

Richland County Joint Ambulance Committee:
Strategic Planning for EMS Subcommittee
June 18, 2024
Minutes

Present: Brian McGraw, Don Stanke, Glen Niemeyer, Mary Rognholt.

Not Present: Jerome Durst.

1. Meeting was called to order at 15:11.
2. Notification of the meeting had been made and the agenda was posted.
3. Committee attendance was as noted above, with a quorum.
4. A motion was made by Stanke to approve the agenda. It was seconded by Niemeyer. The agenda was approved.
5. A motion was made by Stanke to approve the previous Subcommittee meeting minutes as presented. Motion seconded by Rognholt. The motion carried.
6. There were six roof proposals received by the deadline. These were received by Schwickerts, Custofoam, Molina Dynasty, Arrow, Nieman Central WI Roofing, and Long Life Roofing. Listed rates ranged from \$83,650 to \$229,300. The proposals were rated based upon meeting the listed needs in the RFP. After discussion, the preferred proposal was Nieman Central due to it meeting the listed project requirements and the price being within budget. Director Jessen will reach out to Nieman Central for any follow-up questions prior to the Joint Ambulance Committee meeting on June 25.
7. Director Jessen stated there were staffing concerns which a retention bonus may assist in repairing. While the wage study is being completed this year, it will not begin being implemented until 2025 and will require three years to fully implement. In discussions with staff, Director Jessen stated it was relayed staff love the culture of the service however several stated plans to leave if wages are not improved. The County Administrator informed Director Jessen retention bonuses are difficult to provide. He is looking at alternative options to secure staff retention such as through moving staff to Protective Status per the Wisconsin Retirement System, however this would primarily impact full-time staff.
8. The current staffing structure and proposed changes were presented by Director Jessen for feedback and discussion. The proposed changes included renaming the Director to Emergency Services Chief and splitting the role from the Emergency Management Director, while creating three new positions (Emergency Management Coordinator, Battalion Chief of Operations, and Battalion Chief of Administration). The Emergency Services Chief and two Battalion Chiefs would work rotating schedules of 48 hours on and 96 hours off and would be required to obtain both a paramedic license and their basic Emergency Management certification. Director Jessen predicted the Service may lose money due to the upgrade initially, however anticipated it being revenue positive and sustainable within three years. An additional 60% of the ES Chief and 100% of both Battalion Chiefs would be paid from Fund 51. He would try to have calculations available at the Joint Ambulance Committee meeting. There was discussion regarding the funding of the position, including the potential for a County-wide levy, which was recognized as not feasible at this time.
9. Stanke made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Rognholt. The meeting was adjourned at 17:25.