

Agenda Item: Future of Ambulance Service in the Village of Kronenwetter

Meeting Date: March 4, 2024

Referring Body: Community Life, Infrastructure and Public Property Committee (CLIPP)

Committee Chair: Chris Eiden

Staff Contact: Theresa O'Brien, Fire Chief

Report Prepared by: Theresa O'Brien, Fire Chief/Alexa Kufalk, EMS Coordinator

Objective: Review Ambulance service in the Village of Kronenwetter

History/Background:

Historically the Village has contracted with outside sources for ambulance service in Kronenwetter. Most currently that contract resides with Riverside Fire District and expires 12/31/2025 at 11:59 PM. A 3 year contract was approved and signed on 8/8/2022. Initial contract was for an annual base fee of \$5.92 per capita with a 2% increase per calendar year after 2023. In addition, the contract included a processing fee of \$50.00 per patient care report and entitlement for Riverside Fire District to all revenues from patient billing. Per their budget, revenues for Riverside Fire District from ambulance calls within Kronenwetter for year 2022 equaled \$214,608.54 and estimated revenue for 2023 equaling \$170,000 and 2024 budgeted amount of \$192,000, this is in addition to the contract fee that the Village of Kronenwetter pays, of 2022 = \$69,931, 2023 estimated \$71,200 and 2024 budgeted \$72,000. Fee's charged per patient are set by Riverside Fire District – see attached patient level fees at time of contract and current patient level fees approved in 2023.

In addition to the outside sourcing of the ambulance service Kronenwetter Fire Department provides Emergency Medical Responders (EMR) which respond upon being dispatched directly to the patient's home/location with equipment necessary to start initial patient care which includes but not limited to an AED and advanced airway equipment. In late 2022 an on call program was created for EMR's which allows for at minimum 1 EMR available to respond to all medical emergency calls from Friday 6:00 PM to Sundays 6:00 PM (48 hours) utilizing the EMS vehicle with contains additional emergency equipment including an advance CPR device (LUCAS). Current staffing of EMR's is 2 RNs, 1 paramedic, 1 AEMT, 3 EMT Basic (1 working on paramedic level) and 1 EMR and 1 currently in process of acquiring EMT Basic license. Historically to be an EMR on Kronenwetter Fire members would need to live in or close vicinity of the Village to allow for rapid response.

Requests for emergency medical services within the village have steadily increased – 2022 had 410 and 2023 had 408 responses. As the village continues to grow residentially and with the anticipation of business growth those numbers will continue to rise.

Proposal: Begin the process of assessment, planning and the development of an implementation plan for the creation of an ambulance service within Kronenwetter Fire Department and work with other municipalities positioned to take on similar implementation plans due to similar growth and the need for operational efficiencies. The objective will be to provide service to all residents/non-residents with a need for medical assistance within the Village of Kronenwetter with a target start date of 1/1/2026. By creating an ambulance service operated under the Village of Kronenwetter Fire Department it would

allow us to offer an essential service, as identified by the State of Wisconsin, to our residents and allow for revenue source to support that service, including greater shared revenue percentage from the State of Wisconsin.

Recommended Action: Authorize and direct the Fire Chief and EMS Coordinator to begin the planning process, gather information regarding personnel, equipment, insurance and any other areas deemed necessary for an ambulance service. Conclude the planning process by qualifying the concept feasibility, cost benefit analysis, financial plan and overall benefits of the proposed operation. Once presented and approved by CLIPP committee, the objective will be presentation to the Village Board for approval of the implementation of ambulance services.

Financial: TBD – A projection of the annual operating costs and capital expenses would be included in the complete informational implementation plan. The primary capital costs required for an ambulance service are the ambulances. Initial estimate of a new ambulance with all equipment necessary is attached most of these have a 10-year cycle. Annual operating costs will be offset by the revenue generated from the ambulance service.

Attachments: Current 3 year signed contract for service with Riverside Fire District, Riverside Fire district fee schedules (2022 and current 2024), Riverside 2024 budget snippet showing revenue from Kronenwetter, Estimated costs for new ambulance and initial necessary equipment/supplies.