

Introduction

In accordance with New York State Law, Tompkins County convened a panel of mayors and supervisors to develop the County's 2024 Shared Services Plan. Areas of discussion for possible municipal collaboration and shared services included cybersecurity, code administration, animal control, and broadband. After much discussion, it was agreed by the Panel to support an initiative developed by the County's Department of Emergency Response (DoER) that would enhance emergency response services throughout the County. The Countywide Rapid Medical Response program is a cost effective means of meeting the critical need for emergency response in the County. It is outlined in detail on the following pages. It has the full support of the Shared Services Panel.

Countywide Rapid Medical Response

Tompkins County is in the process of planning to implement a Rapid Medical Response Team—a service that would be cost prohibitive to most of Tompkins County municipalities without sharing the service. This will be a team of professional New York State certified Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT's) that will be strategically placed throughout the county, in response vehicles, with the mission to provide Emergency Medical Services (EMS) to the county. The Rapid Medical Response Team would augment local community-based first responders in providing first response services to county residents and visitors during medical and traumatic emergencies, while they await the arrival of a transport ambulance agency.

Tompkins County Rapid Medical Response is a pilot project in the planning phase. If approved by the Tompkins County Legislature, it would be made operational in 2024 and operated by the County's Department of Emergency Response (DoER). The longstanding EMS model in Tompkins County municipalities is volunteer based, except for a professional ambulance service operated by Dryden Ambulance, Inc., Groton Fire Department and Ambulance, and Trumansburg EMS, and a private EMS operated by Bangs Ambulance.

The volunteer model of local municipalities met the need for emergency services in the past, but this is no longer a sustainable or reliable model. The 2023 YTD 9-1-1 call statistics support this claim, with 45% of all volunteer rescue 9-1-1 calls going unanswered by local community-based rescues and only 22% of the county's 279 EMS personnel being volunteers.

As part of this pilot project, Tompkins County is considering seeking the startup and operating costs for the first year through the NYS Local Government Efficiency grant and NYS Countywide Shared Services Initiative (CWSSI) funding. Estimated startup and operating costs for the first year include personnel, three rapid response vehicles, equipment, materials, and supplies, and totals \$699,794. Subsequent annual operating costs of the rapid medical response service are estimated at \$504,956 as demonstrated in Appendix A. The County will need to consider cost sharing or other arrangements with municipalities to support ongoing operational expenses for year 2 and beyond.

The startup costs for the County to provide a service which includes three transport ambulances in place of rapid response vehicles is \$1,584,473, with annual operating costs of \$861,475 as demonstrated in Appendix B. The estimated costs of a countywide ambulance service have been included to demonstrate the significant cost savings of the County's proposed approach to invest in a Rapid Medical Response program rather than a transport ambulance service.

The calculated taxpayer savings from the avoided cost for each municipality to create and fund this professional service is estimated at \$1,557,591 in year one, which represents the total costs of individual municipalities establishing their own

Rapid Medical Response programs. The cost per municipality is calculated by reducing the equipment, staff, and other expenditures to reflect the appropriate size for most of Tompkins County’s rural municipalities. A detailed list of the startup costs, personnel, and operating expenditures at the municipal level are included in Appendix C. The ongoing annual expenses for each municipality to operate a rapid medical response or ambulance service are included in Appendix D.

Appendices E & F represent the total cost savings for both Rapid Medical Response and Ambulance services for the municipalities for both the first year and subsequent years. This comparison is used to demonstrate the significant savings of the County’s proposed approach to invest in a Rapid Medical Response program rather than those municipalities without an ambulance service funding and managing their own emergency medical response program.

The diagram in Appendix G demonstrates how the number of necessary rapid medical response vehicles was determined. This diagram illustrates strategically placed vehicles, throughout the County, with a 15-mile radius to demonstrate their response times.

Total estimated tax savings for 2024 and 2025 are summarized in the following table for all eligible municipalities. Startup costs were removed from the estimate after the 2024 savings.

