

**The EMS REVIEW COMMITTEE held its first meeting on Thursday, March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2026 beginning at 6:00 P.M.**

**PRESENT:** Safety Svc Dir Pyanowski, Law Dir Deery, Finance Dir Pileski, Brad Armstrong, Jack Cerra, Larry Klipstein, Sharon Furcron

**OTHERS PRESENT:** President Mitchell, Dean Marks, Life Care Staff

Dir Pyanowski called to order the first meeting of the EMS Review Committee on March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2026 at 6:00 P.M. and began with a Roll Call of the members which have been appointed to this committee by City Council.

Safety Svc Dir Pyanowski

Finance Dir Pileski,

Law Dir Deery

Jack Cerra, 7<sup>th</sup> Ward Council Representative

Brad Armstrong, 5<sup>th</sup> Ward Council Representative

Sharon Furcron

Larry Klipstein

**All present.**

The first order of business is to appoint a Chair to this Committee and he opened the floor for nominations.

Dir Pyanowski nominated Brad Armstrong and Mr. Klipstein seconded that nomination. There were no more nominations.

**Dir Pyanowski asked all those in favor to indicate by saying AYE.**

**Everyone responded by saying AYE.**

**And any opposed to indicate by saying NAY.**

**No one responded by saying NAY.**

**The AYEs have it.**

**MOTION CARRIES**

The second order of business is to appoint a Vice Chair to this Committee and he opened the floor for nominations.

Brad Armstrong nominated Larry Klipstein Jack Cerra seconded that nomination.

There were no more nominations.

**Dir Pyanowski asked all those in favor to indicate by saying AYE.**

**Everyone responded by saying AYE.**

**And any opposed to indicate by saying NAY.**

**No one responded by saying NAY.**

**The AYEs have it.**

**MOTION CARRIES**

Director Pyanowski opened the floor to Chair Armstrong.

Chair Armstrong said this issue has been an on-going conversation for many years with no end result.

Law Deery said we need to stick to the Agenda before we move onto new business.

Mr. Armstrong said he believes the committee should meet once a month if that is okay with everyone until we get some good information and all feel good of the direction the committee is going. He suggested the meetings be held at 6:00 on Thursdays.

Law Dir Deery suggested the meeting schedule be approved by Council President at the next Council Meeting at Misc. & Unfinished Business at the March 16<sup>th</sup> Meeting.

Now onto New Business, Chair Armstrong said this is no disrespect to Life Care, we are trying to figure out what we should or should not do when it comes to the time that our contract with Life Care either ends or gets renewed.

He understands that this is the second study on this matter. There is a lot of good information, but they have not had enough time to dig into the opportunities and options that the study has offered. We have until February 2028 to decide if we should continue with Life Care or if we could do it in house through our Fire Department.

There is no reason to have this study and not take the time to dissect it and see what the suitable options might be. There could be a lot of financial challenges for the city. We do have a lot of resources and experts and the opportunity to use these resources.

Dir Pyanowski said his intention when he made this agenda, is to perhaps ask the members of the committee what other information they would find helpful, or maybe they don't know yet. As we organize ourselves, knowing what information we would like to hear; from the Fire Dept. and Life Care, Finance Dir Pileski.

Chair Armstrong said the first thing he wants to know is the cost and he wants to be transparent. We already have the medicine that can be used on emergencies, the fire department and Life Care all have everything they need for emergencies. The sooner we figure out the money, the sooner we can figure out where we're going to go. We should also dig into what we can do with the Broad Street station. It's housed, but only partially housed. It can be used immediately. We need to dig into that. We need to focus on the emergency status with all of the new homes and neighborhoods that are being built. We need to do some brainstorming.

Mr. Klipstein asked about building structures, he doesn't believe we have any structures to hold the ambulances in. So, there would be a cost for additional buildings which aren't reflected in the report. Also, there will be EMS personnel which may also include female personnel and he doesn't know if the Fire dept is set up to separate the male and female facilities and quarters.

