



Washington Police Department

Michael D. McCoy

Chief of Police

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TO: Administrator James Snider

FROM: Chief Michael McCoy

DATE: March 27, 2024

SUBJECT: Agenda Item from City Administrator
Tactical Law Enforcement Medicine

SUMMARY: The Washington Police Department has met with Dr. John Wipfler and Dr. Matt Jackson concerning "direct medical support for law enforcement officers". There are 8 areas of medical support that will be provided to local law enforcement agencies...each with an assigned physician and a backup physician that are trained in emergency medical treatment. (See Attachment) These physicians would assist in any tactical call out and be available to assist agency heads with any questions concerning officer injury and / or health. The cost to the City of Washington is \$2,000.00 per year to be used for purchases of necessary equipment. There is no compensation of salary to the physicians.

The Purpose, Background, Statement and Goals ,Physician List and Areas of Support are contained in the attached documents.

ACTION: The Washington Police Department asks the Washington City Council to authorize the Washington Chief of Police to execute a document substantially similar to this Draft Letter of Understanding and create a line item in the Washington City Budget of \$2,000.00.

Michael D. McCoy
Chief of Police
Public Safety Director

Draft – for discussion.

March 19, 2024

Letter of Understanding (LOU):

Tactical And Law Enforcement Medicine (TALEM)

**Chief of Police Physician Advisor - STATT / WCSO TEMS Unit and
Washington Police Department**

Purpose:

This document is a description of the goals and mutual benefits of arranging an advisory role of the physicians from **STATT / WCSO TEMS Unit and Washington Police Department Chief of Police**. The primary purpose of this letter of understanding (LOU) is to arrange an effective relationship where the emergency physicians / paramedics from the STATT / WCSO TEMS Unit may serve in an advisory role and provide TALEM support for the **Washington Police Chief** and agency leadership and LEOs. There are expenses incurred for training and equipping the volunteer unpaid STATT unit physicians, and a suggested method for sharing these costs is listed below. The STATT physicians are honored to be able to volunteer medically to support the dedicated officers and deputies sworn to serve and protect our community.

The primary **Physician Advisor for the Washington Police Chief is Dr. John Wipfler, with his back-up physician is Dr. Matt Jackson.**

In case of an emergency and these above physicians are unable to respond / reply soon enough, then please contact any of the other STATT physicians. Please see the list of emails and phone numbers of the STATT physician and paramedic – last page of this document.

Background:

In 1998, the STATT Tactical Medicine / TEMS unit was formed which was the first of its type in Illinois and was certified by the IL Department of Public Health. STATT was co-founded by Peoria County Sheriff Mike McCoy and Dr. John Wipfler and others, and since inception has been involved in over 250 SWAT callouts in the Peoria, Tazwell, and Woodford County area. Additionally, STATT physicians have assisted multiple similar TEMS units start up throughout Illinois and the Midwest region. The STATT personnel are sworn special deputy sheriff physicians and paramedics and are authorized by Woodford County Sheriff Matt Smith to support and serve as an integral part of several Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) units, including, but not limited to, CIERT (Central Illinois Emergency Response Team) and the Peoria Police Department SWAT unit.

In addition, TEMS / TALEM support may be provided by STATT during training and call-out assistance with other agencies (and have supported ILEAS, the Illinois State Police, PMEG, U.S. Secret Service, DEA, FBI, U.S. Marshall's Office) at the discretion of the Sheriff or his/her designee.

Since inception, these volunteer physicians and paramedics have been operational in the region of Woodford, Peoria, and Tazewell counties. In 2017, Woodford County Sheriff's Office (WCSO) led by Sheriff Matt Smith and Chief Deputy Dennis Tipsword, worked with leaders of the STATT TacMed unit to further develop medical support for regional law enforcement units. The tactical medicine team is called the STATT / WCSO TEMS Unit. There currently are 7 members including six board-certified emergency physicians (Board Certified) and one paramedic / police officer. These individuals are all unpaid volunteers who are specially trained and dedicated to providing TALEM (Tactical And Law Enforcement Medicine). These medical professionals are selected by the Woodford County Sheriff and STATT leadership and are sworn Special Deputy Sheriff Physicians or Medics.

Whereas the Woodford County Sheriff has arranged several full-time deputy sheriffs to serve on the CIERT (Central IL Emergency Response Team) as SWAT officers, it is appropriate that medical care providers also be arranged to support these WCSO deputies by providing emergency medical care and support when needed. In addition, the Sheriff of Woodford County also authorizes support for other select regional law enforcement agencies by lending medical assistance via the STATT medical team volunteers.

STATT / WCSO TEMS Mission Statement and Goals:

To clarify the benefits provided by the Special Tactical Assistance Trauma Team (STATT) / WCSO TEMS unit, the STATT mission and goals are listed. In addition is a more specific list of 8 key areas that support that may be provided by STATT physicians on an advisory basis to select Tri-County region Sheriffs and Chiefs of Police.

