



OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

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DATE: November 21, 2019

TO: The Board of County Commissioners

FROM: Brian Bovaird, Director of Emergency Management

FOR: Meeting of November 26, 2019

SUBJECT: Application for Licensure of Summit County Ambulance Service from Summit Fire and EMS Authority

BACKGROUND:

The Board of County Commissioners has designated and delegated the authority to administer the Summit County Emergency Medical Service Rules and Regulations to the Summit County Director of Emergency Management. The Director is authorized to administer and enforce these regulations for the operation and licensing of Ambulance Services in Summit County as the Board deems necessary, to provide for high quality Emergency Medical Services and to ensure compliance with Colorado law, rules, regulations and any resolutions adopted by the Board.

CURRENT SITUATION:

On July 1, 2019 Summit Fire & E.M.S. (SFE) and Summit County Ambulance Service (SCAS) merged operations and consolidated their services into a single organization. The formal financial and legal unification will take place on January 1, 2020. The Board of County Commissioners adopted Resolution No. 2019-77, formally revising the Emergency Medical Service Rules and Regulations as recommended by ESCI, and to reflect operational changes to the system as a whole. As required, new EMS transport licenses are necessary to coincide with overall system changes scheduled for January 1, 2020.

An application for licensure has been submitted by Summit Fire and EMS Authority. Mutual Aid agreements are being negotiated with Red, White and Blue Fire District, Stadium Medical and Flight for Life Colorado to increase transport capacity during the busiest months of the season and help minimize the burden placed on the local EMS response system, as a result of out of county transports. In partnership, both Summit Fire and EMS and Red, White and Blue Fire Districts have apportioned a segment of their respective out-of-county transports to these third party EMS service providers in order to balance the system and provide consistent local services.

In accordance with County Resolution 2019-77, Summit Fire and EMS Authority has applied for an EMS Transport License for 2020. The application has been reviewed and has yielded the following findings as set forth within Section 3.10:

3.10.1 Name, address and telephone number of the owner of the Ambulance Service. – This information was provided.

3.10.2 Name and address and current telephone number of the person who will be in charge of the operation of the Ambulance Service. – This information was provided.

3.10.3 Description of the Ambulance(s), including the make, model, year of manufacture, current Colorado state license number, motor vehicle chassis number, length of time the vehicle has been in service. – All information was provided.

3.10.4 Location and description of the place or places from which the Ambulance Service will operate.

Ambulances are operated from the following locations:

Medic #1 & #1Z – Copper Mountain
Copper Mountain Metro District – Station 1
0477 Copper Road
Copper Mountain, Colorado 80443

Medic #2, #22, & #2Z – Frisco
Summit Fire & EMS – Station 2
301 S. 8th St.
Frisco, Colorado 80443

Medic #8 & #8Z – Dillon
Summit Fire & EMS – Station 8
225 Lake Dillon Drive
Dillon, Colorado 80435

Medic #11 – Keystone
Summit Fire & EMS – Station 11
22393 U.S. Highway 6
Keystone, Colorado 80435

Medic #12 – Summit Cove
Summit Fire & EMS – Station 12
0434 Summit Cove Dr.
Dillon, CO 80435

3.10.5 Name, address and telephone numbers of the Medical Director to the Ambulance Service. – All transport agencies will be under the same medical direction provided by U.S. Acute Care Solutions:

W. Peter Vellman, M.D.
U.S. Acute Care Solutions
St. Anthony Hospital
Medical Director PreHospital Services
11600 West 2nd Place
Lakewood, CO 80228

303-809-5327

Marc Doucette, M.D.
U.S. Acute Care Solutions
St. Anthony Hospital
Medical Director PreHospital Services
11600 West 2nd Place
Lakewood, CO 80228
970-668-3300

3.10.6 Description of the geographic area(s) proposed to be served.

The service area of Summit Fire & EMS includes all areas within the borders of Summit County, Colorado to include: Frisco, Silverthorne, Dillon, Heeney, Copper Mountain, Keystone, Montezuma and all unincorporated areas, excluding the incorporated municipalities of Blue River and Breckenridge. The Authority follows the Automatic Vehicle Location (AVL) protocol recommended by ESCI, and operationalized via the Computer Aided Dispatch System, which ensures that the closest unit will respond to any 911 call, regardless of jurisdiction. Additionally, mutual aid agreements provide for mutual aid service upon request to neighboring jurisdictions. The department also participates in state and national mobilization agreements to provide resources to disasters or other large events if needed as long as sufficient local coverage can also be maintained.

