

David Feldpausch
Director



Amy Chapman
Deputy Director

1911 Tooley Rd * Howell, MI 48855
Business (517) 546-6220 * Fax (517) 546-6788 * Emergency 911
www.livgov.com

Memorandum

To: Livingston County Board of Commissioners
Fr: David Feldpausch, EMS Director
Date: 6-73-2024
Re: Resolution Authorizing the addition of three 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 is increasing 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 planning to expand 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.

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 three (3) additional FTEs. Each Paramedic FTE will cost \$73,005 according to the cost out that fiscal services performed for us. I believe that this request will finally put us in a position to adequately serve the county and hopefully serve us well for a few years into the future. 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 comfortably execute and sustain this additional expansion of services.

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. As of today, we have rebuilt our fund balance from \$0 and have just under \$7,000,000.00 in cash and investments. I am extremely confident that we can absorb the \$80,349.00 in FY 24 along with the (\$219,016.00 for FY 25) for the 3 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 like to manage our growth at a pace that I am comfortable sustaining. Slow and Steady! We have managed our growth every step of the way ensuring that the anticipated revenues are on track or above our budgetary estimates. We also cannot afford to grow quickly on the field side as it takes 90 days to get a new employee on board and through orientation and another year to get them through their probationary period. I needed to see the sustained call volume and associated revenue for the first six months 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
dfeldpausch@livgov.com
517/294-1853