

STEPHEN P. WOOD
Judge/Executive

JACQALYNN RILEY
Magistrate- District 1

SHAWNA COLDIRON
Magistrate- District 2

BOBBY NEWMAN
Magistrate – District 3

JOE TAYLOR
County Attorney



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November 20th, 2017

PATRICIA CONRAD
Deputy Judge & Fiscal Court Clerk

COLTON SIMPSON
Tax Administrator

PEGGY UPDIKE
County Treasurer

MATTIE GUTMAN
Recreation & Community Outreach Director

LES WHALEN
Emergency Management Director

BRYAN MILES
Solid Waste Coordinator

STEVE TATUM
Road Supervisor

MARSHA CHANEY
Animal Shelter Director

TERRY Conrad
Building Inspector

Mayor Jim Wells
City of Dry Ridge
Dry Ridge, KY

Mayor:

Let me begin by reassuring you that you are correct in saying that no one likes to make or receive an ultimatum. I find it very disheartening that the City of Dry Ridge, who was all too willing to take the county's certificate of need to provide emergency services, is now putting a very high price tag on the service, and demanding an answer in the middle of a fiscal year. One has to wonder whether the city's financial condition has diminished so significantly since July 1 that such threats of termination of service have become necessary, or whether this decision is more closely aligned with reports of receipts collected from the county's payroll tax, and an opportunity for the city to grow its own revenue without having to increase taxes.

Given your ultimatum, I will immediately engage in conversations with private providers as well as other units of government to determine how best to provide this service in a cost effective and efficient manner that seeks to protect the health, safety, and welfare of all the residents in Grant County.

I am confident, given your financial analysis of the situation that you will recall the county did contribute to the cost of the acquisition of the ambulance currently in use in Corinth. That being the case, if you are going to discontinue that service I would respectfully request the title to said vehicle be returned to the county or a check cut from the city to reimburse the citizens of Grant County for the acquisition of that piece of equipment.

Again, I am keenly aware of the need for and I remain a strong supporter of effective and efficient public safety services. I am equally strong in my belief that as it relates to efficiency, we need to explore multiple options rather than to make a rash or hurried decision. In the coming weeks I will pursue an active analysis of opportunities that exist, including but not limited to, securing a Certificate of Need and establishing an ambulance service in partnership with a new provider for the unincorporated areas of the county, which is the primary responsibility of the Fiscal Court. I am also keeping the door open to partner with the other cities that are likewise being confronted with this new ultimatum. Perhaps the best way to manage the long term costs of the service is through direct contracts or even operating our own service as is the practice in a number of other counties.

For the record, I find it disingenuous for the city to lay the need for tax increases in the city at the doorstep of the residents of Grant County when the city chose to invest heavily in the development of an expanded law enforcement operation; the expenditure of tens of thousands of dollars on recreation programs that demonstrate significant losses; and hundreds of thousands on renovations to city facilities. Let me be clear, I am not being critical of the choices you have made, but I am unwilling to have county residents blamed for a burgeoning city budget on your watch.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephen Wood". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "S" and "W".

Steve Wood
Grant County Judge-Executive