

STAFF REPORT

City of Lancaster

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01/26/21
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Date: January 26, 2021

To: Mayor Parris and City Council Members

From: Jason Caudle, City Manager

Subject: **Field Hospital to Support Overflow Patients from COVID-19 Pandemic**

Recommendations:

- a. Authorize the expenditure of up to \$822,100 to support the deployment and staffing of a field hospital to treat overflow patients at Antelope Valley Hospital as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- b. Appropriate \$822,100 from General Fund Account No.101-2900-000, Fund Balance to Account No. 101-4431-304, Field Hospital.
- c. Authorize the City Manager, or his designee, to finalize and execute all related documents.

Fiscal Impact:

Up to \$822,100. It is expected that a portion of the expenditures will be offset by community donations.

Background:

The City of Lancaster has collaborated with Antelope Valley Hospital and non-profit organization Samaritan's Purse to meet the emergency health care needs of the Lancaster community amidst the ongoing surge in cases and hospitalizations associated with the COVID-19 pandemic.

The team began constructing an Emergency Field Hospital on January 8th to accommodate the increasing number of patients at Antelope Valley Hospital (AVH). Located in the AVH parking lot, the field hospital offers more than 50 beds and is specialized as a respiratory care unit.

Samaritan's Purse, an international Christian relief organization, has previously deployed four similar field hospitals around the globe in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Locations have included Italy, New York City, the Bahamas, and North Carolina.

In addition to the field hospital itself, Samaritan's Purse has brought approximately 70 medical personnel to staff the hospital and help alleviate the intense pressure on AVH's facility and staff capacity.

Samaritan's Purse will cover a significant portion of the costs associated with deployment of the field hospital through its own fundraising efforts. Under the proposed action, the City will cover costs such as lodging, meals, and transportation for the Samaritan's Purse medical personnel, as well as some costs associated with hospital deployment (i.e. equipment rental and installation, restrooms, fencing, etc.). The approximate cost breakdown is as follows:

- Lodging: \$335,000
- Meals: \$135,000
- Transportation: \$65,100
- Deployment: \$287,000

Costs for lodging, meals, and transportation are based on 70 personnel for 60 days. Should the surge in cases diminish sufficiently that the field hospital is no longer needed before that time, costs will be reduced accordingly. Conversely, should it be needed for a longer period, staff will return to the Council for additional appropriations should additional expenditures exceed the City Manager's signing authority.

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