



Jefferson County Commission
124 E Washington St, Charles Town, WV 25414

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CHARLES TOWN, WV (February 6, 2023) –

On March 1, 2023, Jefferson County will complete the transition of emergency medical services from a mixed volunteer and paid professional model to a fully professional EMS staff. **Residents and visitors will see no change in the emergency services they receive except for an increased availability of full-time professional emergency services staff.** The number of professionally staffed ambulances will increase from five to six during the day and four to five during the night.

Station	Current		As of March 1	
	Day	Night	Day	Night
#1 Friendship	Orange	White	Orange	Blue
#2 Citizens	Orange	Blue	Orange	Blue
#3 Shepherdstown	Orange	Blue	Orange	Blue
#4 Independent	Orange	Blue	Orange	Blue
#5 Blue Ridge	Orange	Blue	White	White
#6 Middleway	White	White	White	White
#7 Bakerton	White	White	White	White

Through the efforts of the Jefferson County Emergency Services Agency (JCESA) and the leadership of Director Burner, Operations Commander Considine, Captain Sine, Captain Horn and many others, the JCESA has completed nearly all the key tasks necessary to transition emergency medical services to a fully professional staffing model. The County Administrator's staff and the County Finance Director have stepped in to assist with finalizing billing and accounting processes and to provide additional support.



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To ensure there are no disruptions in pay and benefits, the full transition of ESA employees to the County payroll system will occur July 1st, the start of the new fiscal year. On February 2, 2023, the County Commission approved a 7.5% pay increase for ESA employees effective March 1, 2023 in an effort to bring them closer to competitive pay rates for the area and to help increase recruitment and retention.

Ambulance billing rates will remain the same and the County has contracted with the same third-party billing firm, so there is no change in the billing process.

Finally, on-going support for the volunteer fire companies remains vital. As part of the transition, equipment including ambulances has been purchased at fair market value from the fire companies using American Rescue Plan funds. The Commission will continue the annual payment to each company and is finalizing an additional payment for use of space in their facilities to house the ambulances and staff.

Station	Annual Payment (FY23)	Ambulance Purchase (one time)	Annual Space Rental (new)
#1 Friendship	\$82,500	\$293,087	In progress
#2 Citizens	\$85,500	\$643,544	
#3 Shepherdstown	\$82,500	\$230,000	
#4 Independent	\$82,500	\$569,104	
#5 Blue Ridge	\$82,500	\$290,000	
#6 Middleway	\$82,500	\$0.00	
#7 Bakerton	\$82,500	\$164,960	

For further information, please contact Cindy Rezmer, Interim County Administrator, Jefferson County Commission (304) 728-3284

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