

2023 REPORT TO TOWNS

First, we would like to thank all the people who have donated funds throughout the year to support the ambulance service. We'd also like to thank those who made efforts to raise support in the community for the service, i.e. the UCC Christmas Sale. The ambulance service would also like to thank those who supported the service through several memorials: Tom & Esther Rondeau, Kelly Nelson, Bob Mueller, & Joe Laberee. We offer our sincere sympathies to all these families.

The ambulance service again pursued a donation drive at the end of 2023 with the help of all the townships. To date we have received \$19,830 from these efforts, plus another \$2,000 is coming from grants. When we sent the donation letter out, we asked for \$20,000 and to date we have made the goal. The ambulance service continues to be overwhelmed by the generosity of this community! Words cannot express the gratitude that we feel from all the support!

These funds have already been used to purchase several IV Infusion Pumps and the Stair Chairs that we requested. The remaining funds will go into our medical equipment fund. If the situation remains the same by the end of the year, we will not need to pursue a donation drive like we have the last two years. Again, thanks to this community and their support; we will continue to provide Emergent 911 Advanced Life Support to our communities.

We received the extra FAP funds (Funding Assistance Program providing extra funding for ambulance services), which totaled a bit over \$12,000. We also received the Bayfield County Grant of \$20,000 and the Flex Grant of a bit over \$61,000. This was put toward our new ambulance that we purchased.

We consolidated our trucks after getting our two new ones, and partnered with WI Surplus who administered the sale of two of our vehicle and tires for income of \$22,700.

Our expenses were down too last year. With a decrease in employees, our payroll expenses were less as we cut one crew from the schedule. Fuel costs were not as much as well. We switched insurance carriers last year, and we are seeing huge savings in that area.

I mentioned last year that there is a WI Ground Emergency Medical Transport Program being offered that creates a supplemental reimbursement under Wisconsin Medicaid (MA) to public ambulance service providers. This program is being offered on a fiscal year basis. This year it will begin in January and go through June as a trial year. The program has not opened yet, but we will be participating once it opens.

In 2023, Great Divide Ambulance went on 1,052 Runs, compared to 1,256 Runs in 2022, 1,259 Runs in 2021, and 1,492 runs in 2020. This marks another year for less runs due to lack of staff. The runs were billed out for a total of \$2,396,160.17. The patient income was \$1,407,291.09. This reflects a 42% deduction in what we bill. A breakdown of the runs has been presented to you.

The ambulance service continues to make payments on their building loan. 20223 was the third year of payments; two more to go. (\$150,000 total loan for 5 years) The service made its first payment on the ambulance vehicle loan; four more to go.

With the excess of income and reduction in expenses, the board was able to set money aside for the repayment of the loans and started a new vehicle fund for the future replacement of vehicles! That is a true blessing, considering that two years ago we were contemplating cutting back our service. The grants that were received from COVID and other areas truly helped to keep this service active along with all the community support that was given!

The ambulance service lost 11 employees in 2021 and another 3 employees in 2022. In 2023 we lost 2 Paramedics and 4 EMTs. We have been staffing the ambulance with 3 Paramedics and 1 part-time fill-in nurse and 3 EMT's! That's 24-hour around-the-clock service with only 6 full-time employees for 2 ambulances! I want to take this time to thank all our employees for their dedication and service this year. These employees are working many hours to keep this service up and running. We desperately need workers, especially Paramedics to join our team. This year so far, we have hired one EMT.

We continue to serve our communities to the best of our ability providing Emergent 911 ALS Service to the area on call 24/7.

Thank you all for your support of the ambulance service.