Shared Service Project	2024 Net Tax Savings	2025 Net Tax Savings
Tompkins County Rapid Medical Response	\$ 1,557,591.48	\$983,077.04

Appendix A

Countywide Rapid Medical Response Startup Costs			
		Annual Cost per Response Unit	Total Cost (3 Total Response Units)
Medical Direction	\$250/hour (30 hours)	N/A	\$7,500.00
Personnel	\$25.46/hour per employee (3120 hours)	\$79,435.20	\$238,305.60
Fringe Benefits Personnel	\$11.25/hour per employee (3120 hours)	\$35,100.00	\$105,300.00
Personnel	EMS Manager – 100%	\$76,814.00	\$76,814.00
Fringe Benefits Personnel	EMS Manager – 100%	\$33,928.74	\$33,928.74
Personnel	Director – 10%	\$10,200.00	\$10,200.00
Fringe Benefits	Director – 10%	\$4,505.34	\$4,505.34
Fuel		\$5,800.00	\$17,400.00
Vehicle Maintenance		\$1,000.00	\$3,000.00
Vehicle (New)		\$55,000.00	\$165,000.00
MDT (Dispatch)		\$3,500.00	\$10,500.00
Radios		\$3,500.00	\$10,500.00
Uniforms	\$500.00/employee	\$1,500.00	\$4,500.00
EMS Supplies		\$4,113.64	\$12,340.92
Totals:		\$314,396.92	\$699,794.60

Countywide Rapid Medical Response Annual Costs

		Annual Cost per Response Unit	Total Cost (3 Total Response Units)
Medical Direction	\$250/hour (30 hours)	N/A	\$7,500.00
Personnel	\$25.46/hour per employee (3120 hours)	\$79,435.20	\$238,305.60
Fringe Benefits Personnel	\$11.25/hour per employee (3120 hours)	\$35,100.00	\$105,300.00
	EMS Manager – 100%	\$76,814.00	\$76,814.00
Fringe Benefits Personnel	EMS Manager – 100%	\$33,928.74	\$33,928.74
	Director – 10%	\$10,200.00	\$10,200.00
Fringe Benefits	Director – 10%	\$4,505.34	\$4,505.34
Fuel		\$5,800.00	\$17,400.00
Vehicle Maintenance		\$1,000.00	\$3,000.00
Uniforms	\$500.00/employee	\$1,500.00	\$4,500.00
EMS Supplies		\$1,167.59	\$3,502.77
Totals:		\$249,450.87	\$504,956.45

Appendix B

Countywide Ambulance Startup Costs			
		Annual Cost per Response Unit	Total Cost (3 Total Response Units)
Medical Direction	\$250/hour (30 hours)	N/A	\$7,500.00
Personnel (2 employees/truck/shift)	\$25.46/hour per employee (3120 hours)	\$158,870.40	\$476,611.20
Fringe Benefits (2 employees/truck/shift)	\$11.25/hour per employee (3120 hours)	\$70,200.00	\$210,600.00
Personnel	EMS Manager – 100%	\$76,814.00	\$76,814.00
Fringe Benefits	EMS Manager – 100%	\$33,928.74	\$33,928.74
Personnel	Director – 10%	\$10,200.00	\$10,200.00
Fringe Benefits	Director – 10%	\$4,505.34	\$4,505.34
Fuel		\$5,800.00	\$17,400.00
Vehicle Maintenance		\$1,000.00	\$3,000.00
Vehicle (New)		\$206,000.00	\$618,000.00
MDT (Dispatch)		\$3,500.00	\$10,500.00
Radios		\$3,500.00	\$10,500.00
Uniforms	\$500.00/employee	\$3,000.00	\$9,000.00
Soft Supplies		\$31,971.26	\$95,913.78
Totals:		\$609,289.74	\$1,584,473.06

Countywide Ambulance Annual Costs

		Annual Cost per Response Unit	Total Cost (3 Total Response Units)
Medical Direction	\$250/hour (30 hours)	N/A	\$7,500.00
Personnel (2 employees/truck/shift)	\$25.46/hour per employee (3120 hours)	\$158,870.40	\$476,611.20
Fringe Benefits (2 employees/truck/shift)	\$11.25/hour per employee (3120 hours)	\$70,200	\$210,600
Personnel	EMS Manager – 100%	\$76,814.00	\$76,814.00
Fringe Benefits	EMS Manager – 100%	\$33,928.74	\$33,928.74
Personnel	Director – 10%	\$10,200.00	\$10,200.00
Fringe Benefits	Director – 10%	\$4,505.34	\$4,505.34
Fuel		\$5,800.00	\$17,400.00
Vehicle Maintenance		\$1,000.00	\$3,000.00
Uniforms	\$500.00/employee	\$3,000.00	\$9,000.00
EMS Supplies		\$3,971.80	\$11,915.40
Totals:		\$368,290.28	\$861,474.68

