

April 15, 2019 Budget Work Session

A special meeting of the Council of the City of Martinsville, Virginia, was held on April 15, 2019, in Council Chambers, Municipal Building, at 6:00PM, to conduct a budget work session with Mayor Kathy Lawson presiding. Council Members present included Mayor Lawson, Vice Mayor Chad Martin, Council Member Jim Woods, Council Member Jennifer Bowles and Council Member Danny Turner. Staff present included City Manager Leon Towarnicki, Assistant City Manager Wayne Knox, City Attorney Eric Monday, and Finance Director Linda Conover

Mayor Lawson opened the Council meeting.

Sheriff Steve Draper and Major Laura Hopkins addressed budget requests, specifically related to the overpopulation of the jail.

Fire Chief Ted Anderson and Deputy Chief Kris Schrader highlighted the overtime and part-time budget increase request. This year, the required firefighter physicals and uniform costs increased. The cost related to EMS and the increased cost and calls related to the closure of Stone Ambulance was also discussed. A PowerPoint was presented by City Manager Towarnicki with information from the Martinsville EMS Review Committee. Anderson read a statement assuring the citizens that the Fire/EMS Departments are not in financial trouble and even if the requested budget increases are not approved, his department will continue to provide adequate assistance to the City. Gene Teague, Michelle Stone-Agee and Sheriff Draper of the EMS Review Committee attended to discuss the increased cost to cover EMS needs.

The slide features a blue first aid kit icon with a white star of life on the left. The title 'Martinsville EMS Review Committee' is centered, with the date 'April 15th 2019' below it. The word 'Problem' is written in large white text on a dark background. Three callout boxes on the right provide context: an orange box about Stone Ambulance services ending in 2018, a grey box about capacity issues in Martinsville and HC, and a yellow box about a 3-month test of a third ambulance in 2018.

Martinsville EMS Review Committee
April 15th 2019

Problem

- In 2018, Stone Ambulance Services ended after decades of successfully providing needed EMS backup services and transport service for MHC.
- Due to this close, Martinsville (and HC) had to deal with this loss of capacity through expanding service or relying on volunteers and or Mutual Aid.
- In 2018, Martinsville Fire & EMS conducted a test of running a third ambulance for a 3 month period to test covering additional calls.

Purpose of Committee

Look at the options for Martinsville Fire & EMS organization to best meet the needs of the community given recent changes in landscape and the preliminary tests that were conducted to fill those gaps.

2018 Annual Call Volume Characteristics

There are 24 hours in a day, or 8760 hours in a 365 day Year.

Time of Day	No Calls	One Call	Two Calls	Three Calls	Four Calls
Total	6,090	2,118	452	87	13
% of Annual Time	69.5%	24.2%	5.2%	1.0%	0.1%
Total Available	8760				

Average	9.1
Min	1.0
Max	22

- Assumes one hour blocks for a call
- Actual EMS averages 1 hour 15 minutes
- Time above with no calls is overstated.
- During time not answering a call: Training/CEU, programs/public education, cleaning and maintaining equipment, restocking and other administrative tasks. Responsible for Fire inspections and investigations. Emergency Management.

Key Facts:

- Martinsville Fire & EMS has on average 6-7 persons per shift
- Two ambulances are staffed and maintained leaving 2-3 behind in case of fire calls.
- Mutual aid is currently utilized when 2 ambulances are out and approximately 160 calls per year are turned over for mutual aid.
- Average call time is 1 hour 12 minutes.
 - Response time to scene, time at scene, transport time is based on each incident is currently best it can be.
 - Opportunities may exist to reduce time at hospital for some calls which could increase ability to respond to other calls.**

Opportunities to Reduce Time at Hospital for EMS Calls

- Reduce time for Drug Box refill.
 - Purchase extra Drug Box for each EMS vehicle.
- When both ambulances are out, complete only required info for the report for hospital and finish call sheet before shift ends.
- Work with Hospital to improve turnaround time.
- Measure and report out monthly times at hospital to see faster clear time.

Unit ID	# of Calls	Avg At Hospital	Avg From Scene to Hospital
MED1	949	45.41	6.20
MED2	907	44.78	6.80
MED3	187	46.72	6.76
Total	2043	45.20	6.51

Options

- Add one person per shift at cost of approx. \$165,000 (Recommended by Department)
- Rely on Mutual Aid / Volunteers to cover exposure. (Currently doing)**
- Train Police/Sheriff to cover Fire two in two out at a cost >100k.
- Change philosophy of coverage to "life over property" and cover 3 ambulances with existing staff for the 5% of the time that it occurs and no mutual aid is available.
- Work with County to develop options to add an additional ambulance covering a portion of the cost.

Committee focus was on Options 3 and 4. Option 5 would require additional long term conversations

Option Three: Train Police/Deputies to cover Fire two in two out.

- Opportunity would exist to provide additional coverage at Fire Scene.
- Takes more than a year to get certified. (172 hours for FFI and 64 for FFII and 32 for HAZ MAT OPS).
- Currently have 2 patrol officers that are certified and 1 Deputy.
- Need two per shift. \$7500 per officer or \$45,000 plus turn out gear. Total Cost of \$48,000.
- Requires some training on a ongoing basis at cost of \$61,000.
- Would also need to provide additional officer coverage while training.

<p>Option Four: Cover 3 ambulances with existing staff for the up to 5% of the time that it occurs and no mutual aide is available.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Creates possibility if 3 EMS calls are being handled, limited to no resources exists to fight a fire except through mutual aid. Potential will occur up to 5% of the time• May require an additional vehicle	<h2>Recommendations</h2> <hr/> <p>City change to philosophy of life over property and fully utilize existing staff to run 3 full time vehicles to address calls.</p> <hr/> <p>City staff develop a quick turn process when the city is fully exposed with all vehicles out. Suggest plan be developed with Fire/EMS, Police, Sheriff, Mutual Aid etc.</p> <hr/> <p>Explore Community Paramedicine program.</p> <p>Fire/EMS explore first response vehicle possible purchase vs full ambulance.</p>
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Safety Coordinator John Turner was present to answer questions about the safety budget, FEMA and Fire/EMS grants.

There being no further business, Council Member Bowles made a motion to adjourn. Vice Mayor Martin seconded the motion with all Council Members voting in favor. The meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Karen Roberts, Clerk of Council

Kathy Lawson, Mayor