This won't happen overnight, so how long are we looking at keeping both going because we're going to have a time period where we'll be setting up the EMS for the Fire Dept and training and hiring and getting equipment and will have to still rely on Life Care and continue to pay them until everything is ready to transition. If the cost can be put into the budget without straining the city finances that are already strained. We do have businesses coming into the city as well as housing developments, but, this needs to be looked at and how that would be more feasible in the future when there is more money in the budget.

Mr. Klipstein asked is that 2.5 million dollars the entire cost of all the employees? That must not be the cost for the equipment, so do we have a ballpark figure of the total cost which would include everything, operational costs, building structures, hiring personnel, equipment, training. And our city is growing and will we have to look ahead and build more fire stations.

Chair Armstrong said he would like to know what that additional cost will be. Are we going to hire more firefighters or paramedics? There are many questions.

Mr. Klipstein said this is a study of an outside company, they don't know the city and they don't know the day to day operations. Does Life Care and the fire department have their own numbers?

Mr. Cerra said he is pretty sure the numbers that are reflected in the report were directly from Life Care and the fire department.

Dir Pyanowski said as it relates to Life Care's figures and some of the figures related to EMS costs, Life Care did confirm that the numbers were fair. The numbers used to create the report were based on market data. The consultant did on-sight visits, exchanged data from the fire department and Life Care and other sources. The numbers in the report are representative of accurate numbers that should be considered as they evaluate the report.

There might be some additional costs that aren't factored in the report.

Chair Armstrong asked Dir Pyanowski that the report didn't reflect Life Care's financials because they didn't provide it, is that correct?

Dir Pyanowski said they did not provide specific financial reports, but they did confirm that the numbers are fair and accurate.

Chair Armstrong asked if we could revisit that to get some closer numbers?

Dir Pyanowski said based on the conversation that he had at that time, he doesn't feel that it's necessary. This consultant does this nationally for numerous cities. They did make some assumptions, but they were verified with Life Care to be fair and accurate assumptions. He feels confident with those numbers.

Finance Dir Pileski said as he looked at the report there is one piece of information that he couldn't find, which was, if we were to take on this activity, what would that do to the city's liability insurance coverage, how much will that cost? We need to look into that. And before he can even begin to put numbers on how much it will cost, he will need to know an estimate of how many people we'll need to hire to do this. In the report it says it only calls for two additional positions. So, we need more information before we can put numbers on it.

Dir Deery said to echo what Fin Dir Pileski said, and what other members of the committee said, she agrees with those questions and the needing to sort those out. She doesn't have an amount in mind, but it will be an additional cost of what insurance would be and not just liability, but, vehicle insurance and there would very well be an increase in incidents with first responder vehicles. We would be getting into the realm of medical malpractice. That would be reality. She's not saying whether the city should go into this line of work, but, it's definitely something we need to factor in, both financially and otherwise.

Mrs. Furcron said she wanted to echo what Mr. Klipstein said about the storage of the equipment, she didn't see that anywhere in the report as to that being taken into consideration. She also asked about the hiring of an EMS administrator and an administrator assistant as mentioned on page 24 of the report. She didn't get the feeling that there were provisions for the entire accounts receivable cycle. There are pre-billing reviews but, what happens when they don't pay the bills, is there transferring of that responsibility to a different department, we need to think about that as well.

Mr. Cerra personally does not see the vision where we could service the whole city out of the Broad Street station, there may need to be additional sites and that will need to be factored in as well.

Dir Pyanowski said regarding the points about collections and those such things, he thinks the expectation would be that we would have to work with an outside billing company which would have some function of collections, medical billing and collections. He's not confident that a single administrative assistant to the captain, which is suggested to run this program, would be sufficient to get all the billing submitted. Some of the billing and collections could be automated, but that would be the expectation. Ultimately, there will be costs associated with a billing company as well as a potential loss from collections and uncollectible accounts. On page 26 of the report, it talks about labor costs, this is a starting point and the expectation would be that we would have to hire EMT's and Paramedics to run the ambulance program. The firefighters are to run the fire apparatus. There would be an increase in personnel, somewhat sizable, we can track that number down and based on the number of crews, which is suggested in the report, it would be three and a half units. We currently have three operational fire stations.

