



Office of the County Manager
Leo E. Ochs, Jr.

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February 20, 2018

Mr. Lee Niblock, City Manager
City of Marco Island
50 Bald Eagle Drive
Marco Island FL 3414

RE: Marco Island Ambulance Service Alternatives

Dear Mr. ^{Lee}Niblock;

It was good to see you at Commissioner Fiala's recent Marco Island Town Hall meeting. As the City's COPCN application continues to move through the review process, it occurred to me that I haven't formally presented some options for enhanced EMS service on the Island that were presented prior to your arrival. I'm sure Chief Murphy has gone through these with you, but I wanted to make sure that they were formally presented to you for consideration and further exploration, if you so desired.

The County Commission's adopted level of service standard for Marco Island is an ALS travel time of eight (8) minutes or less 90% of the time. Currently, EMS exceeds this level of service standard utilizing the following resource development plan:

- Interlocal agreement with the City of Marco Island Fire Department allows a swap of EMS and Fire personnel, enabling a City of Marco Island Fire Department Fire apparatus to provide ALS service.
- Seasonal ambulance on Marco Island (since 2014) from December through April
- "Zone Coverage" for Marco Island provided 24/7/365 by the Isles of Capri unit, if not available, Medic 23 (East Naples) is relocated to Marco.

The County provides ambulance transport services through a consolidated county-wide system with 26 ambulances and one helicopter that can be moved throughout the County as needed to answer approximately 38,000 calls for service. The system provided the following service to Marco Island for the last three years:

2013-2014	2324 calls for medical services	91% travel time of 8 minutes or less
2014-2015	2436 calls for medical services	96% travel time of 8 minutes or less
2015-2016	2497 calls for medical services	94% travel time of 8 minutes or less

While the County never endorsed the need to change or add resources to the services provided to the City of Marco Island, as an alternative to an ALS Transport COPCN, the County discussed the following alternatives at a joint workshop with the City in May 2017.

Current staffing on Marco Island:

- County EMS Medic Rescue 50 (ambulance)
 - One (1) County Credentialed Paramedic (EMS employee)
 - Two (2) Marco Island Fire personnel
- Marco Island Fire Apparatus (Aerial Tower)
 - One (1) County Credentialed Paramedic (EMS employee)
 - Three (3) Marco Island Fire personnel

Alternative #1: Reassign current staff/Eliminate Swap Program

- County EMS Medic Rescue 50 (ambulance)
 - One (1) County Credentialed Paramedic (EMS Employee)
 - One (1) Marco Island Fire employee
- Marco Island Fire Apparatus (Aerial Tower)
 - Three (3) Marco Island Fire personnel
- County EMS Medic Rescue 51 (ambulance)
 - Re-allocate one (1) County Credentialed Paramedic (EMS employee) from Aerial Tower to second ambulance
 - Re-allocate one (1) Marco Island Fire employee from Medic Rescue 50 to Medic Rescue 51

This alternative would remove the “swap component” from the Interlocal Agreement, but provide a second full time ambulance dedicated to Marco Island by re-allocating the second Marco Island employee from Medic Rescue 50 to Medic Rescue 51 and re-allocating the Collier County credentialed paramedic from the Aerial Tower to a second ambulance (Medic Rescue 51). This will allow County EMS to maintain control of EMS services and reduce the risk of fragmentation, while providing a second transport ambulance and additional fire resource for Marco Island. Initially, County EMS could utilize a reserve ambulance and equipment with no added costs for the re-allocation of resources. If this alternative was implemented, the City would be required within 24 months to pay the County for the cost of a new ambulance and associated equipment, currently estimated at \$280,000. In the alternative, the City could transfer an asset deemed suitable by the County to Collier EMS for this purpose.

Alternative #2: Hire an additional Paramedic/Maintain Swap Program

- County EMS Medic Rescue 50 (ambulance)
 - One (1) County Credentialed Paramedic (EMS Employee)
 - One (1) Marco Island Fire employee
- Marco Island Fire Apparatus (Aerial Tower) (staffing remains the same)
 - One (1) County Credentialed Paramedic (EMS employee)
 - Three (3) Marco Island Fire personnel

- County EMS Medic Rescue 51 (ambulance)
 - One (1) County Credentialed Paramedic (EMS employee)
 - Re-allocate one (1) Marco Island Fire employee from Medic Rescue 50 to Medic Rescue 51

This alternative would maintain the “swap component” from the Interlocal Agreement, but provide a second full time ambulance dedicated to Marco Island by re-allocating the second Marco Island employee from Medic Rescue 50 to Medic Rescue 51 and hiring an additional County EMS employee to staff Medic Rescue 51. This will allow County EMS to maintain control of EMS services and reduce the risk of fragmentation, while providing a second transport ambulance and additional fire resource for Marco Island. The cost to the City of this alternative is approximately \$514,761.82 for three (3) FTEs and the cost of ambulance and equipment. As suggested above, an alternative would allow the City to initially only pay for the costs of the fully burdened FTE’s, deploying them temporarily on a reserve County ambulance, and allow the City up to 24 months from program implementation to provide funding for a new ambulance and equipment

Alternative #3: Cost Share Additional Unit

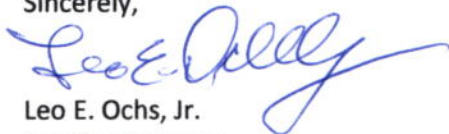
Keep the seasonal unit on Marco Island year-round with Marco covering the additional cost. This would require six (6) additional FTEs for the additional seven months at a cost of \$273,888.78 plus equipment for \$17,500. Eventually the ambulance will have to be replaced at an approximate cost of \$250,000 and a cost share could be negotiated at that time. This alternative will provide Marco with an additional full-time ambulance while maintaining one consolidated EMS service.

Based on the information presented in your COPCN Application, each of these alternatives would be less costly for the City than the estimated net cost to the City to operate its own ALS service.

Overall, the current services provided by County EMS to the residents of Marco Island exceed the level of service standards established by the BCC. Our current tiered EMS system is designed to provide first responder and Basic Life Support prior to Advanced Life Support. All Marco Island Fire Department apparatus that respond to emergency calls are equipped with the personnel and equipment to provide both BLS and initial Advanced Life support care prior to the arrival of a transport ambulance. With the collaboration of the City of Marco Island Fire and County EMS residents are receiving a level of service that not only exceeds the established level of service standards but is among the best response areas within the County.

The County remains open to further discussion of alternatives that were previously proposed.

Sincerely,



Leo E. Ochs, Jr.
County Manager

CC: Len Price, Administrative Services Department Head