

RESOLUTION R - 03-217

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MANATEE COUNTY, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING COUNTY ADMINISTRATION TO ENTER INTO AGREEMENTS CONCERNING EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN AND PARAMEDIC CERTIFICATION COSTS; MAKING RELATED FINDINGS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING CONFLICTING RESOLUTIONS BE SUPERCEDED; AND PROVIDING FOR EFFECTIVE DATES.

WHEREAS, Manatee County government operates an Emergency Medical Service and desires to continue to operate that service at the highest possible level of excellence and service delivery; and

WHEREAS, economic, social, and regional factors have caused, and continue to cause a reduction in the number of available and qualified applicants for service as Paramedics or Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT's); and

WHEREAS, one of the barriers to entry into the profession of Paramedic or EMT is the initial cost associated with becoming trained and certified as required by State and industry standards; and

WHEREAS, the Public Safety Department has found that other public safety agencies are making use of policies tying the payment of costs associated with training and certification to agreements by the recruits to remain with the agency for a defined number of years; and

WHEREAS, the Manatee County Public Safety Department has indicated that a similar policy would be a useful tool for it to enhance its recruitment and retention efforts; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Manatee County finds that it is in the County's best interests to adopt such a policy.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Manatee County, Florida, that:

1. The County Administrator or designee is authorized to offer Applicants for the positions of Emergency Medical Technician or Paramedic (includes Charge Paramedic/Firefighter) a binding agreement whereby the processing and training expenses incurred by the Applicant, including but not limited to, medical screening, records check, physical and psychological exams, tuition/registration, books, supplies, manuals and test fees for qualified paramedic,



EMT and/or fire science schools be reimbursed to the Applicant.

2. Only actual, documented expenses directly incurred by the Applicant shall qualify for reimbursement under this policy.
3. The County Administrator or designee is authorized to execute these reimbursement agreements, for amounts not to exceed \$15,000, without further action from the County Commission. The County Administrator shall, after this policy has been in effect for at least one year, report back to the Commission on how this policy is impacting Paramedic/EMT recruitment and retention efforts in the Emergency Medical Service Division, and any relevant budgetary impacts.
4. The agreements to be offered to Applicants under this policy shall be drafted in a form acceptable to the County Attorney and shall, in any event, not constitute a contract for or offer of employment but instead shall be an agreement ancillary to the employment relationship.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the adoption of this Resolution does not impact any existing agreements which the County may have with respect to Paramedic/EMT applicant cost reimbursements and those agreements are hereby ratified.

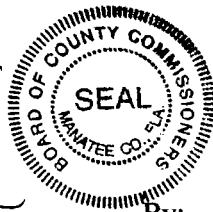
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any existing Resolution or portion thereof of the Board of County Commissioners which contains terms or provisions which are in direct conflict with and cannot be harmonized with the provisions of this Resolution shall, as to such terms or provisions, be deemed as superceded by this Resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the provisions of this Resolution are severable such that the invalidity of any one provision shall not operate to invalidate any other provision.

PASSED AND DULY ADOPTED by the Board of County Commissioners of Manatee County, Florida, with a quorum present and voting, this 7th day of October, 2003.

ATTEST:
R.B. SHORE
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT

By: Susan D. Romine
DC.



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MANATEE COUNTY, FLORIDA

By: Jonathan Bruce
Jonathan Bruce, Chairman

