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DEPARTMENT OF
FIRE

CITY OF SACRAMENTO
CALIFORNIA

1231 I STREET
SUITE 401
SACRAMENTO, CA
95814-2979

November 27, 1990

916-449-5266

GARY COSTAMAGNA
FIRE CHIEF

Joint Budget and Finance/Transportation
and Community Development Committee
Sacramento, California

Honorable Members In Session:

SUBJECT: **PURCHASE AND USE OF SEMI-AUTOMATIC DEFIBRILLATORS BY FIRE
DEPARTMENT**

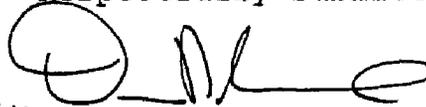
SUMMARY

This report recommends that the City Council approve the purchase and use of thirty-five semi-automatic defibrillators by the Sacramento Fire Department.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Joint Committee review and recommend approval of the attached report for adoption by the full City Council.

Respectfully submitted,

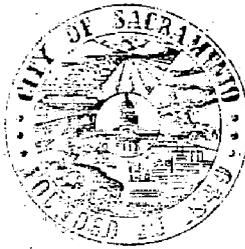

For GARY COSTAMAGNA
Fire Chief

RECOMMENDATION APPROVED:


JACK R. CRIST
Deputy City Manager

Contact Person:
Gary Costamagna
449-5266

November 27, 1990
All Districts



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CALIFORNIA

December 4, 1990

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GARY COSTAMAGNA
FIRE CHIEF

City Council
Sacramento, California

Honorable Members in Session:

SUBJECT: PURCHASE AND USE OF SEMI-AUTOMATIC DEFIBRILLATORS BY FIRE DEPARTMENT

SUMMARY

This report recommends that the City Council approve the purchase and use of thirty-five semi-automatic defibrillators by the Sacramento Fire Department. This report was heard by the Joint Budget and Finance/Transportation and Community Development Committee on November 27, 1990.

BACKGROUND

The defibrillator unit provides the means to discharge an electrical current to a victim for the purpose of restoring a perfusing cardiac rhythm, thus preventing death. The addition of these units to our existing medical equipment will increase the survival rate of cardiac arrest victims and enhance the quality of early medical intervention for City residents. Existing funds are available in the Fire Department's budget to purchase the units and to provide maintenance and training.

No longer is it simply enough to put out fires. Rescue, extrication, emergency medical services, and hazardous materials expertise are today common components of the modern fire department. They are also part of the department's evolution, each having once been an innovative addition to the service. Fire departments must continue to look for better and more effective methods for saving lives to keep up with the demands for service. One such program to consider is early defibrillation.

The future direction of emergency medical services requires a broader level of life support to accommodate our citizens. The acquisition of defibrillation units will ensure a higher quality of early medical intervention by providing essential prehospital care in life-threatening situations. Research supports the position that fire companies equipped with defibrillation units can

substantially improve life expectancy for cardiac arrest victims. This is based on the fact that from dispatch to arrival, critical response time for the fire company is less than five minutes.

The combination of CPR and rapid early defibrillation may mean survival to thousands who die each year from sudden cardiac death. Premature defibrillation has been eliminated by the use of predefined protocols programmed into the unit that monitor and analyze the complex wave forms of the ECG. The potential for error has kept most emergency personnel from providing defibrillation when facing the catastrophe of sudden cardiac death. Yet proper early defibrillation is clearly as important an effort as CPR in saving lives.

Today's technology helps to safely guide an operator to deliver a life-saving electric shock to the victim. The defibrillator's analysis system confirms whether defibrillation should be administered. With the semi-automatic defibrillator, instructions are clear and logical. Visual commands may be supported by voice prompts that guide the operator. If the system detects a device such as a pacemaker or a condition affecting patient safety, use of the defibrillator will be interrupted. Clear, visual, and audible instructions assure user confidence in administering life-saving defibrillation.

While defibrillation was once a skill reserved for emergency providers trained in all aspects of advanced cardiac life support, it can now be performed by basic life support (BLS) personnel. The availability of automatic external defibrillators has sparked this extension of defibrillation capability. Automated external defibrillators eliminate the need for training in rhythm recognition and make early defibrillation by BLS trained personnel both practical and achievable. Since 1985 early defibrillation has become the standard of care for both prehospital and in-hospital cardiac arrest.

The key to the early defibrillation concept is training and availability. All personnel who respond to victims in cardiac arrest will be trained, equipped and permitted to operate a defibrillator. It is apparent that the ability to provide early defibrillation along with the existing fire department emergency medical response is ideally suited for saving lives.

Clearly, the most important reason early defibrillation programs are growing in number is the fact that they save lives that would otherwise be lost.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The cost of thirty-five semi-automatic defibrillators is estimated to be \$225,000. This amount includes the cost of training and a maintenance agreement after the first year. Funds are available in the Fire Department's 1990-91 budget (ORG 2534-4630).

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POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

In 1987 the State of California Emergency Medical Authority adopted the EMT-Defibrillator (EMT-D) procedure as a standard. This standard provided the basic life support provider with an added option to save lives. The addition of early defibrillation to our present emergency medical response capabilities will offer an increased level of service to the citizens of Sacramento. The use of defibrillators clearly demonstrates the commitment to protecting the lives of our citizens.

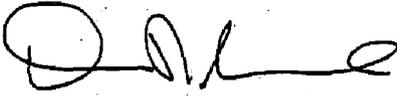
MBE/WBE EFFORTS

It provides an opportunity to promote the City's minority business enterprise program if product specifications can be satisfied.

RECOMMENDATION

Approve as recommended.

Respectfully submitted,


For GARY COSTAMAGNA
Fire Chief

RECOMMENDATION APPROVED:

WALTER J. SLIPE
City Manager

Contact Person:
Gary Costamagna
Phone: 449-5266

December 4, 1990
All Districts