Ground Ambulance Permit for Fiscal Year (FY) 2024-25

RECOMMENDATION(S):
That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Authorize the Humboldt County Health Officer to renew the ambulance operating permit for Southern Trinity Area Rescue for Service Area IV (Southern Trinity/Eastern Humboldt - Highway 36) for FY 2024-25; and
2. Direct the Clerk of the Board to Provide the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)- Public Health with one fully executed certified copy of the Board order related to this item.

STRATEGIC PLAN:
The recommended actions support the following areas of the Board of Supervisors' Strategic Plan:

Area of Focus: Safe & Healthy Communities
Strategic Plan Category: 1001 -Support and sustain partnerships between public safety and partner agencies to enhance public safety in our communities

DISCUSSION:
Ambulance services in Humboldt County are regulated under Division 5 - Emergency Medical Services System of Title V - Health and Safety of the Humboldt County Code. Humboldt County Code Section 551-3 Ambulance Service Permit mandates ambulance companies must hold a current valid permit for operation of an ambulance service. The County of Humboldt issues five permits annually to provide ground ambulance services in four service areas. Service Area/Zone IV is shared by City Ambulance of Eureka covering Fortuna and Garberville Sub-Zones while Southern Trinity Area Rescue covers Southern Trinity/Eastern Humboldt in the Highway 36 corridor.

Humboldt County Code Sections 551-4 (a) through (e) and 551-7 allows renewal of existing permits by the Board of Supervisors if it is found that all provisions of the sections have been met. The Humboldt County Health Officer has reviewed the renewal application and required documentation provided by Southern Trinity Area Rescue for Service Area IV (Southern Trinity/Eastern Humboldt - Highway 36), and has determined that they meet those provisions, which include approved rates for services, required insurance coverage, vehicle inspection reports and payment of fees.

Accordingly, the Humboldt County Health Officer requests that your Board authorize the issuance of the operating permit for the provision of ground services throughout Humboldt County for FY 2024-25.

SOURCE OF FUNDING:
Public Health Fund (1175-400)

FINANCIAL IMPACT:
The current fee for an ambulance permit is $196 annually, as set forth in the approved fee schedule. This fee is reviewed and changed, if necessary, annually through the Humboldt County fee process. Fees for ambulance permits are deposited into DHHS - Public Health budget unit 1175-400. The estimated revenue from ambulance permits was included in the adopted county budget.

STAFFING IMPACT:
The recommended actions will not impact current staffing levels.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT:
None

ALTERNATIVES TO STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:
The Board may choose not to authorize the Humboldt County Health Officer to renew the ambulance operating permit for Southern Trinity Area Rescue for Service Area IV (Southern Trinity/Eastern Humboldt - Highway 36) for FY 2024-25. However, this alternative is not recommended since it will not allow for the provision of needed ambulance services in certain portions of Humboldt County.

ATTACHMENTS:
1. Application - Southern Trinity Area Rescue
2. Certificate of Insurance
3. Coverage Extensions
4. Waiver of Subrogation

PREVIOUS ACTION/REFERRAL:
Meeting of: 8/8/2023
File No.: 23-1022