



Bladensburg Volunteer Fire Department and Rescue Squad, Inc.

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P.O. Box 348 * 4213 Edmonston Road * Bladensburg, Maryland 20710
100 % VOLUNTEER

September 26, 2025

To: Michelle Bailey-Hedgepeth

From: Dave Sumner, Fire Chief

Re: Ambulance Stipend

I am writing to respectfully request financial assistance from the Town of Bladensburg to establish an Ambulance Shift Stipend Program for the Bladensburg Volunteer Fire Department and Rescue Squad inc. This program will provide financial assistance to members who are either working part-time or not currently working, to ensure that, at a minimum, the ambulance is staffed for emergency response and able to provide vital assistance to the Bladensburg community.

The City of Greenbelt has successfully implemented a similar stipend program for the Greenbelt Volunteer Fire Department and the Berwyn Heights Volunteer Fire Department. Their program has greatly assisted in maintaining consistent staffing for their ambulance services, and we believe that by adopting a similar approach, we can further improve our ability to respond to emergencies while supporting our volunteer members.

Program Overview:

Our Ambulance Shift Stipend Program will offer a stipend to two volunteers—one aide and one driver—each weekday (Monday through Friday) for shifts running from 0700 to 1500 hours. The stipend will ensure that volunteers are compensated for their time and effort in providing these essential services to our community.

Stipend Details and Cost Breakdown:

The stipend will be provided to two volunteers per day, based on the following rates:

- **Weekly Cost:**
 - At \$15/hr: \$1,200 per week
 - At \$20/hr: \$1,600 per week
- **Monthly Cost (4 weeks):**
 - At \$15/hr: \$4,800 per month
 - At \$20/hr: \$6,400 per month
- **Yearly Cost (52 weeks):**
 - At \$15/hr: \$62,400 per year
 - At \$20/hr: \$83,200 per year

Stipends will be distributed twice a month (on the 1st and 15th) via check or Zelle.

Program Benefits:

The proposed stipend program offers several key advantages to the department and the community:

1. **Recognizing Volunteers' Commitment:** The stipend will acknowledge the hard work and dedication of our volunteers who commit significant time to providing essential ambulance services, ensuring they are properly supported in their role.
2. **Consistent Staffing:** Offering this stipend will help us maintain reliable staffing for ambulance shifts, reducing the risk of under-staffed shifts and ensuring the continued readiness of our emergency response teams.
3. **Proven Success:** The Greenbelt and Berwyn Heights departments have seen measurable success with their stipend programs, demonstrating the program's effectiveness in improving volunteer engagement and ensuring reliable service.
4. **Enhanced Volunteer Retention:** By offering financial support, we will be better positioned to retain dedicated volunteers who may otherwise struggle to balance their service with personal and financial obligations.

Transparency and Accountability:

The department is committed to maintaining full transparency with the Town of Bladensburg regarding this stipend program. To ensure clear oversight and accountability, we will:

- Provide timesheet data for each shift worked by stipend-eligible volunteers.
- Submit a monthly spreadsheet detailing the stipends paid to each volunteer, including the total amount for the month and the specific hours worked.

Additionally, 1099 forms will be issued to volunteers at the end of the year as required for tax purposes. Volunteers will be responsible for properly reporting their stipends to the IRS, and the department will ensure that these forms are distributed in compliance with tax laws.

In closing, I respectfully ask for the Town's support in providing the funding necessary to implement this program. The Ambulance Shift Stipend Program will play a vital role in sustaining the quality of service provided by our volunteer fire department and ensuring the safety and well-being of the Bladensburg community.

I would be happy to discuss this proposal in more detail and answer any questions you may have. Thank you for your time and consideration.