



Agenda Action Form Overview

The Board is requested to approve increased funding in the amount of \$147,253 for a new Chemistry Analyzer, Tube Transport System Replacement, Two Lab Refrigerator Replacements, On-Site Licenses and Veteran Services Vehicle with the funding source being the recognition of a portion of Medicaid Cost settlement funds received in current fiscal year FY 19-20 above the amount originally budgeted.

Background/Justification

A – Chemistry Analyzer \$60,000

The current chemistry analyzer, Beckman Coulter AU4800, is a liquid-based analyzer that was purchased in 2012 and is nearing the end of its expected lifespan (8-10 years). Over the past two years, the current analyzer has required multiple service calls, replacement parts, and additional maintenance. The quality control has also shown degradation. Several analytes (including triglycerides, HDL cholesterol, and CO₂) have inconsistent quality control values which has the potential to affect the accuracy of patient results. This is currently mitigated by sending patient specimens to a reference laboratory when quality control values are not within acceptable ranges.

The new chemistry analyzer, Ortho Clinical XT3400, uses microslides rather than liquid-based reagents. This reduces waste, increases reagent longevity, and eliminates the need for a distilled water system. The reagents do not require preparation which increases quality control stability. Calibrations are required at 6 months, compared to weekly with the current analyzer, which also leads to quality control stability. The start up time for the new analyzer will take approximately 20 minutes, compared to 60 minutes with the current analyzer.

B – Tube Transport System Replacement \$40,000

Public health uses a tube system to transport patient specimens, medication, and documentation. This is an important efficiency that connects the clinics, laboratory, and pharmacy. The tube system allows for the timely transport of materials enabling providers and staff to focus on patient interactions. It also decreases patient wait times and reduces the need for patients to travel to multiple locations for service. For example, the laboratory could send results and the pharmacy could send medication for a patient in the maternal health clinic, eliminating the need for the patient and staff to hand-collect the items.

The current system is obsolete and repair parts are difficult to locate. Some parts of the system are currently non-functional due to age and inability to find parts. We believe that it is important



to move forward in replacing the station, head unit, ancillary controls and wiring of the system. The tubes themselves would remain in place. Repair of this system would result in decreased downtime for public health and would reduce the number of hours per month and tickets that are placed monthly for general services to address the malfunction. We have verified that general services will be able to procure and install this system during the current fiscal year and we will also procure an annual service agreement to maintain the system.

C – Replacement Refrigerators \$7,298

The refrigerators in the laboratory are necessary for storing reagents, materials, and specimens at specific temperatures. The refrigerators were purchased in 2012, and they are nearing the end of their expected lifespans (10 years). Currently, three refrigerators in the laboratory are out of service and require repairs to the compressors. The estimated cost to repair a medical-grade refrigerator compressor is approximately half of the cost to replace the refrigerator. At this point in their lifespans, it is more cost-effective to replace the refrigerators. The purchase of two single-door medical grade refrigerators (\$7,298) will ensure that the laboratory has enough temperature-controlled space to store all required materials.

D – On-Site Staff Licenses \$7,000

Justification for new licenses is simply to increase efficiency by enabling Onsite staff to incorporate field data into their reports and maps as it is collected. This will eliminate processes that must currently be performed in the office thus increasing productivity while decreasing elapsed time between application submittal and permit issuance (increased level of customer service). There should also be a higher degree of accuracy.

E – Veteran Services Vehicle \$32,955

Durham County Veterans Services is requesting the purchase of one vehicle-Ford Transit 250-high roof (\$28,655 plus \$4,300 costs for vehicle graphics). This new vehicle request is the core of our New Initiative, which will enable us to bring awareness, education and improve greater access to services to the unmet needs of some 11,000 veterans living in Durham County.

We are requesting the purchase of one vehicle to operate as a mobile Veteran Services office on wheels. This mobile unit will be known as, “MyDCo4Vets Mobile Unit.” Durham County Government would be the first in the state to operate a mobile Veteran Services Office. This initiative will result in greater health and financial well-being benefits for our Veterans and their families. An additional increased in funding is requested in support of this initiative and for other basic operational expenses.



Durham County Veterans Services is committed to improving access to services and benefits for all our Veterans, bringing critical access to healthcare and financial benefits for Veterans, Servicemembers, and eligible families in our most rural and underserved areas.

