

In response to a catastrophic failure by the contracted Emergency Medical Services (EMS) provider for Decatur and Macon County to adequately staff response units to effectively serve the community, Long Creek Fire Protection District (LCFPD), Trustees, and the LCFPD staff have recently committed to staffing an Advanced Life Support (ALS, i.e. paramedic) transport unit for our district. We are planning for this unit to be in service and responding to calls within our district by January 1, 2025.

The urgent need to provide adequate medical care to our district residents required us to staff and equip this ambulance unit, despite the absence of a dedicated funding stream. To help offset some of these costs, LCFPD has entered into an administrative agreement with EMS/MC to bill for medical response and transport services provided by this ambulance unit. LCFPD is dedicated to controlling costs for our residents. Specifically, account billing will feature a 10 percent discount for our residents. Furthermore, for at least the first year, we have committed not to “balance bill” our residents for any costs not covered by their insurance or other payor plans.

Unfortunately, the mismanagement of community emergency medical response has created a situation requiring immediate action. We look forward to partnering with our local colleagues at the Village and Township of Mt. Zion, Village of Bethany, and other surrounding locales to ensure adequate emergency response for all our community members.

We strongly encourage local media and residents to investigate concerns related to the current service being provided by the approved ambulance provider in Macon County. Alarming instances of inadequate staffing has led to severely delayed response times which can lead to negative patient outcomes. We hope our proactive measures will prevent future incidents in our district.

Respectfully submitted,

LCFPD Board of Trustees

Chris Ballard, Jack Cunningham, & Chris Schroth

LCFPD Fire Chief

Stephen Webb