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EDWARD N. BONNER
SHERIFF-CORONER-MARSHAL

STEPHEN L. D'ARCY
UNDERSHERIFF

To: Honorable Board of Supervisors
From: Edward N. Bonner, Sheriff-Coroner-Marshal
Date: January 23, 2006
Subject: Vehicle donation from Search and Rescue Non-profit Organization

Action Requested:

Your Board is requested to accept a vehicle donation in the estimated amount of \$115,000 from Search and Rescue non-profit organization to be used in Placer County search and rescue operations and to add the vehicle to the Master Fixed Asset List. Based on a review from the County's Fleet Services, the existing van will be stripped and used for transport of equipment for the critical accident response team or for the initial response during critical incidents.

Background:

The Placer County Search and Rescue non-profit organization (SAR) raises funds to purchase equipment for Placer County to use in its Search and Rescue operations. SAR utilizes volunteers that specialize in a specific set of skills. The communications unit was formed in the 1960s and the Sheriff's Department personnel provide operational direction. This unit operates a communications van that was purchased in 1983 that houses CBs and conventional radios for use in searches, police actions and other county emergencies.

The SAR communications van has past its useful life as a full-time communications van and needs updated equipment. SAR conducted annual campaigns to raise funds for the past several years with the purpose of purchasing a new state-of-the-art communications van. Adequate funding was raised and the van was ordered. The van is now nearing completion and should be completed to coincide with this request.

In addition to being used for search and rescue operations, the van will be available to the county and as a regional asset in times of emergency. With this in mind, the grant from the Department of Homeland Security was able to fund a communications gateway to enable incident-specific interoperability with other agencies. Your Board approved this purchase to be completed in November 2006. In addition to this equipment, the van will also have other state-of-the-art communication, dispatch, and computer equipment.

Once we receive the new van, the existing van will be evaluated by the County's Fleet division to determine if it is viable to keep the van in-service on a limited basis. The critical accident team and critical incident team have currently expressed an interest in utilizing the old van. Their use would be limited – usually five to six times per year – limiting its use and resulting cost to operate and maintain. Operations and annual maintenance costs would be on a time and materials basis. If repairs or maintenance required were too frequent, we would recommend it be placed out-of-service.

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Your Board's approval is required to accept the donated vehicle and to add it to the Master Fixed Asset List.

Fiscal Impact:

Annual operating costs will be the responsibility of the Sheriff's Department once accepted. The costs for both vehicles include insurance, liability, and operating and general maintenance. The use and the level of costs would be based on the number of searches and incidents that occur or other county emergencies for both vehicles. Because the use is intermittent, operating and maintenance is generally estimated at less than \$1,000 annually for each. These costs are included in the search and rescue budget. We are not requesting any additional funds to maintain or operate both these vehicles.