

# CITY OF DRY RIDGE

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Honorable Judge Steve Wood &  
Fiscal Court Magistrates

100 N. Main Street  
Williamstown, Ky 41097

EMS Cost Sharing Proposal Response

November 13, 2017

Judge and Magistrates,

Thank you for the opportunity to present the proposed EMS cost sharing plan to you. Your hospitality, questions and input were much appreciated.

As expressed at the presentation, after seventeen years the City of Dry Ridge can no longer bear the burden of providing ambulance service to the entire county. While such was never the intent of the City, the loss of the previous for profit service; the limited coverage currently provided by AMR; and, the ever increasing call volume forced Dry Ridge to expand its service. As a result, our budget for emergency services quickly became the largest single line item in the budget and was a direct cause of the City having to institute and then increase the payroll tax.

As depicted by the various graphs a very small portion of Grant County, both in population and area, is underwriting the service countywide. In simple terms, Dry Ridge represents approximately 9% of the population and less than 3% of land area. To be blunt, the continued failure by the City's elected officials to rectify this disparity would be an affront to the citizens they serve and a dereliction of duty they have sworn to uphold.

Despite the foregoing, please note that this decision was not reached easily. Financial constraints aside, the City has both the desire and physical assets to continue to provide this service to its neighbors. The City has also been fearful that reluctance to increase budgets may lead some cities and the County at large to reject the cost sharing proposal. In fact, I and the Council struggled greatly with the knowledge that harm will certainly come to fellow Grant Countians in the event one or more of the local municipalities and/or the fiscal court decides to opt out. It was that fear, in part, which led to the decision to implement a three year phase in period and to provide credits to those cities which agreed to provide facilities to house ambulances and to provide other support services.

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Ultimately, responsibility for the harm and potential loss of life suffered by the citizens of this county will not be upon the one body which has attempted to prevent such tragedies for nearly two decades. Rather, the entities and elected officials who choose not to provide the service will be accountable.

In that vein, should the magistrates decided not to partner with Dry Ridge, I strongly encourage you to explore other alternatives to ensure emergency medical services are available to your constituents. It is no overstatement to say that this matter is one of life and death.

Finally, though no one enjoys being placed in the position of either issuing or receiving an ultimatum, it would be somewhat disingenuous to pretend otherwise in this case. In preparation for drafting the inter-local agreement and getting that document to all sharing partners, the City of Dry Ridge must have the Fiscal Court's decision no later than the close of business on Thursday December 7, 2017. Should the legislative body decline to participate or if no response is forthcoming, then the City will cease all EMS service to the affected areas as of January 1, 2018.

It remains our steadfast hope the county and cities will choose to work with us and that the loss of service can be avoided. In the interim, if you have any additional questions or concerns, please contact my office.

Best regards,

James Wells, Mayor  
City of Dry Ridge