

CITY OF RICHLAND CENTER

AGENDA ITEM DATA SHEET

Agenda Item: 2026 Richland County EMS Contract

Meeting Date: Finance and Council on 12/2/2025

Requested by: Ashley Oliphant, City Administrator

Background: On 11/10/2025, the Council authorized the City Administrator to negotiate an EMS contract addressing the formation of a joint EMS district and the disposition of assets. The negotiated contract was to be presented to the Council for consideration at a future meeting.

Since this meeting, Attorney Hagen has been in communication with the County's attorney negotiating a revised contract. The County Attorney has provided feedback on the recommended changes. Negotiations have narrowed down to key issues:

1. **Effective Date & Joint District:** The City has requested the contract be backdated to allow for a levy limit adjustment affecting the 2026 budget. The County has reservations about backdating to 2025 but is willing to include the necessary language required by the Department of Revenue (DOR) to be considered a joint district thus allowing the City to utilize the levy adjustment. Awaiting more clarification from DOR before this matter can be finalized.
2. **Asset Commitment:** The County has expressed a willingness to include language that commits the assets to EMS services within the County beyond 2026, which fulfills the City's objective.
3. **Call Run Data:** An analysis of the 2021-2024 call run data was conducted to determine the Total Validated Calls average (used to determine municipal contributions). After adjusting for insufficient data, incorrect attributions to municipalities, county facilities, and calls with "N/A" Incident Numbers, a large discrepancy was identified. Clarification from the County was requested.

Summary of 2021-2024 Call Run Data					
	2021	2022	2023	2024	4 YR Avg
Total Calls	685	695	708	728	704
Total Validated Calls	674	688	588	725	668.75

Recommendation: Authorize the City Administrator to execute the final contract with the County regarding EMS services prior to January 1, 2026, subject to the following conditions being satisfied in the final version:

- Inclusion of provisions addressing joint district formation ensuring future levy adjustment eligibility.
- Commitment of EMS assets to County-wide service beyond the contract term.
- Utilization of agreed upon, accurate four-year call average in the financial calculations.

Financial Impact: The total 2026 using a four-year call average is expected to be \$150,468.75 to \$158,400.00.

Funding Source: 2026 Budget – Ambulance/Contracted Services – Acct # 10-52600-560

Requested Action:

FINANCE: Motion to recommend to the Common Council the authorization of the City Administrator to execute the final contract with Richland County regarding Emergency Medical Services (EMS).

COUNCIL: Motion to authorize the City Administrator to execute the final contract with Richland County for Emergency Medical Services (EMS) prior to January 1, 2026. This authorization is contingent upon the final contract incorporating the following conditions: the inclusion of provisions addressing joint district formation to ensure the City's future levy adjustment eligibility; a clear commitment of all relevant EMS assets to continuous service beyond the current contract term; and the utilization of the agreed-upon, accurate four-year call average in the final financial calculations and terms of the agreement

Attachment(s): None