



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 Flight For Life Colorado

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 Flight For Life Colorado. Mutual Aid agreements are being negotiated with Red, White and Blue Fire District, Summit Fire and EMS Authority and Stadium Medical 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 the third party EMS service providers in order to balance the system and provide consistent local services.

In accordance with County Resolution 2019-77, Flight For Life Colorado 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. – Flight For Life Colorado currently operates a single ambulance in Summit County and it is only utilized in situations when the helicopter cannot fly. It meets or exceeds all state and federal requirements for ambulance design and construction and is inspected on a yearly basis in accordance with State EMS Regulations. Ambulance specifics are listed below.

Designator: CCT9 Terra 2
Year/make: 2017 Ford
Model: Type 1 Lifeline 4x4
Vin#: 1FDUF4HT4HDA08091
License Plate: 113ZZV
Color Scheme: Orange with reflective yellow and red
Insignia: Flight For Life Colorado
Years in Service: 2

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

The ambulance operates from the garage attached to the hanger at the hospital in Frisco. The hanger address is:

320 Peak One Drive
Frisco, CO 80443

3.10.5 Name, address and telephone numbers of the Medical Director to the Ambulance Service. –

Brian Shields, MD
Flight For Life North State Medical Director
St Anthony Hospital
11600 W. 2nd Pl
Lakewood, CO 80228
CO License # 0034182
720-321-3911

Mike Brunko, MD
Flight For Life State Wide Medical Director
St Anthony Hospital
11600W. 2nd Pl

Lakewood, CO 80228
CO License # 20609
720-321-3911

3.10.6 Description of the geographic area(s) proposed to be served. The primary service area for the Flight For Life Critical Care Ambulance based in Frisco includes: Summit, Eagle, Lake and Grand counties.

3.10.7 Descriptions of the Patient population(s) proposed to be served. The Flight For Life Critical Care Ambulance provides service when the helicopter is unable to accomplish the mission at hand. An EMT is supplied from the Summit Fire & EMS and in conjunction with the on-duty flight crew the ambulance is staffed on a call to call basis. In the future, should the need arise there will be a plan to staff an ALS/BLS ambulance. The patient population is pediatric and adult, with critical injuries and/or illnesses. Flight For Life transports patients without regard for their ability to pay.

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. Flight For Life's Critical Care Ambulances are primarily designated to provide transfer services from one healthcare facility to another. These include Ski Area Clinics, other emergency clinics and hospitals within the service area.

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

Terra 2 ground base rate A: \$3,676
Terra 2 ground base rate B: \$4,159
Per loaded mile charge: \$40.30

BLS base rate: \$1,321
Per loaded mile charge: \$40.30
ALS base rate: \$1,900
Per loaded mile charge: \$40.30

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 This information was provided.

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. Flight For Life Colorado has a rigorous new hire training program and an extensive continuing education program. All documentation is maintained in the main office at St Anthony Hospital in Lakewood and the company uses an online program called Ninth Brain to collect, maintain and manage all training and education records.

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. – N/A

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. N/A Flight For Life Colorado is used periodically and not as part of the regular and consistent rotation of IFT's

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.* N/A

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. Flight For Life Colorado will continue to operate as part of the system in the way they have consistently done, running IFT's with Terra Two if the helicopter is grounded.

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 Flight For Life Colorado, 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 all agencies. 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)