

TRUCKEE TAHOE AIRPORT DISTRICT  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

Topic: Medevac Crew Facility Upgrade

Purpose	Information:	Guidance:	Decision: <b>X</b>
Recommendation	Approve use of old maintenance office as crew facilities for medevac operation. Approve utilization of Medevac Facility Budget line item for improvements to Airport facilities.		
Last Action	In September of 2010 the Board of Directors approved \$100,000 for facility upgrades to improve Medevac facilities and operations. Since this time, staff has reviewed various options for facility improvements to enhance the effectiveness of medevac operations in the north Tahoe Region.		
Discussion	<p>Over the past 6 months, staff has reviewed various development alternatives to improve facilities for medevac operations. Our main focus for this project is to make the airport attractive for medevac companies to operate from the Truckee Tahoe Airport and to improve first response times for aircrews.</p> <p>Currently the helicopter medevac company operates and quarters its crew out of the Martis Peak Professional Building. The helicopter is staged on the southern part of the jet ramp and is hangared on the east end of L Row. (see attached map) This is a less effective arrangement for operational and first response efficiencies.</p> <p>To consolidate operations and provide a more efficient operating layout, it would be advantageous to group crew quarters, aircraft storage, and the aircraft in one location.</p> <p>We have two main goals for this project.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Improve overall efficiency and first response times for medevac operations.</li><li>2. Make the Truckee Tahoe Airport an attractive and efficient base of operation for medevac operators.</li></ol> <p>Keeping these two goals in mind, staff has now considered two different options.</p> <p><b>Option A</b></p> <p>When we began our analysis last fall, there were no adequate vacant facilities on the airfield to accomplish our objective. Staff originally considered construction of new crew quarters just south of the current administration building and moving their hangar to the west side of A Row where the helicopter currently resides when parked on the ramp. This option was considered in detail and we have provided an earlier staff report that details this option including</p>		

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costs. Total project cost for this option is between \$220,000 and \$265,000. Please review the March Staff report to learn more about this concept.

**Option B**

In early April, the Airport District received notice that Porters intended to vacate their space in the old maintenance office. Staff immediately began analyzing this space as a potential home for medevac crews. This analysis revealed that very little change would be required to make this existing facility serviceable as an office and crew quarters. Staff met with the current medevac provider and they expressed strong interest in the facility. This building is in close proximity to the current medevac hangar and there is ample parking for the aircraft close to the crew facility.

Moving medevac crews to this facility, in close proximity to their hangar and aircraft parking, would provide significant improvement to first response times. By locating crew facilities in the same location as operational offices and hangar, first response times will be improved 3:00 to 5:00 minutes on every call, 5:00 to 7:00 minutes in winter and by up to 15:00 minutes if the aircraft needs to be removed from the hangar. These are significant numbers in the public safety first response timeline.

**Next Steps**

Upfront costs to make the old maintenance office serviceable are minimal compared to Option A. We estimate expenditures of \$20,000 to \$30,000 to make the necessary improvements to this building. That totals all necessary costs to meet our District medevac operational goals.

We are also in the process of analyzing options to construct a new helipad next to the current medevac hangar to further improve efficiency. Estimated costs for this project are \$25,000 to \$40,000. (See attached map for applicable layout plan for these facilities.)

Staff recommends Option B at this time and requests Board approval for a not to exceed amount of \$30,000 to remodel the old maintenance office for use as a medevac crew facility.

Costs to remodel will be taken into consideration as the new lease rate is set for building occupant. This cost will be amortized over the useful life of the improvements being completed.

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**Fiscal Impact**

Approximately \$20,000 to \$30,000 with a not to exceed amount of \$30,000. Current budget for this project is \$100,000. Staff's intention is to recover remodel costs through lease contracts.

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Communication Strategy	If we are successful in completing this project and improving this important community service, the District should highlight these efforts within our service District and local media.
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Attachments	Option A Packet Option B Packet
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