

**TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council**

**FROM: Tim Malchow, EMS Chief**

**SUBJECT: Add Fulltime Paramedic Position**

**DATE: November 7, 2017**

### **BACKGROUND**

Personnel committee met on October 17<sup>th</sup> and they support the hiring of another fulltime paramedic position. Our call volume has been steadily increasing over the past several years. The hospital transfer volume is increasing as well that requires advanced life support (ALS) care.

Currently, we have one day a week that is not covered by a fulltime paramedic provider. This creates challenges when the hospital needs to transfer a patient requiring ALS care. Sometimes we can cover these shifts by sending off duty paramedics or if I am available I will also take the transfer. Our service is unable to take 2 or 3 transfers a month from Mayo Clinic Health Systems – Cannon Falls since we did not have ALS coverage. We have tried having our paramedics sign up for transfer call with little success to cover these transfers.

Mayo Clinic Health System is changing their health system into a regional based system. MCHS-Cannon Falls will stay as it is now with a possibility increasing its services sometime in the future. If a patient is sick needing some specialized care, you would be transferred to MCHS-Red Wing for continued care. If the patient is really sick and need many specialist then they would be transferred to St. Mary's in Rochester.

An average ALS transfer to Rochester is billed at \$2,290.00. After insurance adjustments, our average reimbursement is \$1,070.00.

It is challenging to predict the cost of an employee since we do not know the age of the future employee for health insurance purposes and what benefits they will take advantage of. Depending on experience and qualifications also will have an impact on what wage will be offered to the employee. For an educated guess, the new employee will cost the ambulance department \$64,000.00 a year if the employee takes advantage of a single healthcare plan. If the employee had spouse and one dependent our yearly investment in that employee goes to \$70,000.00.

### **REQUESTED COUNCIL ACTION**

Request a motion to approve the creation of another fulltime paramedic position for the ambulance department and authorize the EMS Chief to advertise and interview prospective candidates.