F I S C A L   I M P A C T   R E P O R T

ORIGINAL DATE

SPONSOR Rodella   **LAST UPDATED** 02/07/12   **HB** 297

SHORT TITLE Cuba Village Ambulance Services   **SB**

                                                        ANALYST Chabot

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY12	**FY13**		
	$100.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION
LFC Files

Responses Received From
Department of Finance and Administration (DFA)
Department of Health (DOH)

SUMMARY

    Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 297 appropriates $100.0 thousand from the general fund to DFA to pay for ambulance services for the village of Cuba in Sandoval County.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of $100.0 thousand contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2013 shall revert to the general fund. DFA states the intent of Village of Cuba is for recurring appropriations; however, the DFA notes funding for future years will have to be requested each year. Presumably, it will not be in the DFA appropriation requests. According to the LFC staff General Fund Recurring Appropriation Outlook for FY14 and FY15, December 2011 forecasted revenues will be insufficient to cover growing recurring appropriations.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

DFA reports this bill will help fund the ambulance services for the Village of Cuba and surrounding areas. Presbyterian Medical Services (PMS) has requested these funds for operational purposes. PMS has two ambulances that serve the community within a 50 mile

circumference of Cuba. The majority of ambulance pick-ups are transferred to Rio Rancho for services. A one way trip between Cuba and Rio Rancho is approximately 70 miles. The two ambulances must be reliable to make these trips, and therefore, need to be properly maintained. Funding from this bill would provide routine maintenance for the ambulances.

DOH advises the Village of Cuba emergency medical services (EMS) ambulance service serves the Village of Cuba and the surrounding areas of Sandoval County – a population of approximately 8,800. Sandoval County Fire Department also serves the surrounding areas with paid and volunteer EMS personnel, with Sandoval County Fire Department ambulance units working with Cuba EMS to provide coverage.

Residences are spread out and personal transportation is limited for some families. The ambulance service is a critical safety net for both residents and those traveling through or visiting the area. The ambulance service serving the Village of Cuba and the surrounding area is certified by the Public Regulation Commission as an ambulance service. They have a physician medical director and an EMS service director. They respond when dispatched for all medical and traumatic health emergencies within the Village of Cuba catchment area.

Cuba EMS applies for and receives money from Local Systems Funding portion of the EMS Fund, administered by the Department of Health. Cuba EMS received $10,601 in FY08, $12,746 in FY09, $12,030 in FY10, $14,015 in FY11, and $9,764 in FY12. Cuba EMS has applied for FY13 funding. The amount of FY13 funding has not yet been determined. Additionally, Cuba EMS can apply for money from the Special Project portion of the EMS Fund for the purchase of ambulances and other EMS-related projects.

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS

1. If the state assumes responsibility for funding Village of Cuba's ambulance service, how many other local entities will ask for similar consideration and what is the estimated cost?

GAC/lj