

ANDERSON COUNTY

FACTS

ABOUT THE NEW PROPOSED EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS) SYSTEM

On July 6, 2021, the Anderson County Public Safety committee announced their decision on the Request for Proposals to provide Emergency Medical Services to Anderson County. Anderson County received nine (9) proposals from agencies interested in providing Emergency Medical Services. The proposals were evaluated by a team of Anderson County Employees and a decision was made by the Public Safety Committee.

Since the decision was made, Anderson County personnel have been asked questions that appear to be circulating to the general public that are not in **fact true**. The Public Safety Committee has provided this short bullet point fact Sheet to help you better understand their decision.

1. **The New Plan, calls for an increase in coverage of EMS.** The current plan for Anderson County prior to the new contract required a deployment of 16.5 Ambulances and 3 Paramedic Quick Response Vehicles throughout the county per day. (Of the 16.5 ambulances only 14 are currently staff with Paramedics).

The **New Contract will require deployment of 17 Ambulances and 14 Paramedic Quick Response Vehicles throughout the County.** This essentially almost doubles the EMS Response capabilities in the County. **There will be no reduction in services.** The new plan will maintain at a minimum the same level of paramedic coverage throughout the county as previously been staffed.

2. **Anderson County will be responsible for all Patient Care** and under the control of a Medical Control Physician, as well as a Medical Control Board. This will allow the Medical Control Physician to facilitate better training and Quality Control over the activities of Paramedics. This will allow all patients in Anderson County to receive the same level of care, regardless of what area they reside.
3. **Paramedics will become County Employees with benefits and retirement.** Most paramedics and EMT's in Anderson county do not have benefits and/or retirement options.
4. **NO Boundaries (No Zones)-** There will be no more boundaries and will allow a single provider to respond to where ever the service is needed. We will eliminate the turf wars of zone compliance.
5. **Single Provider** will result in more accountability and control of cost to the county. This will allow the county to conduct business with only one chief and one agency.
6. **Increased number of trained personnel on the scene of a critical call.** Typically, a critical call now has two personnel on scene (Paramedic/EMT) to provide patient care. The new system will place three personnel on the scene of a critical call (Paramedic/EMT/EMT) thereby enhancing the delivery of medical care.
7. **Reduced Cost to the County for Providing EMS.** The cost savings is estimated at approximately \$3,000,000.00 per year. Over the term of a 5-year contract, this savings will be approximately \$15,000,000.00

8. **Savings in reduced subsidy.** Anderson County will no longer pay several different agencies to provide emergency medical services.
9. **New Plan addresses National Shortage of Paramedics** and prepares Anderson County for the future. By placing Paramedics on vehicles where their special skills are needed, we are not over utilizing the paramedical personnel. This should help reduce the shortage of personnel.
10. **Most EMS Responses can be handled by trained Emergency Medical Technicians.** 95% of all 911 requests for Ambulance can be handled by EMT's, this will allow the Paramedics to handle more serious calls and remain in the call area to handle life threatening emergencies.
11. **All EMS Personnel in the county that want to continuing serving Anderson County** will be offered positions with the new service. No EMT and/or Paramedic will not have a job.
12. **All EMS Services in Anderson County are contracted EMS Providers** and are currently paid by Anderson County. Anderson County does not currently have any volunteer EMS agencies.
13. **Additional Cost savings of approximately \$200,000** may be possible through the 911 communication center as the single provider can dispatch their own units in accordance with the contract and free up personnel in the 911 center to handle other responsibilities.
14. **Enhanced Medical Care-** The new system will encompass not only prehospital care, but will involve Medical Community in an effort to provide better care to the citizens of Anderson County.
15. **Every 911 request for Emergency Medical Services will have an AMBULANCE dispatch** to the scene of the emergency. The utilization of the Paramedic Quick Response vehicle will be determined by the 911 operator based on specific criteria for a person requiring such service. At no time will an ambulance not be dispatched to a request for service.
16. **Ambulances and Quick Response Vehicles will be stationed throughout the county.** All current areas of coverage will have an ambulance in their response area. Ambulances **will not** be stationed at one location. The new contract has specific response time requirements that the EMS provider must meet. Therefore, the agency must make sure that they have all areas covered to facilitate a quick response.