Kewanee Fire Department
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Information and Concept for EMS coverage to Neponset Fire Protection District.

Background: Neponset is a village North East of Kewanee on route 34 with a population of approximately 473 plus rural area of up to an additional 400. According to Neponset Fire Protection District average annual EMS calls to the district are 28. Kewanee Fire Department has traditionally been called on to respond to 5-10 calls within the district annually. Buda ambulance, is a volunteer EMT-B level service, and is currently responsible for the primary response with Kewanee Fire Dept being paged out 2nd if Buda needs assistance or is unable to respond. Stark County Ambulance covers calls south of the Bureau/Stark county line. The area of the fire protection district that is being discussed is the area north of the county line adjacent to area already covered by Kewanee fire Department. This area is approximately 65-70% of the district. The entire Protection district is approximately 52 square miles or an area 6 miles east-west by 8.6 miles north-south. (*See Map*) Because some of the fire district borders run along farmer fields or Creek beds a precise area is not available, but based on 70% of 52 square miles this would expand the area that Kewanee would be responsible for by 36.4 square miles if only the area north of the county line is included and not the entire district.

Kewanee Fire department currently operates EMS coverage for the ~6.33 square miles within Kewanee city limits and the 146 square miles of the Kewanee Community Fire District (rural) that surrounds Kewanee for an approximate total of 152 square miles. Kewanee Fire Department's average run totals for EMS for the previous 2 years is just over 2000 calls per year with approximately 120 of those calls being to the "rural" district annually. In the past 18 years the Department has placed nearby community EMS services on "standby" in case additional resources were needed when Kewanee had all staff occupied or equipment not available. In those instances that other EMS services have been notified they to date have not been required to respond. Kewanee Fire Department's mutual aid box cards set up for this type of situation include notifying Annawan EMS and Galva EMS (operated by Stark County Ambulance) as back up for Kewanee as well as calling in off duty Kewanee Fire Department staff and in the past the Kewanee Ambulance Service. With the disbandment of the ambulance service the need to call in off duty personnel to cover the station in case of additional calls have increased at a more expensive cost to the City in the form of overtime.

In any rural area mutual aid agreements with neighboring departments are needed to help mitigate incidents when the need surpasses the resources at hand. Kewanee and our neighboring municipalities are no different. For Kewanee Fire Department to officially expand their current EMS coverage into Neponset Fire Protection District a few issues would need to be addressed. The taxpayers of Kewanee should not be responsible for the burden of paying for

the EMS services to Neponset Fire Protection District. The citizens and businesses of Kewanee should also not have services reduced to allow for the coverage area to be expanded. Both of these scenarios do occur on occasion the way calls are currently handled. To alleviate this I would propose that we set up a contract for coverage in much the same manner that Kewanee currently has with the Kewanee Community Fire District. This would require a billing to cover manpower and fuel costs with the understanding that Kewanee would then bill any patients for EMS calls. A system modification form would need to be filed with Cottage Hospital and approved at the State level.

The Fire Chief would recommend the following if this is to be done;

- When a call is dispatched Kewanee, if available, would respond with an ambulance from station 1 in Kewanee. This ambulance is currently staffed at the EMT-Intermediate level which is one level higher than currently provided by Buda Ambulance. This level of service could in time increase to ALS-paramedic level as additional medics are trained with classes set to begin next month in January.

- When a call in Neponset district is received Kewanee Fire department would call in two personnel to cover the Kewanee district while two EMTs respond to the call. Because the CBA with IAFF local 513 states a "call in" is a minimum of 2 hours this would incur a cost of 4 overtime hours at 2 firefighters x 2 hours. Calling in personnel to back fill would make it so Kewanee residents and businesses are not left unprotected or our level of services reduced. In the event that Kewanee ambulances are all already occupied or staffing is being used at a fire scene then Buda or Stark County ambulance would take over as secondary to respond as mutual aid to Neponset.

- An annual flat rate cost of $7000 to be paid in 2 installments of $3500 to be paid every 6 months and in advance for the next six months service. This would cover fuel for ambulances on the calls and for 4 man hours of overtime per call. Current overtime rate for Kewanee Fire Dept personnel averages $26.96. At an average based on 30 calls per year this would cost 26.96x4=107.84 per call x 30= $3235.20 average annual overtime. $7000 - $3235.20 = $3764.80 left to cover fuel and other non-billable items. The reasoning behind a flat charge instead of a per call basis is due to the unreliability of budgeting what a patient is capable of paying through insurance or private means. This can range greatly and could end up costing much more in the long run than is currently billed to Neponset Fire District.

- The average call to Neponset is estimated to take 1:20 - 1:40 to complete including; response, on scene care, transport to hospital, and report completed back at the station.

- BUCOM would remain the dispatch center for that area and has the capability of dispatching Kewanee Fire as is currently done by calling the emergency alarm line that rings at both Kewanee Fire Stations or can contact Kewanee Dispatch to tone

out the rescue squad. Most radio communications following dispatch would be through Kewanee as is done now.

