

AGENDA # J.1
Scio Township Board of Trustees
Request to purchase a 2021 Life Line Ambulance to use as a non-transporting rescue vehicle for the Fire Department.

FOR MEETING DATE OF: February 8, 2022

PREPARED ON: 2/4/2022

PREPARED BY: Andy Houde

SUBMITTED BY: Fire

ITEM TYPE: Possible Action

BACKGROUND:

In summer of 2021, the Board of Trustees authorized the Fire Department to replace our rescue vehicle with a heavy-duty pickup. Due to global supply chain issues, we have been unable to complete this vehicle replacement. Recent staffing issues with our ambulance provider have caused local Fire Chiefs to begin to make changes in apparatus to accommodate “emergency” conditions when the EMS provider may have extended delays or be unavailable for various reasons. There are several that are contemplating or purchasing ambulances to operate as rescues, at the non-transport level of licensure, providing communities a safety net for when availability issues with the transport ambulances occur.

Scio Township has experienced some of the same delays and we also began investigating the option to purchase an ambulance to operate as a rescue. There are advantages and disadvantages to doing this. If Scio were to purchase an ambulance as a rescue vehicle, the most significant advantage we would have is the ability to effectively get a critical patient to a hospital when our ambulance provider is delayed or unavailable. Our current medical authority protocols allow for us to get a patient to the hospital by any means necessary if the ambulance provider is delayed by 10 minutes or more.

Other advantages include the ability to have a conditioned space for both firefighters and citizens on an emergency scene to take shelter from either the heat or cold, ability to carry additional equipment such as our back-up extrication tool for car accidents (which is on our reserve engine), providing redundancy should we have an equipment failure on a scene, have a climate-controlled space to manage large scale incidents when they occur in Scio, and place to rehab on long incident scenes.

The main disadvantage of a purchase such as this is that it would cost significantly more than replacing our rescue vehicle with a pickup or SUV like we currently operate. Maintenance costs would be similar for either vehicle.

As we investigated this possibility, we were made aware of a demo unit that one of our vendors has available. They have been showing this to various other departments who need an ambulance. Current pricing on the demo model is \$218,472. If this unit were to be sold to someone else and we later decided to order one, we could expect delivery of an identical unit in approximately 1 year at a cost of around to \$240,000. Other departments have purchased similar vehicles for significantly more (see attached order from Harrison Township FD from June 2021-unit 2 without stretcher).

R&R is the sole source provider for Life Line Ambulance in Michigan. Life Line is a quality manufacturer and the unit available is a basic, no frills unit. Additional upfitting needed would include lettering, instillation of a radio, and purchase and instillation of a stretcher, totaling approximately \$260,000.

Funding of this purchase would not need to come from fire department budget (206), research indicated that American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds could be used for this purchase as the vehicle will be directly used to respond to medical emergencies, including COVID-19 calls, within the community. Many communities in the state are using ARPA funds to purchase these vehicles.

FISCAL IMPACT: \$260,000 from Federal American Rescue Plan Act funds. This would be the Township's first appropriation of these ARPA funds. Anticipating \$1.8 million total, we have received over \$937,000 already.

RECOMMENDATION: The Fire Chief recommends approval. Clerk recommends approval.

MODEL MOTION: To authorize the Fire Chief to waive the bidding process and purchase a 2022 Life Line Ambulance for use as a non-transporting rescue vehicle from R&R Fire Truck Repair, Inc., the sole source provider for Life Line Ambulance in Michigan, for a cost of \$218,472, and authorize additional costs to upfit not to exceed a total of \$260,000, following the Township's purchasing policy, to be paid for through Township American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) federal funds in Fund 528.

ATTACHMENTS:

[R&R Demo 505822SD1 Proposal 12722.pdf](#)

[Proposal 6-23-21 Harrison Twp LLEV.jpg](#)

[Right - Front View 5058.jpg](#)

[Front View 5058.jpg](#)

[Fund285RevExpReport.pdf](#)

QUESTION: Shall this Motion be APPROVED?