ABSTRACT

On the recommendation of Lee Barrier, on behalf of Sedgwick County Fire District 1 (SCFD 1), Tim Myers moved to recommend to accept the proposal from EPR Systems in the amount of $525,529.00 for a term of ten (10) years. Anna Meyerhoff-Cole seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

A committee comprised of Brad Crisp, Kevin Nelson, and Mary Crego - Fire District 1; Greg Gann and Catherine Helms - Division of Information Technology; and Lee Barrier - Purchasing, evaluated all proposal responses based on the criteria set forth in the RFP. The committee unanimously agreed to accept the proposal from EPR Systems.

SCFD 1 and Wichita Fire Department (WFD) currently utilize Firehouse records management system (Firehouse), which reached end of support December 31, 2021. Sedgwick County’s Division of Information Technology (DIT) has supported SCFD 1 producing copious workarounds to keep the software functional. Firehouse was never designed to communicate beyond fire departments to Sedgwick County Emergency Medical Services (SCEMS), hospitals, and other first responders. In their pursuit of community safety as a common goal, SCFD 1 began searching for a modern solution to improve efficiency at all levels and be more readily sustainable. Through collaboration with WFD, this solution will allow a sustainable partnership when WFD decides to utilize this contract.

Currently SCFD 1 and WFD use separate reporting systems that do not interact nor streamline patient care in the field and data analysis for final reporting. SCFD 1 along with WFD support the adoption of a unified RMS and electronic PCR (ePCR) solution.

In 2019 an RFI (Request for Information) was issued looking for technology solutions to provide integration of fire records and electronic patient reporting systems that would allow more interaction between partners and ease of sharing patient information in a secure and efficient manner, as well as the ability of collective data sharing.

External interfaces such as Computer Aided Design (CAD) data integration with Tyler Technologies and integration with medical devices are also supported. The system will allow SCFD 1 to import live data such as vital signs, events, EKG graphs and pictures while the patient is connected to Stryker Physio, ZOLL, or Philips devices. The ePCR functionality is necessary to move SCFD 1 forward with emerging telehealth opportunities that will improve the level of service provided within the fire district. A majority of emergency responses include medical service and utilizing ePCR will provide better data to show what level of service is provided and identify opportunities for improvement.

EPR Systems offers a modern solution that will provide updated records management which improves reporting and data analysis.

EPR will be used for records management which goes beyond more than just incident reporting. SCFD 1 will use this solution to manage equipment (PPE, small tools, etc.) as well as vehicle maintenance needs directly with our mechanics. EPR works directly with Geographic Information System (GIS) to allow real-time updates using mobile devices and customers will also see improved processes for permit applications.

This is a proposal not a bid. Proposals are scored based on criteria set forth in the RFP. There are six (6) components to this RFP.

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RFP #23-0014   Contract

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Questions and Answers

Brandi Baily: So this will allow when the fire department is treating a patient to then transport that information to EMS and then to the hospitals? Is that correct?

Kevin Nelson: This won't actually allow us to communicate medical equipment directly to the hospitals. That's a separate thing outside of what we can control. This is more to be able to communicate amongst ourselves. This does not connect directly to the hospitals.

Brandi Baily: Understanding that if Wichita Fire Department were to go with this, it would allow you to communicate back and forth?

Kevin Nelson: Correct.

Brandi Baily: Do we know if they are looking at this?

Kevin Nelson: Yes. I can't speak officially for them but our understanding is that as soon as we have our contract, they plan to piggyback off that so to speak and do that. They are in the same boat with Firehouse that we are.

Brandi Baily: How long will it take them to take the information you currently have in your old system and create it into the new system?

Kevin Nelson: I don't know the exact time. It's a matter of weeks, a couple of months. They do this a lot. All of our Firehouse data is housed locally on a server so we don't have to go somewhere else to get it. We still have access to that.

Russell Leeds: I appreciate the effort that was put forth to try to come up with a system that would integrate with others in the EMS system and also enhance your fire permitting and your data collection within the fire district from your scenes and otherwise. A lot of work was put into this to try to come up with a solution that would be more contemporary and communicate with other entities. Like you say, the hospital connection is something that is a bigger project.