STATT Mission Statement:

To Provide dedicated TALEM (Tactical And Law Enforcement Medicine) for the Woodford County Sheriff's Office and other law enforcement agencies in the tri-county region. In addition, select support may be provided to regional, state, and federal tactical law enforcement agencies as designated and authorized by the Sheriff of Woodford County. STATT personnel are additionally available for medical assistance during disasters, terrorist incidents (active shooter, suicidal bombings, Weapons of Mass Destruction incident, swarm attack, etc), search and rescue missions, and other high-risk situations in which law enforcement agencies may have a need for immediate on-site advanced life support (ALS) emergency medical care.

To be Capable of administering emergency medical care within a 30 second response time for life-threatening injuries in the tactical environment.

To Individualize EMS response and hospital medical care for SWAT team members and other LEOs by being knowledgeable about individual officer's specific medical history and physical condition, and to help facilitate and be an advocate for continuing medical care at the receiving hospital.

To Integrate With and Enhance the existing regional Emergency Medical Systems (EMS) and

Fire / Rescue organizations. Involvement with Rescue Task Force training and response is another goal.

To Enhance Medical Safety and Knowledge by being proactive with LEOs and tactical teams optimizing medical education, preventive medicine, and increasing the response capability of each patrol and tactical officer and other LE officers and deputies through realistic scenario-based emergency medical training and exercises.

To Promote Community Oriented Policing Philosophy by allowing rapid access of specialized emergency medical care to the sick and injured civilian bystanders, hostages, and suspects when conditions preclude a timely conventional EMS response.

Goals:

Improve Officer Survival... this is the primary goal of the STATT / WCSO TEMS unit.

Reduce death, injury, and illness among officers / deputies, innocents, and suspects.

Provide rapid EMS response to the sick and injured within the tactical arena, or in hazardous disaster or search and rescue situations.

Enhance tactical mission accomplishment by providing inner perimeter emergency care, extraction, and transportation, thereby freeing up SWAT tactical officers to stay at or return to primary objectives.

Increase security during tactical missions due to the integration of TALEM medical personnel within the tactical team, allowing close secure communication with medical assets and thus minimizing the risk of leakage of important protected information by contacting outside EMS agencies prior to or during a mission.

Facilitate a professional partnership between police, fire, and EMS.

Minimize liability exposure during tactical missions. The presence of medical providers within 30 seconds of injury represents a proactive decision by law enforcement leaders to arrange a fast and effective response to all contingencies. This pre-planning for close-up medical support proves administrative consideration was given to optimize life-saving medical care for all involved, including suspects and innocent bystanders. In addition, the new updated NTOA (National Tactical Officer Association) 2023 SWAT guidelines have minimum criteria for tactical medical support, and adherence to these national guidelines will enhance liability protection.

Support patrol and other divisions of regional law enforcement agencies as needed, including response to routine patrols, community crises, riots, bomb threat /disarming, prolonged man-made hazardous conditions, bioterrorism or other hazardous materials incidents, and others. Most LEO injuries and deaths (94 – 96%) occur to patrol officers, and STATT has a mission of

working with LE administration to enhance officer survival for all LEOs, including SWAT and patrol and all other areas of law enforcement.

Promote Esprit de Corps and improve the general health of the SWAT team by closely monitoring team members during training and callouts.

Project a favorable image for law enforcement departments with the citizens and the media, due to the prearranged integrated medical care available immediately to those in need.

Promote Tactical EMS / TALEM through education and training of medical and law enforcement professionals, and aid other law enforcement agencies in Illinois and throughout the nation with education, training, formation, and advancement of TEMS units.

Offer a sense of reassurance and comfort to families of SWAT officers, knowing that the highest qualified advanced emergency medical assistance is integrated and immediately available to their loved ones at all times.

8 Specific Areas of Medical Support Provided by STATT physician advisors:

This section lists areas of specific medical support that physician advisors may potentially provide for the Sheriff or Chief of Police and their LE agency. In addition, there may be other roles which may be added upon mutual agreement by the STATT physicians/paramedics and LE agency leadership.

- 1) Provide physician-level preventive and direct emergency medical care for law enforcement officers and others within the LE agency.
- 2) Provide medical advice and consultation for LE leaders on all levels (local, county, state, federal) regarding policies or procedures that prevent or mitigate officer illness, injury, and other medical issues that impact LEOs.
- 3) Assist in designing, implementing, and conducting medical training for LEOS. This may include education in life-saving medical procedures and other emergency medical treatment for themselves and other officers and citizens (Self-Aid, Buddy-Aid, and Citizen-Aid) until arrival of trained medical professionals (EMS, Fire, other).
- 4) Provide medical support and advice for law enforcement specialty teams such as mobile field force, counter-narcotic task forces, tactical teams, bomb squads, counter-terrorism units, K-9 units, special investigation, and other units.
- 5) Serve as a liaison between LE and the local medical community including optimizing medical care and communication at the receiving hospital, in accordance with LE agency guidelines and HIPAA regulations.
- 6) Assist with agency policy and compliance regarding law enforcement medical issues, health, and safety. Interface and communicate with occupational medicine professionals (IWIRC or other agencies / personnel) to integrate preventive medicine strategies and optimize occupational health and recovery from injuries and illness.
- 7) Assist with community outreach and training programs. Examples include community

emergency and disaster preparedness, community mental health programs and response teams, school safety events, Stop-The-Bleed training, and other community outreach medical programs.

