



SPECIAL VILLAGE BOARD MEETING COMBINED WITH PUBLIC FORUM AGENDA

June 12, 2024 at 6:00 PM

Kronenwetter Municipal Center - 1582 Kronenwetter Drive Board Room (Lower Level)

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

- A. Pledge of Allegiance
- B. Roll Call

2. PUBLIC FORUM

- C.** PUBLIC FORUM QUESTION & ANSWER SESSION

3. OLD BUSINESS

- D. Discussion and Possible Action: Village of Kronenwetter Ambulance Service

4. ADJOURNMENT

NOTE: Requests from persons with disabilities who need assistance to participate in this meeting or hearing should be made at least 24 hours in advance to the Village Clerk's office at (715) 693-4200 during business hours.

Posted: 06/06/2024 Kronenwetter Municipal Center and www.kronenwetter.org

Faxed: WAOW, WSAU, City Pages, Mosinee Times | Emailed: Wausau Daily Herald, WSAW, WAOW, Mosinee Times, Wausau Pilot and Review, City Pages



Report to Village Board

Agenda Item: Discuss and Possible Action: Future Ambulance Service in the Village

Meeting Date: June 12, 2024

Referring Body: Administrative Policy Committee (APC)

Committee Contact: Chris Voll, Chair

Staff Contact: Theresa O'Brien, Fire Chief

Report Prepared by: Theresa O'Brien, Fire Chief/Alexa Kufalk, EMS Coordinator

AGENDA ITEM: Future of Ambulance service in the Village

OBJECTIVE(S): Review ambulance service in the Village of Kronenwetter

HISTORY/BACKGROUND: APC meeting on 4/30/2024 motion to recommend Village Board approval of the ambulance service under the Kronenwetter Fire Department.

PROPOSAL: See Attached.

Following are the comparisons including a projected payment for capital purchases with interest at 5% with monthly payments with an assumed \$710,000 loan using high estimated costs of needed capital purchases.

COMPARISONS				
	2026	2027	2028	TOTAL FOR 3 YEARS
Current Budget (includes contracted service fees)	\$ 139,150.29	\$ 140,303.80	\$ 141,491.91	
Revenue - No Revenue Generated	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
Village Expense	\$ 139,150.29	\$ 140,303.80	\$ 141,491.91	\$ 420,946.01
Projected Budget	\$ 258,402.00	\$ 264,115.02	\$ 266,249.17	
Capital Expense (Loan payment + est interest if loan = \$710,000)	\$ 90,384.00	\$ 90,384.00	\$ 90,384.00	
Total Expenses	\$ 348,786.00	\$ 354,499.02	\$ 356,633.17	
Revenue/Funds/Grants	\$ 220,000.00	\$ 222,000.00	\$ 224,020.00	
Village Expense (total Expense - Revenue/Funds/Grants)	\$ 128,786.00	\$ 132,499.02	\$ 132,613.17	\$ 393,898.19
** Interest rate based on 5% with monthly payments				

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Approve the proposal and implementation plan for Ambulance Services under Village Of Kronenwetter Fire Department to begin 1/1/2026 and direct the Fire Chief and EMS Coordinator to continue with implementation.

ATTACHMENTS: Ambulance Proposal and Q&A

KRONENWETTER FIRE DEPARTMENT AMBULANCE PROPOSAL



Implementation of Ambulance Service in the Village of Kronenwetter

Background Information:

Kronenwetter is the largest village by land area in the United States and the third most populous community in Marathon County. The population estimate as of January 1, 2023 was 8,539. Kronenwetter covers 52 square miles, making it the largest village in the State of Wisconsin.

Historically the Village of Kronenwetter has always contracted with an outside source to provide ambulance services to residents. Prior services have included Mosinee Ambulance, Schofield Fire and Ambulance, Rib Mountain Fire and Ambulance, SAFER, and most currently Riverside Fire District.

Contract with Riverside Fire District

The current contract with Riverside Fire District started January 1, 2023 and expires on December 31, 2025. The contract includes an annual base fee of \$5.92 per capita with a 2% increase per calendar year after 2023 with an additional charge to the Village of Kronenwetter of \$50.00 per patient care report (per dispatch regardless of patient contact) with Riverside Fire District having full entitlement to all revenues from patient billing.

