

**COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 09, 2025**

**MINUTE ORDER NO. 5**

**SUBJECT: AUTHORIZATION TO ACCEPT GRANT FUNDS AND ESTABLISH APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE EXPANSION OF THE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES CORPS PROGRAM IN SAN DIEGO COUNTY (DISTRICTS: ALL)**

**OVERVIEW**

In 2008, the statewide Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Corps was launched to provide an innovative Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) job training program for traditionally underserved Transitional Age Youth (TAY), ages 18-26, that prioritizes individuals who have been impacted by the child welfare services and/or juvenile justice systems. EMS Corps participants are provided more than double the minimum educational hours, receive monthly stipends, have access to support services, and participate in ride-alongs, as they prepare to become fully employed in the EMS, allied health, or advance to become professional firefighters.

Due to the success of EMS Corps, in 2023 the California Employment Development Department (EDD) authorized an expansion of the program from one to 11 counties, and San Diego County received \$1,270,000 in grant funds in 2024 for 60 students. San Diego County Fire (County Fire) launched the first of three cohorts in July of 2025 for the 5-month long EMS Corps program, which operates through contracts with Southwestern College as the training institution, SBCS for services, and agreements with private ambulance providers to support the program and provide possible employment opportunities.

On July 28, 2025, County Fire submitted a grant proposal to the San Diego Workforce Partnership's *EMS-Fire Pilot Pathways Initiative Participant & Program Support*, to secure funding to initiate a fourth EMS Corps cohort in North County through a partnership with Palomar College. On November 13, 2025, the proposal was approved and awarded \$500,000 in grant funds to support a fourth cohort of 20 students in 2026.

Today's recommended actions include approval to accept grant funds in the amount of \$500,000 for the period of January 1, 2026, through September 30, 2026, from the San Diego Workforce Partnership to support a fourth cohort of EMS Corps Program students and establish appropriations of \$500,000 in County Fire.

**RECOMMENDATION(S)**

**CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER**

1. Authorize the acceptance of \$500,000 in grant funds from the San Diego Workforce Partnership for the period of January 01, 2026 through September 30, 2026, to support the San Diego Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Corps program in San Diego County, and authorize the Director of San Diego County Fire, or designee, to execute all grant documents and agreements, including any annual extensions, amendments and/or revision thereto that do not materially impact or alter services or funding levels.
2. Establish appropriations of \$500,000 in County Fire, Services & Supplies, for the EMS Corps program based on a one-time grant from the San Diego Workforce Partnership. **(4 VOTES)**

### **EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

The Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Corps program is focused on providing training opportunities to Transitional Age Youth from historically underserved communities. This includes focusing outreach to young people who are or have been impacted by the child welfare and/or juvenile justice systems. The program focuses on geographic communities that are most underrepresented in the EMS workforce, and seeks to reduce barriers to entry, and increases success for Transitional Age Youth interested in full-time employment within the EMS and healthcare fields.

### **SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

The proposed action to expand the EMS Corps program in San Diego County supports just and equitable access to County services and resource allocation in underserved communities. EMS Corps focuses on Transitional Age Youth who are, or have been, involved in the child welfare and/or juvenile justice systems, which are historically underserved communities.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

Funds for this request are not included in the Fiscal Year 2025-26 Operational Plan for San Diego County Fire. If approved, this request will result in costs and revenue of \$250,000 in Fiscal Year 2025-26 and costs and revenue of \$250,000 in Fiscal Year 2026-27. The funding source is a grant from the San Diego Workforce Partnership. There are no match requirements for this grant. There will be no change in net General Fund cost and no additional staff years.

### **BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT**

N/A

### **ACTION:**

ON MOTION of Supervisor Montgomery Steppe, seconded by Supervisor Lawson-Remer, the Board of Supervisors took action as recommended, on Consent.

AYES: Aguirre, Anderson, Lawson-Remer, Montgomery Steppe, Desmond

State of California)  
County of San Diego) §

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of the Original entered in the Minutes of the Board of Supervisors.

ANDREW POTTER  
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors



**Signed**  
**by** Andrew Potter