

AGENDA ITEM # 19April 13, 1999Consider declaring an emergency and acknowledging additional expenditures for EMS to:

0100-0540-001100	Salaries	\$37,478.34
0100-0540-002000	Fringe Benefits	9,138.66

EMS Director John Sneed discussed the problem of his department not having the time to provide the expected transfer services to area hospitals and nursing homes. Hospital patient increase has resulted in a 33% EMS transfer increase this year resulting in a back-up of non-emergency patients. The hospital administration understands the emergency transfers have priority, the floor managers do not and are unhappy with the service. Mr. Sneed expressed his concern of the hospitals using private ambulance services unless some EMS staffing corrections occur. These patients pay their bills generating revenue which 911 does not.

The Director requested permission to employ two (2) new paramedics explaining sixty per cent (60%) collection of four (4) calls per day should generate approximately \$133,000.00. The two paramedics would work 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday and would not require a new vehicle.

Mr. Sneed also discussed the 21% increase in the call volume in Georgetown alone and suggested the court consider another station in the 1999-2000 budget.

EMS Director John Sneed reported the City of Bartlett is currently considering the provision of a first responder organization with ambulance service provided either from Williamson County EMS or Scott and White in Temple. The city had requested permission to provide an advance life support first responder group but Mr. Sneed is not comfortable with nor will he agree to same because of his uncertainty of the quality of care involved. EMS is currently responding to Bartlett calls from Taylor with a 14/15 minute response. He cannot justify a Bartlett station with an average of one (1) call per day.

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Moved: Commissioner Hays

Seconded: Judge Doerfler

Motion: To declare an emergency and acknowledge additional expenditures for EMS to:

0100-0540-001100	Salaries	\$37,478.34
0100-0540-002000	Fringe Benefits	9,138.66

with a year-end report to the court of total revenue generated by these two positions.

Vote: Motion carried 4 - 0 with Commissioner Heiligenstein absent from the dais.

< Clerk copy here >



Williamson County Emergency Medical Service

April 8, 1999

Judge John Doerfler
Williamson County
710 Main Street
Georgetown, TX 78626

Dear Judge Doerfler:

We have finished our year end report from 1998 and it shows a 23% increase in the number of 911 calls with a 33% increase in the number of Transfers. I am also very happy to report that our response times are down as well from 5.53 minutes in the first half of the year to 5.23 in the second half of 1998.

There are two areas of concern that I need to address with you. The first is the 33% increase in Transfers County wide. Not only is this becoming a burden on the 911 system but we are not providing the level of service to the Hospitals and Nursing Homes that they are demanding. We met with all three Hospitals last month on various issues, and two of the three are very concerned with the slow response to their Transfer needs. The second issue is the 21% increase in the call volume in Georgetown alone. I bring this to your attention so that you can be prepared for our budget request of a new station in the FY-00 budget.

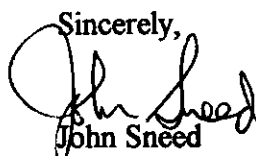
My proposal to fix the immediate need of better Transfer service is to staff a Support Ambulance during the week with twelve hour shifts. We will staff this unit with two Paramedics and they will work Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.. We have looked at the busiest days for Transfers and they are Monday and Friday. This staffing will cover those busiest days. I am only asking that you amend our budget to cover the Salaries and Benefits of two Paramedic positions for six months. The costs are as follows:

Salaries:	37,477.44
<u>Benefits:</u>	<u>9,138.66</u>
Total	\$46,616.10

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I am confident that we will be able to offset this cost with additional revenue generated by this Ambulance. I would ask that you increase our revenue projections by the same amount to cover this increase. I know that this is a difficult request to make at midyear. However we must continue to provide quality service to our citizens or we will lose these paying patients to other providers.

If you should have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact me. Together we can better serve the Citizens of Williamson County.

Sincerely,

John Sneed
Director

Enc.: 1998 Year End Report
A letter from Round Rock Hospital

AN ORDER DECLARING AN EMERGENCY AND A GRAVE PUBLIC NECESSITY DUE TO UNFORESEEABLE CIRCUMSTANCES AND APPROVING A BUDGET AMENDMENT FOR

0100-0540 EMS

FUND

DEPARTMENT

WHEREAS, THE WILLIAMSON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT HAS CAREFULLY STUDIED THE PUBLIC NECESSITY OF INCREASING THE AUTHORIZED EXPENDITURES DURING THIS FISCAL YEAR; AND

WHEREAS, THE WILLIAMSON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT, DUE TO UNFORESEEABLE CIRCUMSTANCES, DID NOT APPROPRIATE SUFFICIENT FUNDS IN THE CURRENT BUDGET FOR THIS NECESSARY EXPENDITURE; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT ORDERED BY THE WILLIAMSON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT THAT AN EMERGENCY AND GRAVE PUBLIC NECESSITY DOES EXIST DUE TO UNFORESEEABLE CIRCUMSTANCES.

WHEREAS, ON THE 13 DAY OF April, 1999, A MOTION MADE BY Commissioner Hays AND SECONDED BY Judge Doerfler THE MOTION CARRIED BY A VOTE OF 4 FOR, 0 AGAINST.

WHEREAS, THE WILLIAMSON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT HAS DECLARED AN EMERGENCY AND A GRAVE PUBLIC NECESSITY DUE TO UNFORESEEABLE CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE MATTER OF BUDGETING NECESSARY FUNDS FOR THE ABOVE MENTIONED DEPARTMENT; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT ORDERED THAT THE 1999 FISCAL YEAR WILLIAMSON COUNTY BUDGET BE AMENDED TO APPROPRIATE ADDITIONAL EXPENDITURES AND THE FOLLOWING AMOUNTS BE APPROPRIATED FOR THE FOLLOWING LINE ITEMS:

ACCOUNT #	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
0100-0540-001100	Salaries	\$37,478.34
0100-0540-002000	Fringe Benefits	9,138.66

WHEREUPON, A MOTION DULY MADE AND SECONDED, THE WILLIAMSON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT DID AUTHORIZE THE COUNTY JUDGE TO SIGN THIS ORDER, THE COUNTY CLERK WAS INSTRUCTED TO FILE A COPY OF THIS ORDER WITH THE EXISTING BUDGET, AND TO FORWARD A COPY OF THIS ORDER TO THE COUNTY AUDITOR.

John C. Doerfler 4-13-99
JOHN C. DOERFLER, COUNTY JUDGE

ATTEST:

Nancy E. Ruster

AGENDA ITEM # 20

April 13, 1999

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Hear comments from commissioners.

County Attorney Gene Taylor advised on April 12, 1999, the House Judicial Affairs Committee approved the 389th District Court set to commence January 1, 2000, with the judge being appointed by Governor George W. Bush and County Court-at-Law #3 to commence September 1, 1999, with judge being appointed by Commissioners Court. The bill has now moved to the Calendars Committee and then to a vote in the House.

COMMISSIONERS COURT ADJOURNED AT 10:45 A.M. ON TUESDAY AUGUST 6, 1999