- We should increase the refusal charge billed to patients from $25 to $75 for any refusal of transport call to the expanded district area so that the majority of overtime created would be covered to alleviate Kewanee citizens the burden of covering this cost. Currently Kewanee averages 23% refusals this varies yearly ranging from 20-29% over the last 5 years.

- The remaining overtime costs after a refusal bill is paid should be able to be absorbed by the $3764.80 that is earmarked for fuel and un-billable items. All other service charges that are billed to the patient would be in accordance with City Ordinance No. 3806. (*See copy later in report*)

- All patient transports would be to Kewanee per City Ordinance 3650 passed July 2010 unless directed otherwise by medical control.

§ 35.36 PERMISSIBLE POINTS OF TRANSPORTATION.

(A) Unless directed to do so by the doctor in charge, on duty, or their authorized designee, at the Resource Hospital ~~U~~ under no circumstances will the ambulance rescue vehicle and the personnel of the Fire Department transport a person to any place other than Kewanee Hospital.

(B) Under no circumstances will the Fire Department personnel take orders regarding transport of a person from any one other than the doctor in charge, on duty, or their authorized designee, ~~with~~ at the ~~Emergency Medical Service at Kewanee~~ Resource Hospital.

(C) The only choices available to a person provided with transportation in the emergency rescue vehicle are transportation as directed by the doctor in charge or on duty, or their authorized designee, at the Resource Hospital, to the nearest appropriate hospital ~~to Kewanee Hospital~~ or refusal to be transported.

- I would propose that any agreement that is reached should be able to be cancelled by either party with 6 months previous notice to both parties.

- Any agreement should be re-evaluated on an every 2 - 3 year basis to reflect call volume changes and/or operation costs.

Setting a flat rate for coverage would allow for a set amount to be budgeted by Neponset easing the burden of the "unknown." This proposal in Kewanee Fire Chief's estimation would cost Neponset under half of what they are currently being billed and would raise the level of care from EMT-Basic to the EMT-Intermediate level. Billing in this manner would also place the majority of responsibility of payment onto the patient using the EMS service instead of the Fire District. By having an upfront flat rate charge to Neponset Fire District, Kewanee would be able to hire backfill when manpower leaves the district so that the City services can remain intact. This agreement would be similar to the agreement Kewanee currently has with the Kewanee Community Fire District. (KCFD)

The agreement that the City has with KCFD is a base charge of $9500 annually with the City billing the patients for the EMS services. We currently do not page in to cover manpower within the City when on a "rural" EMS call unless other units are already out on calls. The rural

firefighter normally goes with our EMS crew on these calls from station 2. The largest difference between the two agreements would be that the ambulance would be responding from station 1 with no 3rd "rural" EMT on board and the refusal charge would need to be increased to cover overtime charges due to the time required to be out of Kewanee Fire Department's district to insure that the Kewanee district coverage is maintained.

While this type of agreement obviously benefits Neponset Fire Protection District with a lowered cost of coverage, and more reliable service at a higher level of care currently offered, there are a few small benefits to Kewanee for this as well. Obviously good will to a neighboring community aside Kewanee would have an additional source of income to cover calls that we are already covering. If Buda is unable to respond Kewanee is being dispatched which is occurring right now about 1/3 of the call volume. If Buda calls for an intercept from Kewanee needing a higher level of care which also occurs, Kewanee is responding to that mutual aid call. Both of these scenarios leave Kewanee short staffed locally with no additional funding to hire backfill which lowers our local service capabilities until staff are done with the call and back in service. Federal and State equipment grants are often weighted on the number of districts that will benefit from any awarding of funds. The ability to add Neponset Fire Protection District to any grants applied for by the Department could also help in future applications.

ORDINANCE NO. 3806

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION 35.37 FIRE RESCUE AMBULANCE SERVICE FEES, OF THE KEWANEE CITY CODE, AND DECLARING THAT THIS ORDINANCE SHALL BE IN FULL FORCE IMMEDIATELY.

WHEREAS, The City Council finds that revenues generated by the Kewanee Fire Department Rescue Ambulance service are not sufficient to match the expenses, requiring annual subsidy funds from the General Fund to allow continued operations; and,

WHEREAS, The Kewanee Fire Department Rescue Ambulance Service fees have remained unchanged since April 26, 2010; and,

WHEREAS, The City Council finds it is desirable to maintain a fee structure for services that garners the maximum allowed Medicare and Medicaid disbursements while at the same time reducing the dependence of the Kewanee Fire Department Rescue Ambulance Service on subsidized revenues from the General Fund.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KEWANEE, ILLINOIS, IN COUNCIL ASSEMBLED, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1 Sections §35.37-(A) & (B) of the City Code are hereby amended by deleting the words shown as stricken through, (~~sample~~), and inserting at their respective locations the words shown as underlined, (sample).

