

Proposal for a Shared Ambulance Service

Between the Towns of Poestenkill and Sand Lake

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Date: 3/7/25

1. Objective

This proposal aims to establish a **shared ambulance service** for the towns of **Poestenkill and Sand Lake**, using the existing resources of Sand Lake Ambulance. The service's primary goals include:

- **Enhanced Emergency Coverage:** Two paramedic-staffed units operating strategically to reduce response times.
 - **Financial Efficiency:** Joint funding and administration to lower operational costs.
 - **Operational Sustainability:** Stable staffing models, improved resource sharing, and ongoing quality improvement.
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2. Service Overview

2.1 Operational Structure

- **Primary Service Provider:** Sand Lake Ambulance responds to 911 calls in both Poestenkill and Sand Lake, operating 24/7 from West Sand Lake.
- **Service Hours:**
 - One **Paramedic Ambulance** staffed **24/7**.
 - A second **Paramedic Ambulance** staffed **8:00 AM–8:00 PM**, seven days a week.

2.2 Coverage Area

- **Primary Coverage:** Poestenkill and Sand Lake.
- **Mutual Aid Responses:**
 - Sand Lake Ambulance currently provides and receives mutual aid from North Greenbush Ambulance and Bruen Rescue Squad in East Greenbush. This

arrangement will be unchanged and mutual aid ambulances will respond to Poestenkill when required,

2.3 Funding

- **Shared Funding:** Total annual costs will be shared between the towns of Poestenkill and Sand Lake, all billing revenue will be returned to Sand Lake Ambulance to offset service costs.
 - **Year-One Contract:**
 - Poestenkill signs a contract with Sand Lake Ambulance for **\$273,450** to provide service (see attached budget)
 - **Contract Review:** Evaluated annually and adjusted to reflect changing costs. Contract costs are expected to **increase 2% per year** due to rising labor and equipment expenses.
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3. Implementation Plan

3.1 Administrative Support

- This contract amount includes Sand Lake Ambulance facilitating the Municipal Certificate of Need (MuniCON) and all other associated contracts and agreements.

3.3 Operational Readiness Timeline

1. **Phase 1**
 - Complete CON application.
 - Finalize service contract.
 - Receipt of agreed upon contract payment
 - Formalize mutual aid agreements.
 2. **Phase 2**
 - Acquire additional equipment.
 - Hire and train new staff .
 3. **Phase 3**
 - Launch shared service.
 - Monitor response times, staffing levels, and patient care quality.
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4. Benefits of the Shared Service

4.1 Enhanced Emergency Coverage

- **Two Paramedic Units:** Offers faster response for critical incidents.
- **Improved Reliability:** Second unit ensures continued coverage if the first is on a call.

4.2 Cost Savings and Efficiency

- **Combined Resources:** Minimizes duplicative services and overhead.
- **Economies of Scale:** Joint purchasing of medical supplies and equipment.

4.3 Community Health Impact

- **Advanced Life Support (ALS):** Improved outcomes for critically ill or injured patients.
 - **Community Engagement:** Opportunities for CPR/First Aid classes or health screenings.
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5. Performance Monitoring & Governance

5.1 Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)

- **Coverage Metrics:** Track availability and utilization of ambulances to ensure appropriate response times and minimize service gaps.
- **Quality Assurance/Improvement:** Regular chart reviews, feedback loops with the Medical Director.

5.2 Oversight

- **Governance:** Sand Lake Ambulance is an independent not-for-profit organization, operating under the governance of a Board of Directors in accordance with New York State law.
 - **Reporting:** Sand Lake Ambulance will submit quarterly reports to the Town Supervisors that outline the status of the ambulance service and its overall performance.
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6. Risk Management & Liability

- **Insurance & Liability Coverage:**
 - Sand Lake Ambulance maintains the necessary professional liability and malpractice insurance.

- **Worker's Compensation:**
 - Sand Lake Ambulance maintains the necessary workers compensation insurance.
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7. Community Outreach

- **Public Awareness Campaign:**
 - Announce the new shared service via mailers, websites, social media, and local meetings.
 - **Community Programs:**
 - Offer CPR/First Aid training or health fairs to engage and educate residents.
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Conclusion

By consolidating resources and expertise, **Poestenkill and Sand Lake** can achieve **enhanced service quality, improved response times, and greater financial efficiency** in emergency medical services. The proposed **shared ambulance service** represents a **proactive, collaborative** approach that addresses both **current** and **future** emergency care needs.
