

March 24, 2016



Ambulance Service District Commissioners
Teton County Ambulance Service District
150 Courthouse Drive - Room 109
Driggs, Idaho 83422

RE: Amendment to Fire District "Proposal for Emergency Medical Services"

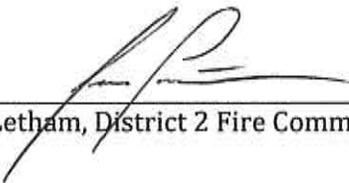
Dear Ambulance Service District (Ambulance District) Commissioners:

Per our letter communication on March 11, 2016, please find attached the amendment to Teton County Fire Protection District's (Fire District) "Proposal for Emergency Medical Services," dated January 25, 2016. In addition to Options A and B presented in the proposal, this amendment details an option we devised as a compromise between the Fire District, Ambulance District and Teton Valley Health Care (TVHC).

We appreciate the opportunity to present this amendment, which we call Option C, to you during the Ambulance District meeting on March 28, 2016.

Thank you for your consideration; we look forward to seeing you on Monday.

Sincerely,



Jason Letham, District 2 Fire Commissioner, Chairman



Scott Golden, District 1 Fire Commissioner



Kent Wagener, District 3 Fire Commissioner



Bret Campbell, Fire Chief

Option C

Option C is a plan of compromise that allows for the current participating entities to remain involved and contribute to the provision of ambulance services in Teton Valley. A division of the ambulance service responsibilities – **Inter-facility Patient Transfers** and **Emergency Medical Services** – will allow each entity to operate in and focus on its most appropriate function. Under Option C, the Fire District will operate three ambulances and TVHC will operate one ambulance. Both the Fire District and TVHC will agree to assist the other when appropriate. And, the Ambulance District will be dissolved, which will eliminate over \$500,000 in collected property tax.

Roles by Entity

The re-focusing of organizational responsibilities – TVHC focusing on healthcare, the Fire District focusing on emergency response – allows the entities to do what they do best while maximizing efficiencies. Proof of this model’s success (in Rexburg) between Madison Fire Department and Madison Memorial Hospital is described in Chief Child’s letter in Appendix C of our proposal.

OPTION C—AT A GLANCE

- TVHC operates Transfer Ambulance (1)
- Fire District operates EMS Ambulances (3)
- Ambulance District provides ambulances prior to dissolving on September 30, 2016

“When the venture was thought of, the greatest worry was taking EMS away from the hospital. This worry was quickly put aside as the hospital realized they could focus on hospital management and patient care rather than the managing of an ambulance district. The EMT’s/Paramedics soon realized they were being better trained because they were not worrying about hospital based patient care—they could focus their learning on scene based care which is where they were needed.” – Chief of Services, Corey R. Child, Madison Fire Department

TVHC

As a health care facility, TVHC will operate one ambulance for the provision of **Inter-Facility Patient Transfers** and community health outreach services. TVHC is best positioned to deliver these non-emergent, hospital-based services by operating a designated “Transfer Ambulance.” This role allows TVHC the opportunity to continue the direct management of these services. Additionally, patient transfer ambulance revenue will assist TVHC financially as they will no longer receive public tax dollars from the Ambulance District.

The Transfer Ambulance staffing model will be developed and managed by TVHC. It is our opinion that TVHC can preserve most of its current full-time positions.

Fire District

As a professional all-hazard emergency response agency, the Fire District will provide three ambulances for the provision of **Emergency Medical Services**. The Fire District is best positioned to deliver these emergency, pre-hospital services by operating within a unified emergency response delivery system. This role (operating EMS from the Driggs and Victor Fire Stations) allows the Fire District the opportunity to systematically manage, coordinate, and direct an efficient and organized system of emergency response services.

Additionally, under Option C, the current Fire District staffing levels are able to meet these service requirements. **No new positions are needed.** EMS revenue, service contracts, and grants—coupled with the Fire District’s current operating budget—will fund the operation of 911 Emergency

Medical Services. The ability to utilize current **Fire District resources in this capacity is a significant accomplishment for Teton County.**

Ambulance District

The Ambulance District will transition to a September 30, 2016 termination date. A memorandum of understanding between all entities involved will acknowledge the Ambulance District's plan of transition. A replacement of ambulances will be accomplished utilizing the close-out of Ambulance District funds.

Proposed Governance

The Ambulance District was created as a means to provide ambulance service. Option C provides permanent transfer of that obligation and relieves the public of \$500,000 in annual Ambulance District tax burden.

Ambulance Service District FY 2016 Assessed Property Tax Value - \$539,230.00
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With TVHC and the Fire District both doing their parts, an Ambulance District is not necessary. Upon selection of Option C, discussions between the Fire District, TVHC and the Ambulance District will facilitate a smooth transition process and separation of services prior to the September termination date.

Option C Financial Analysis

The financial burden is disbursed and reallocated in this option largely upon the Fire District and to a lesser degree upon TVHC for "transfers." TVHC and the Fire District will provide these services, which are inherent to their operations, within their own budgets.

The Fire District will incur new/additional EMS operating expenses of \$235,000, which will be offset by the projected patient revenue and the annual Wyoming service contract fee.