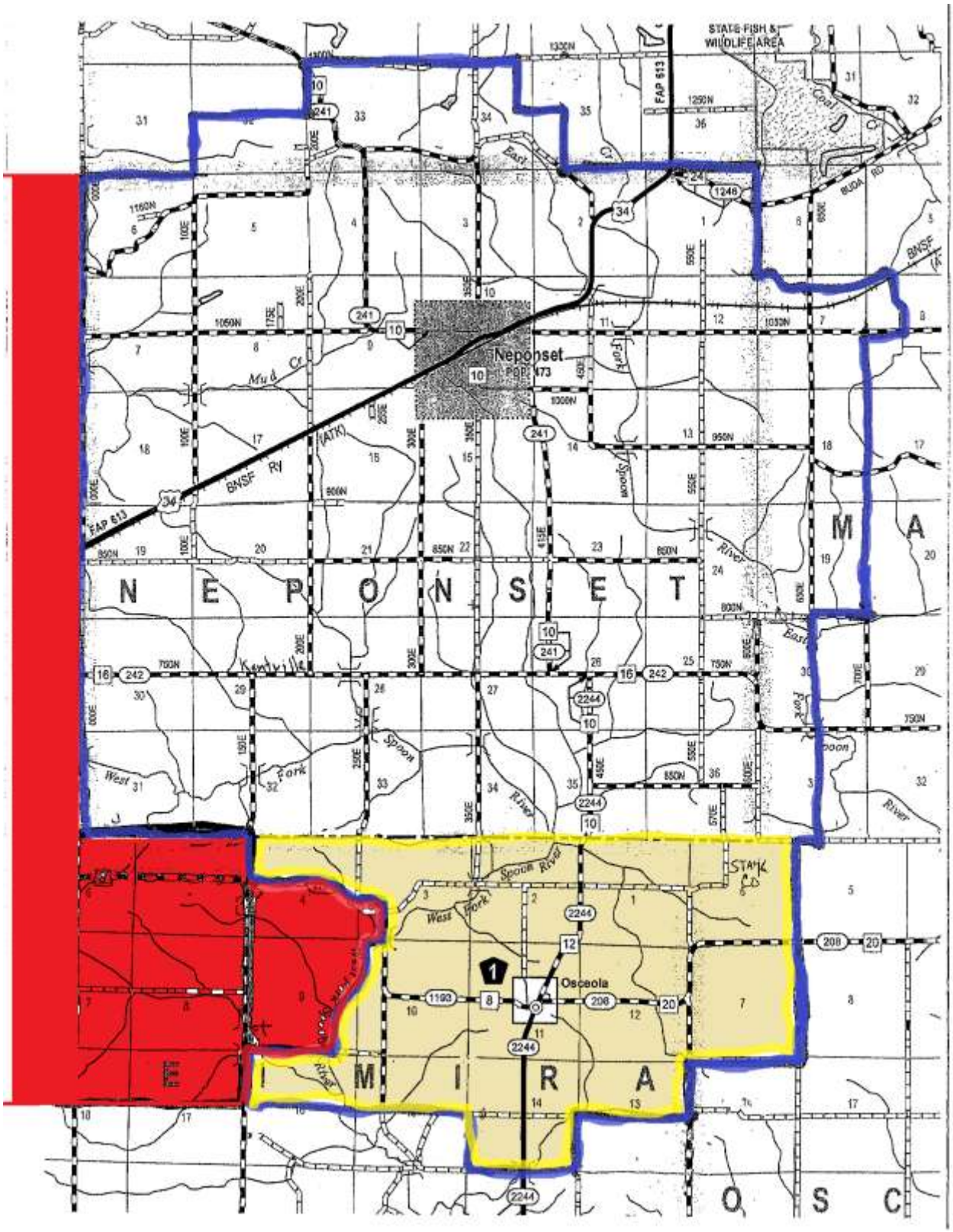
"§ 35.37 FEES; FIRE RESCUE AMBULANCE SERVICES.

(A) *Rescue ambulance service fee and collection.* ~~The fees and collection of the same for these services shall be in accordance with § 32.073 of the City Code.~~ Charges. Users of the fire rescue ambulance service shall pay fees as established herein.

Service	Fee
Basic Life Service – Emergent	$ 700.00
Advanced Life Service One (ALS-1)	$ 800.00
Advanced Life Service Two (ALS-2)	$ 950.00
Refusal –ALS Assessment	$ 25.00
Mileage	$ 20 per loaded mile
Oxygen	$ 50.00
Supplies	$ 40.00
Extrication	$ 300.00

~~(B) *Extraction fee.* If the Fire Department deems necessary and utilizes the equipment known as the Jaws of Life, a fee of $200 shall be assessed.~~ "

Section 2 The effective date of any fee amended or established by this ordinance shall be August 1, 2015.



Red is Kewanee Community Fire District that Kewanee Fire Department operates EMS for.
Blue outline is Neponset Fire District.
Tan is within Neponset's Fire Protection District but is covered by Stark County Ambulance because Buda does not respond south of the county line.