MyDCo4Vets Mobile Unit will help provide greater access and visibility for the services provided and it will help promote our efforts to reach the 55% of our 14,900 county Veterans aged 65 or older. MyDCo4Vets Mobile Unit will go most anywhere, anyplace, anytime without the use of brick and mortar to serve our nation's Veteran. MyDCo4Vets Mobile Unit will deliver the same quality, expert services from our Accredited Authorized VSO Representatives at county libraries, grocery stores, subdivisions, housing areas, malls, shopping centers and churches parking lots or where ever we're granted permission to dock.

The U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs (USDVA) estimated 75% of NC Veterans are not in receipt of any VA benefits. Based on the USDVA Report, 77% of Durham's 14, 900 Veterans are not in receipt of VA Benefits and only 1% of our Veterans 65 years of age or older are receiving some of the 72 million dollars in cash benefits and yet they represent approximately 55% of the total Veteran population.

This segment of the population is the most vulnerable and the most difficult to reach. They are less mobile but more likely to need financial and healthcare services. Access to high quality healthcare could help many of the chronically ill or disabled Veterans of any age remain in their homes. Access to benefits they have earned and deserve can improve their health and financial well-being. We must ensure that every potential eligible Veteran, especially our most aged and disabled Veterans have access to VA healthcare, financial benefits and other services with this newly added mode of delivery.

VS cannot fail at this initiative because our failure has the potential to cost our Veterans millions in loss revenue and the lack of access to high quality health care and other VA benefits and services. We must develop MyDCo4Vets Mobile Unit brand within DCo's brand to help amplify awareness of our advocacy for our Veterans and the services provided to them, through the County Department of Veteran Services.

Veteran Homelessness:

Veteran Services will not likely ever totally eradicate homelessness among our homeless Veteran population. However, we must continue to work closely with USDVA and our community partners to meet current and future demands for any Veteran who is experiencing or is at imminent risk of homelessness. The Durham Veterans Affairs Healthcare System and the success of the VA Homelessness Veteran Program and the collaboration with our local partners allows us to house our homeless Veterans more rapidly. This has played a significant role in Durham becoming a mecca for many homeless Veterans locating here, from out of county and out of state. This impacts available housing and other local resources available to all Durham's residences. VS finds it is imperative that we seek VA and other federal funding as quickly as possible for our eligible Veterans to potentially free up local resources for others. The Mobile Unit will create opportunities for our vulnerable homeless or near homeless Veterans to become more aware of potential access to VA and other federal benefits and services.

VS has explored and executed alternative means of delivering services for the past two years:



- We afforded Veterans and their families extended hours, Monday thru Friday, 8:30 a.m.- 7:00p.m. and one Saturday a month.
- We accommodated the aged, disabled and working Veterans through advising and counseling via telephone, mail, email, texts and home visits.
- Our VSO-Outreach Coordinator participated in some 40 community outreach events this year.

However, VS has remained challenged in its efforts to reach a significant number of our 55% underserved aged and or disabled Veteran population. We believe the MyDCo4Vets Mobile Unit will be our greatest asset in granting that population access to benefits and services.

The need for the wrap (vehicle graphics) is critical in boosting our DCo brand recognition, promoting our services, identifying our location and contact information. More importantly, it will serve as a movable advertising billboard, with a much better ability to directly reach our targeted Veteran population, disabled, age 65 and older Veterans versus the social media; thereby allowing greater access to VA financial, healthcare and other state and federal benefits for our nation’s Veterans and their families living here in Durham County.

Policy Impact

This agenda item is consistent with the historical Board of County Commissioner support for efficient and visionary government and the promotion of health and well-being for all Durham County.

Procurement Background

If applicable, explain the procurement process.

Type of purchase – (A) Chemistry Analyzer (\$60,000)

- Goods
- Services
- Architect, Engineer or Surveyor Services
- Construction and Repair

Did this request for purchase go through a bid process? Yes No

Goods: Bids required if \geq \$30,000, BOCC approval if \geq \$90,000

Services: Bids required if \geq \$30,000, BOCC approval if $>$ \$40,000

Construction/Repair work: Bids required if \geq \$30,000, BOCC approval if \geq \$500,000

If yes, attach a copy of bid tab and the minority and women business enterprise (MWBE) compliance review form provided by the Purchasing Division.



If no, why?

- Sole source exemption
- Cooperative purchasing program exemption (**NC Sheriff's Association**)
- State and federal contract exemption
- Contract is an amendment to an existing contract
- Other (please explain)

If exempted from bidding, has this request been reviewed and approved by the Purchasing Division in the agenda Legistar system? Yes No

Type of purchase – (B) Tube Transport System Replacement (\$40,000)

- Goods
- Services
- Architect, Engineer or Surveyor Services
- Construction and Repair

Did this request for purchase go through a bid process? Yes No

Goods: Bids required if \geq \$30,000, BOCC approval if \geq \$90,000

Services: Bids required if \geq \$30,000, BOCC approval if $>$ \$40,000

Construction/Repair work: Bids required if \geq \$30,000, BOCC approval if \geq \$500,000

If yes, attach a copy of bid tab and the minority and women business enterprise (MWBE) compliance review form provided by the Purchasing Division.