The Broad Street station houses offices for the Fire Prevention Bureau and the Chief is there.

They have looked at what it would cost to build out the second floor for quarters, but that's not related to ambulance. There is a fourth pumper running out of Cedar Street and the thought was to move it to the Broad Street location and what would that cost to build that out and to build the requisite number of firefighters there for that purpose. The question was asked if it could be built out further, would it be a possible location for EMS. He agrees this report looks at the three fire stations strategically located around the city and wondering if one single location on Broad Street would be able to meet the response times and needs of the city. Those are all things to consider and that is up for further discussion.

Mr. Klipstein said with the city sprawling out like it is, he feels the response time from a centralized location wouldn't meet the needs, there is a tight window when you have a cardiac victim or stroke victim and only have a number of minutes to provide the ultimate care. We would have to look at station ambulances throughout the area to keep up the response time. With just one central location, it may take too long to get to certain areas around the city, especially the developments on the outskirts of the city.

Chair Armstrong thanked everyone and said this is a good start. He asked if anyone else wanted to add comments.

President Mitchell, 196 Egret Dr., asked what other services will this offer? Life Care does transport from nursing homes to dialysis centers and to other places. We need to look at that as an option.

Dean Marks, 318 Ashland Ave. said he appreciates the fact that this committee will take their time and discuss all the options and get questions answered. He said he is always available; the Chief is available. He knows there was this study, we just had a new chief sworn in, give him the opportunity to answer any questions.

Cheryl Wright, 110 Williams St. asked if the possibility of grants have been considered for the purchase of the ambulances?

Mr. Cerra said grants are great, but, they are temporary. Usually when the money for a grant expires, that money will have to come out of the general fund.

Dir Pyanowski said if we move in this direction, we would consider grants. The challenge is if you're not currently running ambulances, a grant application might seem incomplete. There would always be ways to consider other funding options.

Mr. Klipstein said he remembers when Life Care was Majoras Ambulance and he remembers Mrs. Majoras had 2 ambulances in the back of her house in the garage and from that became Life Care. It's a very stressful industry and he is grateful for this company having served Elyria all of these years.

Dir Pyanowski asked that when questions are asked to anyone specific, that they share the information with the entire committee so that they can all have the information and it will be more efficient for everyone as a whole.

Mr. Cerra asked if those questions can be a part of the email chain which everyone received regarding this evening's meeting.

Dir Pyanowski said, yes, that is a good way to make sure everyone sees any questions and answers which can be discussed at the next EMS committee meeting.

Law Dir Deery said she looked at the calendar to make sure there is a quorum for the next meeting and Chair Armstrong mentioned that this committee would meet monthly. She said she will not be available on Thursday, April 9<sup>th</sup>, she wanted to put that out there for the committee so they can plan ahead for the next meeting.

Chair Armstrong asked if everyone would be available on Thursday, April 16<sup>th</sup>?

Ms. Furcron stated said she is not available on April 16<sup>th</sup>.

**Chair Armstrong asked if April 23<sup>rd</sup> will work for everyone?  
Everyone on the committee stated they are available on that date and Chair Armstrong announced the next EMS Review Committee Meeting will take place on Thursday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2026 at 6:00 P.M.**

Chair Armstrong stated this meeting has ended and he asked for a motion to adjourn.

**Motion made by Mr. Cerra and second by Mr. Klipstein to adjourn the EMS Review Committee Meeting at 6:40 P.M.  
MOTION CARRIES**

**The Next EMS Review Committee Meeting is scheduled for  
Thursday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2026.**

Respectfully Submitted by,  
Colleen Rosado, *Colleen Rosado*  
City Council Secretary/Administrative Assistant