



June 1, 2007

Honorable Mayor and  
Common Council

Dear Honorable Mayor and Common Council:

Since late in 2006, the Fire Department has been researching the acquisition of new manual and automatic defibrillators for our EMT and Paramedic program. The current Medtronic Life Pac 12 defibrillators are at the end of their useful life cycle. These units are eight-plus years old and there have been dramatic changes in technology in the last few years. Many of our present Life Pac 500 Automated External Defibs (AED's) do not have pediatric shocking capabilities. Our Medical Director has indicated we need to upgrade our AED's to pediatric capabilities.

Since the fall of 2006, we have been patiently waiting for information from Medtronic on the new Life Pac 15 manual defibrillator. However, Medtronic has suspended their release of the Life Pac 15 defibrillators, and currently have their service upgrades for existing defibrillators on hold pending the resolution of Federal Drug Administration (FDA) issues. This has been ongoing since the middle of January, 2007, and as of this communication, we have not been notified that the issues have been resolved.

The recommendation is we change from the purchasing of the manual defibrillator units to leasing our manual defibrillators for five (5) years, thus spreading the cost of the units over a longer period of time. At the end of five (5) years we would have the opportunity to upgrade to newer technology as it is developed. It is anticipated that the annual lease for six (6) Heartstart MRx ALS Defibrillators will be approximately \$25,000 a year with all of the appropriate options. We would further recommend we purchase (not lease) ten (10) FRx AED defibrillators with pediatric capabilities at a cost of approximately \$16,000. These FRx AED Defibrillators are placed on all Engine, Truck and Quint companies which function in the role of first responders. These AED units are utilized until the paramedic rescue squads arrive on the scene of the medical emergency. This is similar to what we are presently doing with the Life Pac 500 units.

This has been discussed with the purchasing agent. The cost of the lease will be built into future fire department budgets.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Hansen  
Fire Chief