

David Feldpausch
Director



Amy Chapman
Deputy Director

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Memorandum

To: Livingston County Board of Commissioners
Fr: David Feldpausch, EMS Director
Date: 6-13-2023
Re: Resolution Authorizing the addition of four FTEs

On a regular basis we continue to find ourselves out of available ambulances in Livingston County. While these times are most often for very brief periods, they still leave us in very uncomfortable position and our response times suffer. The demand for EMS services in Livingston County has rebounded from the COVID slowdown and we are on pace for another very busy year. We are currently at (or near) fully staffed and we are unable to keep pace with the demand for services. This is felt mostly on the facility side as we now regularly have patients waiting for hours to be transported. While our service level is still better than in many areas we can do better!

As you are aware we are expanding services to add some rural EMS bases to better serve the county. This request is another piece of that plan. We cannot just spread existing services out thinner and expect things to improve. We simply must add staff to effectively expand our services and adequately serve the county.

This is a request that has been long overdue, and I have explained repeatedly that if we could get fully staffed that I would be making this request and here we are. I am requesting permission to hire another four (4) additional FTEs. Each Paramedic FTE will cost \$72,442 according to the cost out that fiscal services performed for us. I do not believe that another 4 is enough but also know that growth is best in small steps to ensure that it can be adequately managed. I expect that some of these FTEs may be EMTs and not paramedics, but I always plan for the most expensive option.

There has been a lot of work that has taken place to get us into a position where I am comfortable requesting another expansion. Our education programs are one of the most important, but we have many things that are heading in the right direction, and I believe we are able to handle and sustain additional growth.

I expect your #1 question is how we will pay for these positions. We are outperforming my conservative revenue number over the first 6 months again this year by \$382,963.77. As of today, we have rebuilt our fund balance from \$0 and have \$6,247,647.65 in cash and investments. I am extremely confident that we can absorb the \$289,768.00 (\$144,884 in FY 23) for the 4 additional FTEs annually by simply increasing our budget revenue by that amount.

Serving the Citizens of Livingston County

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My second question if I were you would be why did you not make this request during the budget process? I did request and received 4 additional FTEs in the budget process. I had made my budget request in June when we were not fully staffed and were only a few months into a significant contract change. I needed the rest of the year to make sure that I was comfortable with the financial impacts of those changes and confirm that we could continue to sustain the reimbursement numbers as well as recruit new employees to fill the positions.

If you have any questions or comments, I always welcome them.

David Feldpausch
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2024		
Paramedic		
2 Year		
<u>Annual Cost</u>		
EMS T2		
\$	50,989	<i>Assumes a 3% COLA</i>
\$	3,901	
\$	2,040	<i>Assumes a new hire</i>
\$	12,963	<i>Assumes 4% Increase</i>
\$	2,468	
\$	82	
\$	72,442	Each
\$	362,210	(x5)