Appendix C

Rescue Start-up Costs			
	Town's Cost	DoER's Cost	Cost Difference
Town of Caroline	\$ 556,846.52		
Town of Danby	\$ 377,897.68		
Town of Dryden	\$ 661,320.94		
Town of Groton	\$ 94,474.42		
Town of Enfield	\$ 188,948.84		
Town of Lansing	\$ 188,948.84		
Town of Newfield	\$ 188,948.84		
	<u>\$ 2,257,386.08</u>	<u>\$ 699,794.60</u>	<u>\$ 1,557,591.48</u>

Ambulance Start-up Costs			
	Town's Cost	DoER's Cost	Cost Difference
Town of Caroline	\$1,451,524.98		
Town of Danby	\$ 967,683.32		
Town of Dryden	\$1,693,445.81		
Town of Groton	\$ 241,920.83		
Town of Enfield	\$ 483,841.66		
Town of Lansing	\$ 483,841.66		
Town of Newfield	\$ 483,841.66		
	<u>\$5,806,099.92</u>	<u>\$ 1,584,473.06</u>	<u>\$ 4,221,626.86</u>

****Note: The cost for each town to start up their own service does *not* include the salary and fringe benefits of any Dept of Emergency Response staff ****

Appendix D

Rescue Yearly Operating Costs			
	Town's Cost	DoER's Cost	Cost Difference
Town of Caroline	\$ 372,008.37		
Town of Danby	\$ 248,005.58		
Town of Dryden	\$ 434,009.77		
Town of Groton	\$ 62,001.40		
Town of Enfield	\$ 124,002.79		
Town of Lansing	\$ 124,002.79		
Town of Newfield	\$ 124,002.79		
	<u>\$ 1,488,033.49</u>	<u>\$ 504,956.45</u>	<u>\$ 983,077.04</u>

Ambulance Yearly Operating Costs			
	Town's Cost	DoER's Cost	Cost Difference
Town of Caroline	\$728,426.60		
Town of Danby	\$ 485,684.40		
Town of Dryden	\$849,947.70		
Town of Groton	\$ 121,421.10		
Town of Enfield	\$ 242,842.20		
Town of Lansing	\$ 242,842.20		
Town of Newfield	\$ 242,842.20		
	<u>\$2,914,006.40</u>	<u>\$ 861,474.68</u>	<u>\$ 2,052,531.72</u>

Note: The cost for each town to start up their own service does *not* include the salary and fringe benefits of any Dept of Emergency Response staff

