

Seventh District Volunteer Rescue Squad, Inc.

P.O. BOX 7, AVENUE, MARYLAND 20609

April 15, 2019

TO: St. Mary's County Government Financial Administration/Budget

SUBMITTED BY: Donald Phetteplace, President
Robert S. Lawrence, Treasurer
Seventh District Volunteer Rescue Squad

ST. MARY'S COUNTY BUDGET FY2020

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St. Mary's County Gov't

MAY -6 2019

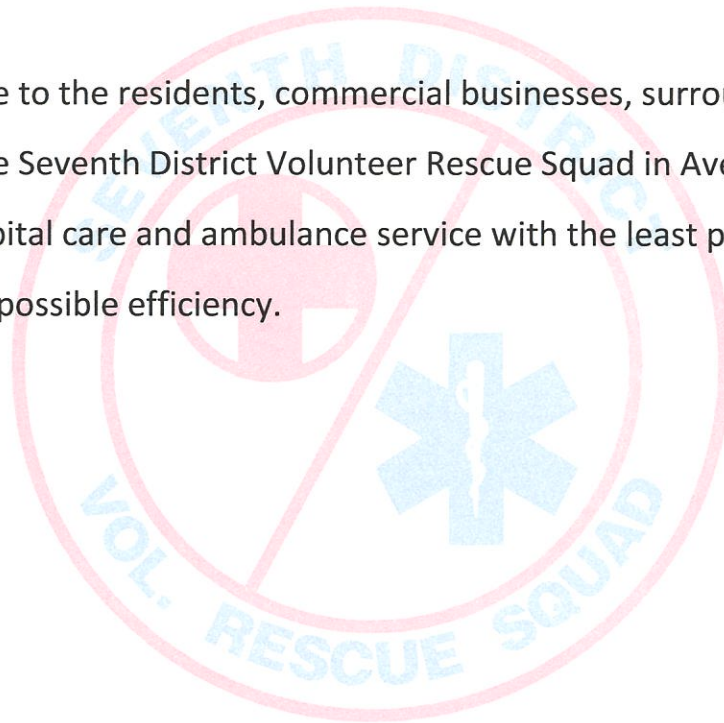
Finance Office

Seventh District Volunteer Rescue Squad, Inc.

P.O. BOX 7, AVENUE, MARYLAND 20609

MISSION STATEMENT

To make available to the residents, commercial businesses, surrounding areas and visitors of the Seventh District Volunteer Rescue Squad in Avenue, Maryland the best pre-hospital care and ambulance service with the least possible delay and the greatest possible efficiency.



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P.O. BOX 7, AVENUE, MARYLAND 20609

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Finance Office

April 15, 2019

St. Mary's County Commissioners
St. Mary's County Government
41770 Baldrige Street
P.O. Box 653
Leonardtown, Maryland 20650

Dear Sirs:

The Seventh District Volunteer Rescue Squad (SDVRS) of Avenue, MD is submitting this request to increase the Rescue Tax Rate from the current .011 per hundred dollars assessed value to .030 in order to cover increasing operating expenses, cost of equipment, remodel of the main building with an addition to the facility. SDVRS has been able to maintain since the beginning of taxes at the .011 rate with the support of the community, as well as substantial donations from Seventh District Volunteer Rescue Squad Auxiliary.

However, because of the continuing increase in cost associated with the operations, the need to update and expand the facility so as we can install two offices and storage area. SDVRS must plan for the future so as to not find itself in continual negative cash flow. We also have met with County Commissioner President Randy Guy and Commissioner John O'Connor in reference to our lack of man power during the week Monday thru Friday. Because of this we met with them and the ESB Board for suggestions and what we propose to relieve this problem. We have three elderly people, ages 75 – 79 responding during the day and sometimes other members may be off from work but mainly it is these three people.

We want to be pro-active so as to support the community in time of an emergency. Our call volume has increased over the years and with running mutual aid with Leonardtown and Mechanicsville we could and have fell short. Our recommendation is to acquire two personnel from a man power pool from a

County Sponsored and funded by the SDVRS with personnel as actual County Employee/EMT. This was also suggested by President Randy Guy and Commissioner John O'Connor at \$15.00 - \$20.00 per hour rate which would amount to possible \$600.00 per week per person, or \$800.00 per week per person, or for two people a week at \$1200.00 or \$1600.00 per week, yearly \$15.00 per hour = \$62,400 or \$20.00 per hour = \$83,200 for two employees.

These Employees would work 8 hour shifts from possibly 07:00 a.m. – 04:00 p.m. – 5 days per week. Then the County will invoice the SDVRS once a month. We have sleeping facilities, 2 showers (1-male, 1-female), 3-bathrooms, washer and dryer, fully equipped kitchen & TV. These Employees are covered to drive our vehicles (insurance on them is not a problem). The Employees will also have a job description of work to be performed when not on calls. We as a Department feel this is a good plan and best plan to service our Community.

Some of the issues that are being encountered:

1. Along with this plan we expressed our call ratio for our area has increased significantly in the past years and will probably get larger therefore we will also have to replace an Ambulance and add on to accommodate supplies, etc. Ambulance replacement is any where from \$250,000 to \$285,000. We also now have to supply the patients with the drugs and some medical supplies we use on them with no reimbursement from MedStar SMH due to they will not charge the patient's account because they did not administer the drug so we as the Ambulance service have to pay for the drugs we use on them.
2. Average Maintenance cost for the Ambulances has increased from approximately \$3,000.00 per year in 2010 to \$6,500.00 per year in 2018.
3. Monthly fuel bills for ambulances have gone up to approximately \$6,000.00 per year.
4. State requirement for continuing education cost have also increased with the cost associated to provide training, books and transportation.

5. The cost to outfit a member with protective EMS gear is approximately \$1,200.00 per member. Class "A" uniform we supply – shoes, dress shirt, dress pant, dress tie and patches, service pins, badges, etc. The member buys the dress coat and hat.

6. The State requires the Department to have utilization of technology which requires to invest in Internet access, building networks, upgraded computers and mobile devices (laptops and tablets) to provide network access to required State and Medical Data bases for patient reports, training and education. The use of technology requires periodic upgrades, replacements, new installations and the addition of the monthly expenses required to provide patient reports, training and education. We also have to update laptops and tablets periodically.

7. As stated earlier many supplies and replacement patient care consumables that used to be supplied by MedStar SMH 100%, now must be purchased from outside vendors.

8. Our utility expenses have increased for electricity and fuel for heat/hot water.

Therefore, in order to remain fiscally sound while continuing to provide exemplary pre-hospital service to the people of the Seventh District in Avenue, MD, St. Mary's County and the surrounding area, the Seventh District Volunteer Rescue Squad is requesting an increase in the Rescue Tax Rate from the .011 per \$100.00 dollars accessed value to .030 per \$100.00 dollars accessed value.

Respectfully

Donald Phetteplace
President
Seventh District Volunteer Rescue Squad

