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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 2/18/07

SPONSOR Irwin LAST UPDATED _____ HB 1244

VILLAGE OF COLUMBUS AMBULANCE

SHORT TITLE SERVICES SB _____

ANALYST Propst

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY07	FY08		
	\$100.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates SB 1073

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Department of Finance and Administration (DFA)

Department of Health (DoH)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 1244 appropriates \$100.0 from the General Fund to the Local Government Division of the Department of Finance, to fund ambulance and emergency services in the Village of Columbus.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$100.0 contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the General Fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY08 shall revert to the General Fund.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

DFA reports that the Village of Columbus volunteer fire department provides emergency services to the Village and along the Mexican border, serving an area of approximately 888

miles. They respond to 400 to 500 emergency calls per year, and a round trip to the nearest hospital is 70 miles. They have two ambulances, but rely on volunteers to staff the department. The Village would like to improve their services and response time by hiring EMS staff, and replacing outdated equipment.

DoH notes that CFEMS has been in service for over 26 years but has been under increasing pressure over the past several months because of unresolved financial insolvency. The only revenues available to CFEMS are from patient fees (50% of patient runs are to the Port of Entry and to Mexican Nationals); local governments do not support the operations of the ambulance department.

CFEMS has allowed their federal grant to expire. The local ambulance service requested emergency funds from the EMS Fund Act to use as a stipend for salaries for their employees; however the EMS Fund Act is only available for supplies and equipment and can not be used for salaries. The local community has banded together and funded salaries for staff of CFEMS for the short term.

DUPLICATION

Duplicates SB 1073

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

The Village of Columbus has a tight operating budget. For FY07, the village received \$9.3 in EMS funding from the Department of Health. Other costs incurred in providing emergency services are covered with ambulance fees or private donations.

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