Appendix E

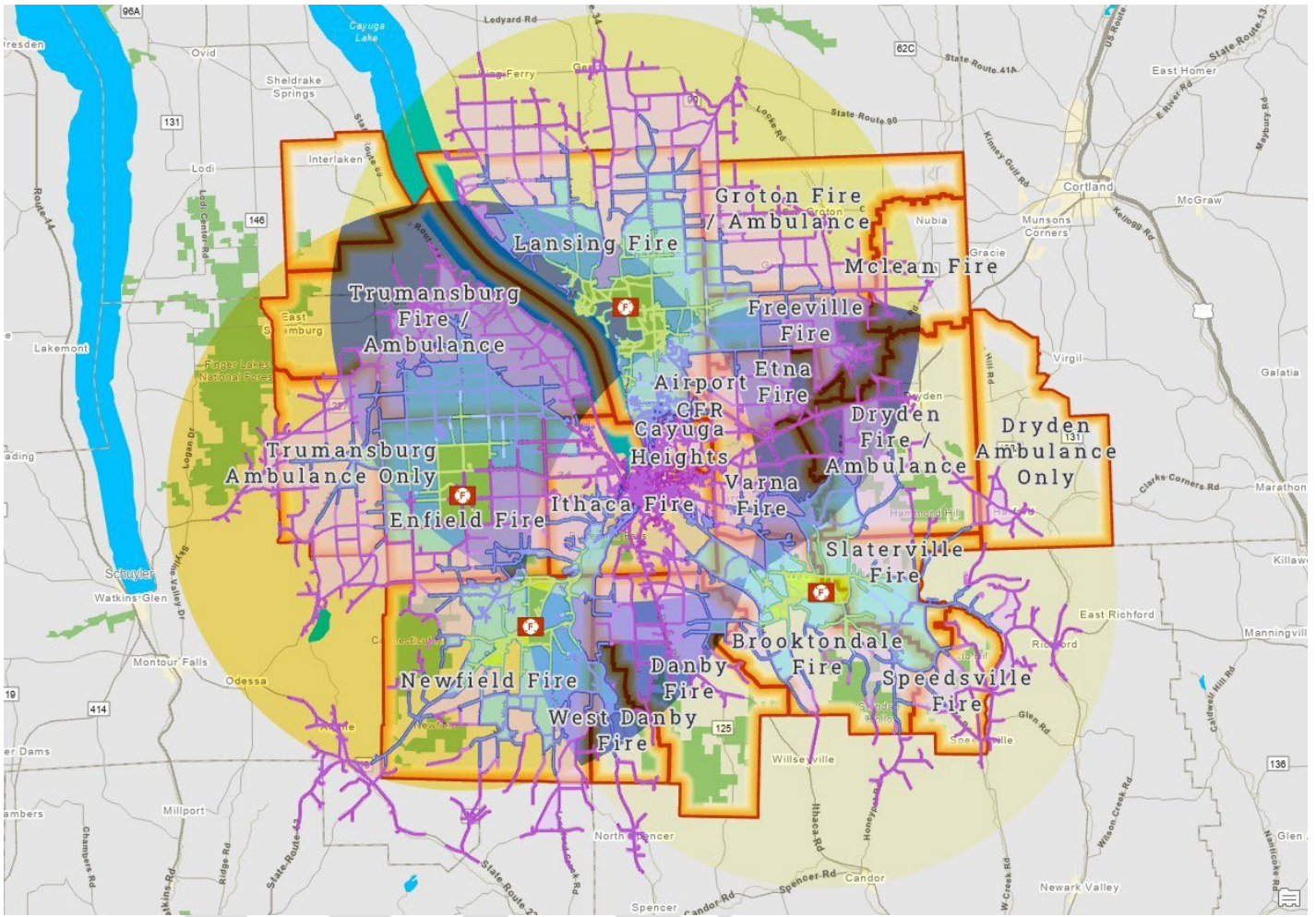
Total Cost Savings for Startup Year				
	Rapid Medical Response		Ambulance Services	
Total Cost to Municipalities	\$	2,257,386.08	\$	5,806,099.92
Total Cost to County	\$	699,794.60	\$	1,584,473.06
	\$	1,557,591.48	\$	4,221,626.86

Appendix F

Total Annual Cost Savings				
	Rapid Medical Response		Ambulance Services	
Total Cost to Municipalities	\$	1,488,033.49	\$	2,914,006.40
Total Cost to County	\$	504,956.45	\$	861,474.68
	\$	983,077.04	\$	2,052,531.72

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Appendix G



Shared Services Panel Members

<u>Supervisors</u>	<u>Municipality</u>
Mark Witmer	Town of Caroline
Joel Gagnon	Town of Danby
Jason Leifer	Town of Dryden
Stephanie Redmond	Town of Enfield
Donald Scheffler	Town of Groton
Rod Howe	Town of Ithaca
Ed LaVigne	Town of Lansing
Michael Allinger	Town of Newfield
Katelin Olson	Town of Ulysses
<u>Mayors</u>	
Linda Woodard	Village of Cayuga Heights
Michael Murphy	Village of Dryden
Miles McCarty	Village of Freeville
Chris Neville	Village of Groton
Laura Lewis	City of Ithaca
Ronny Hardaway	Village of Lansing
Rordan Hart	Village of Trumansburg
<u>County Legislators</u>	
Shawna Black	Chair, Tompkins County Legislature
<u>County Administration</u>	
Lisa Holmes	Tompkins County Administrator
Bridgette Nugent	Tompkins Deputy County Administrator