If no, why?

- Sole source exemption
- Cooperative purchasing program exemption
- State and federal contract exemption
- Contract is an amendment to an existing contract
- Other (please explain) **Proprietary System**

If exempted from bidding, has this request been reviewed and approved by the Purchasing Division in the agenda Legistar system? Yes No



Type of purchase – (C) Replacement Refrigerators (\$7,298)

- Goods
- Services
- Architect, Engineer or Surveyor Services
- Construction and Repair

Did this request for purchase go through a bid process? Yes No

Goods: Bids required if \geq \$30,000, BOCC approval if \geq \$90,000

Services: Bids required if \geq \$30,000, BOCC approval if $>$ \$40,000

Construction/Repair work: Bids required if \geq \$30,000, BOCC approval if \geq \$500,000

If yes, attach a copy of bid tab and the minority and women business enterprise (MWBE) compliance review form provided by the Purchasing Division.

If no, why?

- Sole source exemption
- Cooperative purchasing program exemption
- State and federal contract exemption
- Contract is an amendment to an existing contract
- Other (please explain) **Amount does not meet bid requirements**

If exempted from bidding, has this request been reviewed and approved by the Purchasing Division in the agenda Legistar system? Yes No

Type of purchase – (D) On-Site Licenses (\$7,000)

- Goods
- Services
- Architect, Engineer or Surveyor Services
- Construction and Repair

Did this request for purchase go through a bid process? Yes No

Goods: Bids required if \geq \$30,000, BOCC approval if \geq \$90,000

Services: Bids required if \geq \$30,000, BOCC approval if $>$ \$40,000

Construction/Repair work: Bids required if \geq \$30,000, BOCC approval if \geq \$500,000

If yes, attach a copy of bid tab and the minority and women business enterprise (MWBE) compliance review form provided by the Purchasing Division.



If no, why?

- Sole source exemption
- Cooperative purchasing program exemption
- State and federal contract exemption
- Contract is an amendment to an existing contract
- Other (please explain) **Amount does not meet bid requirements**

If exempted from bidding, has this request been reviewed and approved by the Purchasing Division in the agenda Legistar system? Yes No

Type of purchase – (E) Veteran Services Vehicle & Graphic Work (\$32,955)

- Goods
- Services
- Architect, Engineer or Surveyor Services
- Construction and Repair

Did this request for purchase go through a bid process? Yes No

Goods: Bids required if \geq \$30,000, BOCC approval if \geq \$90,000

Services: Bids required if \geq \$30,000, BOCC approval if $>$ \$40,000

Construction/Repair work: Bids required if \geq \$30,000, BOCC approval if \geq \$500,000

If yes, attach a copy of bid tab and the minority and women business enterprise (MWBE) compliance review form provided by the Purchasing Division.

If no, why?

- Sole source exemption
- Cooperative purchasing program exemption (**NC Sheriff's Association**)
- State and federal contract exemption
- Contract is an amendment to an existing contract
- Other (please explain)

If exempted from bidding, has this request been reviewed and approved by the Purchasing Division in the agenda Legistar system? Yes No



Fiscal Impact

Medicaid Cost Settlement

The Durham County Department of Public Health received additional Medicaid Cost Settlement Funds in current year FY19-20 from withholding amounts of previous fiscal year final settlements (FY14, FY15 and FY16) totaling \$492,416. Only \$294,012 of cost settlement funds were originally budgeted in the current fiscal year (i.e. \$198,404 received over the budgeted amount).

In addition to the prior year final settle amounts received, the normal FY19 Tentative Medicaid Cost Settlement is also expected to be received in FY19-20. Tentative Settlements have averaged over 1.5 million over the last 5 years.

Recommendation

The County Manager recommends that the Board approve Budget Ordinance Amendment No. 20BCC000043 to recognize additional Medicaid Cost Settlement Revenue received in current fiscal year FY 2019-20 above the amount originally budgeted in the amount of \$147,253 to purchase anew Chemistry Analyzer, Tube Transport System Replacement, Two Lab Refrigerator Replacements, On-Site Licenses and Veteran’s Services Vehicle.