3.10.7 Descriptions of the Patient population(s) proposed to be served.

The Authority provides services to all of the residents and guests within 419 square miles of Summit County, Colorado 24 hours per day, 365 days a year, regardless of their location, nature of their medical emergency, or the patient's ability to pay for services provided.

The department also works cooperatively with the Summit County Rescue Group to provide Search & Rescue Paramedics trained in backcountry medicine to assure patients not accessible by road are provided advanced care until they can be brought to an ambulance. The department also works in conjunction with the Summit County Law Enforcement to train responders in Recue Task Force patient extrication tactics.

3.10.8 Description of the scope of services proposed to be provided by the Applicant including the primary service area for Licensee's operations and their involvement in maintaining countywide response and transport and out-of-county transport coverage.

Summit Fire & EMS provides a full spectrum of Emergency Medical Services including 9-1-1 emergency response, critical care inter-facility ambulance transportation, and medical standby services at local events. These services are provided in a coordinated manner with the vehicles noted in the application. SFE also works jointly with Flight for Life Colorado to provide critical care ground transportation services when needed both locally, and to the surrounding region via existing mutual aid agreements. 9-1-1 EMS response is provided in conjunction with local ski patrols, law enforcement and fire departments.

3.10.9 Description of the Patient fee schedule/basis proposed to be utilized during the term of the proposed Ambulance License. –

Ambulance billing fees are determined based on the full cost of providing service including all direct and indirect costs incurred by the Authority. Fees are approved by the Summit County Board of County Commissioners. The fees were last adjusted in December 2009.

3.10.10 List of all Emergency Medical Service providers who may be called upon to respond to an emergency with the Ambulance Service shall be kept on file by the Licensee. This information was provided.

3.10.11 Proof of insurance as required, below, in Section 4.5 of these Regulations

Verification of insurance coverage is pending the legal transfer of ambulance apparatus from the County prior to January 1, 2020. In the event the legal transfer of ambulance apparatus is not completed prior to January 1, 2020, Summit County Government will continue coverage until such time as the legal transfer of the ambulance apparatus occurs. The Authority will provide verification of insurance coverage to the Board of County Commissioners promptly upon its receipt, whether prior to or after January 1, 2020.

3.10.12 A statement that Protocols adopted by the Ambulance Service in accordance with standards approved by the Ambulance Service's Medical Director are on file at a specific location and available for inspection upon request. – This statement was included in the application.

3.10.13 A current copy of the Ambulance Service's training standards in accordance with the requirements approved by the Ambulance Service's Medical Director.

Authority Training Standards are a collection of Human Resources Guidelines, Departmental Policies and Procedures and internal orientation program for new employees. Training issues are also addressed in the Medical Director's Quality Improvement Program. All of these documents are on file at the administrative offices. Additionally, all Authority EMS Providers are required, at minimum, to be Colorado State Emergency Medical Technician - Basic (EMT-B) certified. New hires to the Authority are required to complete the EMS Field Training and Evaluation Program (FTEP), cooperatively developed by the Summit County EMS Advisory Group (EMSAG) and endorsed by the District's Medical Director. The FTEP training manual is on file and available for inspection at:

<https://sites.google.com/rwbfire.org/hctc/ems-portal>

3.10.14 If the Applicant is a governmental or quasi-governmental entity, a copy of the Applicant's service plan or other legal authority to operate an Ambulance Service. – This requirement was met.

3.10.15 Attestation by the Medical Director of willingness to provide medical oversight and the quality management program contemplated by Part 9, Article 3.5, Title 25, C.R.S., - This requirement was met.

3.10.16 Operational protocols ensuring the Ambulance Service’s participation in a cooperative and consistent Ambulance Service rotation for IFT’s and out-of-county transports between Licensees in the existing EMS System, unless otherwise agreed to by the Board. –

Operational protocols ensuring participation in inter-facility and out-of-county transports between potential licensees in the EMS system can be found at:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/16qriMNex2Y-bTjwch_XS3WU5Z-VKLLB8/view?usp=sharing

3.10.17 A report on progress regarding implementation of procedures designed to achieve the System Improvement Goals identified in the ESCI Operational Analysis of the EMS Delivery System in Summit County dated August 2018.

