

percent, from -2,242 calls in 2015 to 2,514 calls in 2016.

A 12 percent increase is “a big spike, a reflection of growth,” Deputy Chief Randy Trost said. He wondered

when the district might need to consider acquiring a third ambulance if this type of increase became a pattern.

After the meeting, Truty told OCN that of the 2,514 total calls in 2016, TLMFPD had about 796 fire calls and 1,775 EMS calls.

The board consensus was that TLMFPD had a good working relationship with the City of Colorado Springs Fire Department and its contracted ambulance service, American Medical Response (AMR). Trost said TLMFPD has responded into Colorado Springs sometimes to help when it is busy there, but Trost and Secretary Mike Smaldino said a mutual benefit occurs, since the city will also move an ambulance farther north just in case it might be needed when TLMFPD is very busy.

Call volume disparity with Wescott discussed

DWFPD sent a letter to Truty in December notifying TLMFPD of Wescott’s decision to begin charging TLMFPD for a portion of the automatic aid Wescott provides. They suggested TLMFPD and Wescott sign an IGA where the per call fee would be \$230 for certain calls, with an implementation date of Feb. 1. Burns estimated that Wescott provides automatic aid on all levels of EMS calls to the southern end of TLMFPD’s territory along Baptist Road about 100 times a year. *See related DWFPD article on page 8.*

After the meeting, Truty explained that automatic aid is defined as an arrangement where a neighboring jurisdiction will respond automatically into another jurisdiction to be the primary responder into a defined area. It can be fire or EMS. Mutual aid is where that other jurisdiction will only come in if the original jurisdiction

either needs additional help or its resources are not currently available..

AMR is also Wescott’s outsourced ambulance service, but Wescott provides the driver for that ambulance as part of its contract.

Truty’s memo to the board offered six possible responses to DWFPD. He said the staff recommended Option 4, below. “We don’t feel like we are going to put people at risk by not putting Wescott on those certain call types,” Trost said:

OPTION 1: Accept request as is: PRO: Quickest response by a unit of some type for all calls. CON: District would incur an expense that at the moment is not budgeted.

OPTION 2: Deny request completely: PROS: More consistent responses from TLMFPD resources. No additional expense. CON: Longer response times on some calls including life-threatening calls.

OPTION 3: TLMFPD units are solely dispatched with an officer’s ability to add Wescott units as conditions warrant. PROS: DWFPD could be added on an as-needed basis and may have quicker response times. TLMFPD manages responses. Reduced or no additional expense. CONS: Additional dispatch time could make DWFPD unnecessary due to loss of time advantage.

OPTION 4: TLMFPD units are dispatched on all District 4 calls and Wescott would be dispatched only in all the most serious, life-threatening calls (cardiac arrests and other Level E calls). PROS: Quickest response on most severe calls. Call volume reduced so that there is reduced or no additional expense. CONS: Lengthier response times on some calls. Distinguishing these types of calls alone could be a challenge due to the difficulty of listing all the special situations that would have to be known by the El Paso County Sheriff’s Office dispatchers for each of the six different dispatching contingency options, much less display them on a computer screen for the Sheriff’s Office dispatcher.

OPTION 5: TLMFPD units are dispatched on all District 4 calls that are clearly not urgent (such as “lift assists” when a person has fallen and cannot get up). Sends a Wescott unit on all calls except for clearly non-serious calls. PROS: Quicker response to calls that are clearly emergency calls. Call volume reduced so that there is reduced or no additional expense. CONS: Non-serious calls would have longer response times. Distinguishing these types of calls alone could be a challenge due to CAD flexibility.

OPTION 6: Hire/assign a staff member to run out of TLMFPD offices during normal business hours. PROS: Certain hours would allow a TLMFPD response unit. Additional administrative help. CONS: Additional personnel cost depending on hours. Equipment costs.

Truty told the board that TLMFPD “could significantly reduce the call disparity between TLMFPD and Wescott,

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