- 8) Promote research that informs LE and TALEM professionals in issues related to health and safety.

Reimbursement for medical equipment, personal protection gear, continuing education, and other expenses incurred by STATT:

Each STATT provider is an unpaid volunteer in a medical response unit that has been supporting the Peoria area law enforcement agencies since 1994, and who have each personally devoted considerable time and energy in developing their skills, equipment, and knowledge in the prehospital arena. The current funding of the STATT / WCSO TEMS unit is very limited.

Therefore, this section of the documents describes a suggested formal recommendation with a goal of arranging annual funding enabling purchase of medical equipment, medical supplies, ballistic and other personal protective equipment, communications gear, and reimbursement for continuing tactical and law enforcement medicine education for STATT personnel.

Specifically, it is suggested that a line item (or other designated source) for \$ 2000 dollars in the LE agency annual budget be arranged. A suggested name for this line item is as follows: “Annual STATT / WCSO TEMS Unit TALEM support”, and annually in the first quarter of the fiscal year a check would be ideally be mailed directly to the Woodford County Sheriff's Office at the below address.

This suggested transfer is approved by Matt Smith, Woodford County Sheriff, and his Chief Deputy Dennis Tipsword.

The mailing address is:

Woodford County Sheriff's Office
Attn: Chief Deputy Dennis Tipsword - STATT / WCSO TEMS fund
111 East Court Street
Eureka, Illinois 61530

Please note that this account will be audited annually as per normal Woodford County administrative policies, and the funds will only be used for the above purposes. No monetary funds will be used to pay any salary to the personnel of the STATT Unit. All use of the STATT funds will require the co-authorization by the STATT Medical Director and the Woodford County Chief Deputy Sheriff or his/her designees.

For any questions, please contact the Woodford County Sheriff's Office phone: 309-467-2375

Summary:

A mutually beneficial medical support arrangement can hopefully be created with designated Peoria region Tri-County Area / Central Illinois law enforcement agencies. A group of six emergency physicians and one paramedic comprising the STATT unit desires to provide tactical and law enforcement medical support to the dedicated men and women in blue who serve and

protect our community.

Thank you for your consideration of this concept and MOU.

Sincerely,

Dr. John Wipfler

Along with the other STATT Physicians: Drs. Brandon Bleess, Lee Raube, Austin Lamb, Joel Dennison, and Matt Jackson / with additional support if needed by Paramedic Josh Jeffries

Current physician advisor support planned for the Tri-County Region for arranging TALEM:

Agency:	Physician Advisor:	Backup Physician
1) Woodford County Sheriff's Office	Lee Raube	John Wipfler
2) Peoria County Sheriff's Office	Joel Dennison	John Wipfler
3) Tazwell County Sheriff's Office	Austin Lamb	Brandon Bleess
4) Pekin Police Department	Brandon Bleess	Austin Lamb
5) Peoria Police Department	Matt Jackson	John Wipfler
6) Washington Police Department	John Wipfler	Matt Jackson

In addition, Tactical Paramedic / Officer Josh Jeffries will aid / assist all agencies.

STATT Fund- current needs:

- Medical equipment and supplies, medical PPE protective gear, defibrillators
- Communications equipment (need STARCUM compatible radios x 6, and support gear)
- Personal protective equipment (ballistic vests x 4, helmets x 6, assorted PPE – medical)
- Personal uniform and medical vests, leg medical pouches, patches

Thank you for your excellent support.

(end of document)

March 19, 2024
Draft- for consideration -
Washington Police Department
Chief Michael McCoy

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This section lists areas of specific medical support that physician advisors may potentially provide for the Washington Chief of Police and department. In addition, there may be other roles which may be added upon mutual agreement by the STATT physicians/ paramedics and LE agency leadership.

- 1) Provide physician-level preventive and direct emergency medical care for law enforcement officers and others within the LE agency.
- 2) Provide medical advice and consultation for LE leaders on all levels (local, county, state, federal) regarding policies or procedures that prevent or mitigate officer illness, injury, and other medical issues that impact LEOs.
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- 4) Provide medical support and advice for law enforcement specialty teams such as mobile field force, counter-narcotic task forces, tactical teams, bomb squads, counter-terrorism units, K-9 units, special investigation, and other units.
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- 8) Promote research that informs LE and TALEM professionals in issues related to health and safety.

What other areas are needed?

How can STATT Physicians best assist the WPD ?