Goal A-1: Medic Unit Deployment	Met	
Goal A-2: Medical Direction	Met	
Goal A-3: Patient Billing and Collections	Met	<i>SFE Billing and Collection Services</i>
Goal A-4: Establish Medic Unit Response Time Goals	Met	<i>SFE Standards of Cover</i>
Goal A-5: Create an EMS Officer	Met	<i>Deputy Chief of EMS</i>
Goal B-1: Emergency Communications & CAD Data	Partially Met	<i>Need to refine call processing times, call type codes & call type descriptions</i>
Goal B-2: Interagency Partnerships & Committees	Partially Met	<i>EMSAG (protocol & equipment), CQI Steering, IFT Group</i>
Goal B-3: Patient Satisfaction Surveys	Met	<i>Baldrige Group</i>
Goal C-1: Pursue Accreditation & Other Standards	Not Met	<i>CAAS Accreditation considered for 2021</i>
Goal C-2: Upgrade Data Collection & Records Management	Met	<i>Emergency Reporting RMS & SafetyPad ePCR</i>
Goal C-3: Modify Paramedic Staffing	Met	<i>In compliance with Authority minimum staffing Plan</i>
Goal C-4: Promote a Countywide Culture of Trust & Transparency	Ongoing	
Goal C-5: Pursue a Single Countywide Emergency Services Organization	Not Met	

3.10.18 A copy of all proposed mutual aid agreements between Licensee and other entities. –

Mutual Aid agreements are underway, but have not yet been finalized. Chief Jeff Berino from SFE indicated that they would ensure coverage of the community while negotiations are underway and in the event that agreements are not secured.

3.10.19 Such other information as the Director or Board may require in its consideration of the subject application. No additional information was required from the Director of Emergency Management.

According to the Emergency Medical Service Rules and Regulations, Section 3.11, Ambulance Service Licenses – Approval, “ The Board, in consideration of the advice of the Director and the EMS Board, may approve applications for Ambulance Service Licenses upon making a determination that (i) Applicant meets all requirements of law, (ii) approval is necessary and in the best interest of the public health, welfare and safety, (iii) Applicant meets all requirements of Section 4 and (iv) approval of the subject application would not adversely affect the then-existing EMS System. In making a determination that approval of the subject application for an Ambulance Service License would not adversely affect the then existing EMS System, the Board shall consider the following:

- 3.11.1** Whether Applicant’s staff, equipment and vehicles demonstrates compliance, and/or plans for compliance, with applicable provisions of these Regulations, the current E.M.S. Act and the rules pertaining to provision of Emergency Medical Services promulgated by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, all as amended, and;
- 3.11.2** Probable effect of approval on the provision of quality coordinated patient care countywide, and;
- 3.11.3** Probable economic impact of approval on components of the existing EMS System, and;
- 3.11.4** Whether Applicant’s plans for integration of services within the existing EMS System are adequate.

Upon review of the submitted application from Summit Fire and EMS Authority, the Director of Emergency Management recommends that the Board of County Commissioners finds:

The applicant met all of the requirements of the law. Approval of the application is necessary and in the best interest of the public health, welfare and safety. The application meets all of the requirements of Section 4. And, approval of the application would not adversely affect the existing EMS System as evidenced by:

The applicant’s staff, equipment and vehicles demonstrate compliance, and/or plans for compliance, with applicable provisions of the EMS Regulations, the current E.M.S. Act and the rules pertaining to provision of Emergency Medical Services promulgated by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, all as amended.

Approval of the license application will result in consistent or improved patient care and service delivery, county wide, due to increased capacity, greater coordination between all transport agencies and St. Anthony Summit Medical Center, uniform medical direction across all transport agencies and expressed intent of each agency to work and train collaboratively for a superior county wide system.

The economic impact of approval of the licenses, while not certain, has been weighed and considered by Summit Fire and EMS Authority. Each Transport Agency has agreed to forego some potential revenue in order to increase capacity and improve response for residents and visitors in Summit County. According to historical data and the projections made by E.S.C.I. during an extensive evaluation, it is unlikely that the local EMS system will ever operate in the black without the support of

additional tax payer dollars. Despite this, each agency has expressed a commitment to responsible stewardship of all public and private funding, with an eye toward efficiencies without compromising quality.

The applicant's plan for integration of services within the EMS system is more than adequate, and will ideally lead to even greater cooperation and coordination of services in Summit County.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

The EMS Board is meeting on Friday, November 22, 2019 to vote on recommendations for the license applications for Red, White and Blue Fire District and Summit Fire and EMS. They will vote electronically on the Flight For Life Colorado application by Monday, November 25th, 2019.

The Director respectfully recommends that the attached request for EMS transport license be approved by the BOCC.

Attachments:

- Ambulance Service License Application 2020
- 2020 EMS Inspection Certificates
- 2020 Ambulance Operating Permits (for signature)