

Fire Dept. requests authorization to spend an additional **\$5,140.00** on Sweet Billing and Field Data software for the ambulance enterprise. The figure of **\$5,140.00** is the difference between the **\$21,000.00** that the council authorized for the same purchase on the 18th of Dec. 2002, and the final bill for the software package, which totaled **\$26,140.00**.

The shortfall in the request for budget dollars occurred because the initial specification for the software failed to include all the modules necessary for the City of Rapid City and the Fire Dept. as a “new provider” to engage fully in electronic claims transactions with Medicare and Medicaid. This includes a module that allows the Finance Dept. to audit and participate in the billing process. The information made available by the Federal Govt. relative to rules about Medicare and Medicaid reimbursement for ambulance transport is brand new as of 2003. At the time of the original spec of the software and request for authorization of funds, the Fire Dept.’s information was incomplete.