



Staff Report

AGENDA ITEM REPORT

DATE: January 12, 2026

SUBMITTED BY: Garret Bubela, Emergency Medical Services

ITEM TYPE: Purchase/Financing

AGENDA SECTION: CONSIDERATION OF AND ACTION ON

SUBJECT: Discussion and Consideration of the Purchase of a Frazer Type 1 Ambulance in the amount of \$262,975.00

BACKGROUND:

El Campo EMS is proposing the purchase of a Type I ambulance from Frazer, LTD. At this time, the specific unit to be replaced has not been identified, as unforeseen mechanical issues could arise within the fleet prior to delivery of the new ambulance.

Type I ambulances are the preferred apparatus of El Campo EMS for 911 emergency responses due to their ability to carry additional equipment, accommodate extra personnel for critically ill or injured patients, and provide a larger and safer workspace for crews. They are also better suited for flight crew integration during patient handoffs. Due to the increased weight of this larger configuration, this ambulance will return to a diesel chassis. El Campo EMS intends to maintain a mixed fleet model, utilizing Type I ambulances for 911 emergency responses and Type II ambulances for transfer and lower-acuity calls to ensure optimal operational efficiency.

El Campo EMS currently has one Type I ambulance on order from Frazer, LTD, with an estimated delivery date of October 2026 (FY27). The proposed ambulance would be similar to the unit currently on order and represents an upgrade from the 12-foot ambulances historically used by the department to a 14-foot configuration. This increased size provides a significantly larger patient care compartment, improving crew safety, workflow, and overall efficiency. The additional space also allows for expanded storage capacity, enabling the ambulance to carry a wider range of medical supplies and equipment.

This expanded platform positions El Campo EMS to meet the growing demands of modern pre-hospital care. As emergency medicine continues to advance, the larger patient compartment provides the space necessary to support future capabilities, such as the potential transport and administration of blood products. These enhancements would allow El Campo EMS to safely implement advanced, life-saving interventions and remain prepared to adopt emerging technologies as they become standard of care.

The purchase process is being initiated now due to Frazer, LTD's current 18–24 month lead time for new ambulance orders, which would result in delivery during FY28. Acting at this time also helps mitigate continued cost escalation. El Campo EMS has already experienced a \$30,000–\$40,000 increase in pricing compared to the last Type I ambulance order, underscoring the financial benefit of securing pricing as early as possible. Additionally, Frazer has indicated a projected price increase expected later this month. The current plan includes purchasing the chassis, estimated at \$60,000–\$70,000, in the first quarter of 2027 using FY27 budgeted funds. The ambulance module and mounting from Frazer, at an estimated cost of \$262,975, will be budgeted for in FY28.

El Campo EMS plans to apply for a grant in late 2026 to early 2027 that, if awarded, could offset approximately \$75,000–\$100,000 of the total purchase cost. No grant funds would be expended until the ambulance is delivered.

Given the extended lead times associated with ambulance manufacturing, change orders are sometimes necessary to accommodate evolving technology and operational needs. El Campo EMS is requesting that City Council authorize the City Manager to approve change orders of up to 10 percent above the quoted price of \$262,975.00 to allow for flexibility during the build process.

Financial impact: \$262,975.00 for the ambulance from Frazer, LTD. The chassis cost is unknown at this time but is anticipated to be between \$60,000–\$70,000.

SUGGESTED ACTION:

Authorize the purchase of an ambulance from Frazer, LTD in the amount of \$262,975.00 and authorize the city manager to approve change orders of up to 10% above the quoted price.

ATTACHMENTS:

[El Campo EMS Z5317-1.pdf](#)