

MT. HEALTHY WORK SESSION
January 28, 2020

Meeting 7:00pm – 8:45pm

Discussing the next steps for the Fire Department after the Joint Fire District failed.

Two options are now on the table:

Option 1: Contract EMS/Fire out to Springfield Township



Springfield Township Elected Officials
Mark Berning, Trustee
Kristie Dukas Davis, Trustee
Joseph Honerlaw, Trustee
Dan Berning, Fiscal Officer

ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT
www.springfieldtwp.org
513 522 1410

January 28, 2020

Bill Kocher, City Manager
City of Mt. Healthy
7700 Perry Street
Cincinnati, OH 45231

Re: Contract Proposal – Fire /EMS Service

Mr. Kocher,

At your request, I am providing this information as a tentative proposal for Springfield Township to provide Fire/EMS services to the City of Mt. Healthy. Additional information will need to be considered when making a more formal and detailed proposal, but for your immediate purposes we offer the following:

Based on the City's 2018 and 2019 run statistics, we believe the City should be serviced by two paramedic staffed ambulances. This would require six personnel to be on station 24 hours a day / 365 days per year. Due to economies of scale, Springfield Township could augment this minimum staffing with three current Township personnel. However, to accomplish the above referenced staffing levels, the Township would be required to fill an additional three shifts per day, which amounts to 26,280 hours.

The proposed annual cost to provide coverage to the City for both Fire and EMS responses, including fire inspections, public education/fire prevention, and hydrant maintenance: \$1,500,000

*The Township would be responsible for all EMS billing and would retain all billing revenue.

This cost covers the following:

- 26,280 hours staffed with paramedic personnel
- Operational costs for equipment, training, and supplies
- Supervisory and administrative related expenses
- Township Fire/EMS Division Attributes – ISO 2 Rating, LUCAS Automatic CPR Devices, 2018 Ohio Fire Dept. of the Year – Ohio Dept. of Public Safety, Academy of Medicine Accreditation, Partnership with and home of the UC Mobile Stroke Unit.

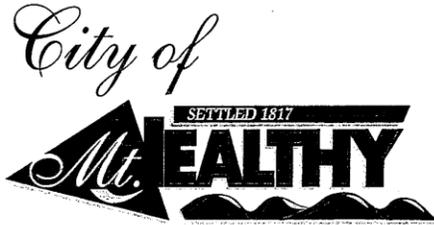
If the City would prefer personnel to operate out of the City's current fire station, additional agreements would need to be entered into regarding maintenance and improvements to said station. Additionally, any agreement would necessitate built-in annual increases to cover inflation and personnel cost adjustments.

If you should have any questions regarding the above information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully,

Christopher D. Gilbert
Township Administrator

2nd Option: Keep the EMS/Fire in house



7700 Perry Street Mt. Healthy, Ohio 45231

The proposal for the City of Mt. Healthy to keep the Fire and EMS service in house is based on the following criteria:

- The City 24/7/365 would have 2 staffed ambulances.
- This would be accomplished by staffing 5 employees for 24 hour shift (this does not include a Fire Chief – the chief would be in addition to the 5 employees).
- This would be done with full-time and part-time employees.

The City of Mt. Healthy currently funds its Fire and EMS services at \$750,000 and it is estimated that the new proposal will need to be funded somewhere between \$1.5 and \$1.7 million dollars to cover the current run volume as well as provide the same level of service to maintain a equitable mutual aid agreement.

There is NO PLAN of building additional fire stations, however with any type of service, capital expenditures are required for equipment and materials.

The City plans to apply for any and all grants available to defer local cost and extend local funding needs as long possible.

The City can no longer rely on other communities to come in and cover runs – this year alone, the City received mutual aid into our community 100 times more than what we provided to others.

I am very confident that the City Council and administration will put forth a plan that will address these issues and move the City into a position to address the EMS concerns.

Thanks,

Bill Kocher

City Manager, City of Mt. Healthy

"A city with a historic past working toward the future."

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Benefits of staffing levels of 5 and moving to Paramedic EMS level

Community:

- Tax money is going for the best Fire and EMS services possible
- Higher quality of pre hospital care
- More efficient Fire and EMS services
- Better response times from not relying and waiting on mutual aid departments on EMS calls
- Meeting the needs of the community now and as it grows in the future
- Better community involvement with Public relations

Fire Department:

- Being able to manage most EMS runs in our City, not relying on other mutual aid departments
- Getting both Life Squads out on calls
- Being able to bill at higher billing rates due to higher level of care rendered
- Getting an Engine and Squad out on Auto Accidents and other details as needed
- Extra manpower makes our department more efficient and safer on all EMS and Fire runs
- Safer fire ground operations on scene, 2 in 2 out. Not waiting for mutual aid departments to arrive to make entry into the building
- Day to Day operations can be taken care of: Building pre-planes, fire Inspections, better community PR, and car seat installations.
- Not putting so many demands on the part time personnel with administration duties and day to day operations
- Having full time staffing is somewhat a guarantee of having personnel to staff the station and make runs
- With this model and proper pay and incentives we should be able to retain personnel longer and may not have such a high turnover rate.
- If we do have an opening or are short staffed, it's more than likely we would have 4 and be able to get both squads out and still be more efficient and safer on fire scenes than we are now.
- When we provide mutual aid to other departments, we may still have 2-3 personnel back in our district to make EMS or Fire details in our City

City:

- They are providing the best Fire and EMS services and meeting the needs of the community
- Not having such a risk from not being able to provide adequate Fire and EMS services as needed in the community
- May help in the ISO ratings?
- Help with new business and residents who may want to move into the City, knowing they have great EMS and Fire services
- Not being a burden to the neighboring City's or Townships by relying on them so much for EMS services

Our goal is to do better at educating the residents about what is happening with the EMS/Fire department. There was not enough education put out there for the joint fire district.

Two options are very close in cost. A Levy is needed either way. Right now, there is a 5mil Levy, which is a permanent. Any Levy that will be passed with be an addition to the 5mil Levy.

There were 16 residents that voiced an opinion. 15 out of 16 would like to keep the EMS/Fire in house.

Try to keep the Levy on a November election.

Residents appreciate the communication.

Testimonials would be great to have out on social media.

Channel 12 news was videotaping the meeting

If Levy would be passed in November 2020 this would go in effect January 1, 2021

Work session after the February 4th council meeting.

We will schedule another public forum meeting in late March or early April

“Thanks” to the residents that came out this evening to be part of the discussion.

“Thanks” to all neighboring Fire Districts for their services.