

## Proposed Compensated EMS On-Call Program

### Purpose

The purpose for an on-call schedule is to assure that calls for service are responded to in a timely manner. Calls for service are increasing while our volunteer personnel numbers are decreasing which adds to the demand of our existing volunteers.

### Background

Bluffton Emergency Service volunteers currently have an on-call schedule which starts Sunday evening at 10:00 pm and ends at 6:00 am the following morning. This nightly schedule goes through Thursday with three EMS personnel assigned each evening. During its 20 year implementation, this schedule has distributed the load of responsibility across our membership. We are volunteers not because we are unpaid, but because our task requires an unscheduled response. An on-call sign up skews that slightly—we are somewhat employed due to the necessity of being in town, ready to serve. We are hoping you will consider a small hourly compensation to those members who accept that commitment. Also, because of the increased demand within our department, we would like a daily weekend on-call schedule added.

If all week nights **plus** weekends are covered with three EMS personnel at \$5 an hour, the total on-call pay would be \$73,320. The monthly data for hours covered would be sent to Kevin for payroll purposes. If we would need to move to a **weekday** (6am until 10pm) on-call schedule at some point, I would recommend we purchase an app (Aladtech) used for scheduling . This app is used by Ada EMS and costs around \$3000 per year.

This year, Bluffton Hospital requested patient transports to other facilities over 84 times. Those transports covered, increased the revenue over \$40,000. If we have more EMT's signing up to be on-call, we could see an increase in transports and an increase in revenue. (We will not do transports if one of our squads are out of service or if the weather is too severe for us to do the transport).

### Proposal

I would like to add a weekend on-call schedule. It would begin at 6 pm Friday and run until 10 pm on Sunday, which is when the current schedule begins. I am proposing that we have three EMS personnel sign up for each shift—6 am-12 pm, 12 pm-6 pm, 6 pm-12 am, 12 am-6 am.

EMS personnel will receive a \$5 stipend for each hour they are on-call, both weekday and weekend hours. On-call EMS personnel would also be paid the hourly per-run compensation they currently receive when responding to calls. There would be up to three EMS personnel per shift.

In the event of a non-emergency transport request from Bluffton Hospital, two of the three on-call EMS personnel would be required to cover the transport and leave one EMS personnel in town for another call for service. The exceptions to this transport requirement would be if the crew is not qualified (beyond their scope of practice), or they are on another call.