Kronenwetter Emergency Medical Responders

In addition to the outside sourcing for ambulance services, Kronenwetter Fire Department provides Emergency Medical Responders (EMR) as first responders who respond directly to the patient's home/location. First responders carry the equipment necessary to start initial patient care and assist with the movement of the patient to the ambulance. They are also able to aid during transport or as the ambulance driver. There are currently 10 first responders on Kronenwetter Fire with licenses ranging from EMR to Paramedic/Nurse. In addition, there are current firefighters in the department with the desire to train as EMS.

The equipment supplied by Kronenwetter Fire Department and carried by each EMR includes an automated external defibrillator (AED), advanced airway equipment, oxygen, etc. In 2023 the first responder group purchased an advanced cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) device called LUCAS.

An EMS flex grant offered by the State of Wisconsin financed the initial creation of a weekend on call system in 2023.

Increased EMS Calls and Resulting Revenue

Requests for emergency medical services within the Village of Kronenwetter have steadily increased. From 243 calls in 2019 to over 400 for the last 2 years. With the continued growth residentially (apartments and single-family homes) and anticipated business growth, those request numbers will continue to rise.

The 2022 emergency medical service requests in Kronenwetter have provided \$214,608.54 in revenue for Riverside Fire District. Their 2023 estimated revenue from Kronenwetter requests as of October 2023 stands at \$170,000. The 2024 budgeted revenue is \$192,000. These revenues are in addition to the contract fees of \$69,931 in 2022, \$70,931.12 in 2023 and \$72,000 budgeted for 2024.

Ambulance Services in Marathon County

Current ambulance services within Marathon County by service type include: EMT Basic: Athens, Edgar, Stratford, Hatley, Mosinee; AEMT (Advanced EMT): Spencer; Paramedic: Wausau, Riverside (Rothschild/Schofield), SAFER (Weston/Rib Mt). **Research of current EMT and AEMT services less than 10% (7% average) of the service's total calls in 2022 and 2023 had a paramedic level intercept requested all other calls are handled by the services EMT or AEMT service providers.*

Available Funding Opportunities

The State of Wisconsin along with the federal government have identified areas within EMS that are lacking. These areas include but are not exclusive to, reimbursement percentages for Medicaid billed services, staffing shortages, and training opportunities. There are continued efforts on the behalf of the government entities to improve these pitfalls. There are now numerous grant opportunities to assist services in many of these areas. Grants from within the state have increased, additional opportunities have been created for training as well as funding sources to help support wages and staffing.

The FAP grant from the State of Wisconsin has an annual distribution of funds for ambulance service vehicles or vehicle equipment, emergency medical services supplies or equipment, or emergency medical training for personnel, to the ambulance service providers that are a public agency, a volunteer fire department, or a nonprofit corporation. The funds are disbursed under a funding formula consisting of an identical base amount for each ambulance service provider plus a supplemental amount based on the population of the ambulance service provider's primary service or contract area, as established under Wis. Stat. § 256.15(5).

Proposal:

Ambulance services are identified by the State of Wisconsin as an essential service of a community. The goal of this proposal would allow for the creation of an ambulance service within the Kronenwetter Fire Department. It would provide ambulance services at an Advanced Emergency Medical Technician (AEMT) level with continued utilization of first responders to all residents/non-residents with a need for medical assistance within the Village of Kronenwetter. It would also be available to neighboring communities if requested for assistance. The target start date is January 1, 2026. The creation of this ambulance service and the resulting revenue would allow for a self-supporting entity.

Benefits of a municipal ambulance service:

1. **Community Coverage:** A municipal ambulance service ensures comprehensive coverage for emergency medical needs within the community.
2. **Local Control:** Municipalities have direct control over the service, allowing them to tailor it to local needs. Decisions on staffing, equipment, and protocols are made by local authorities.
3. **Integrated Services:** A municipal service can collaborate closely with other public safety agencies (such as fire departments and police) to create a seamless emergency response system.
4. **Community Investment:** A municipal service invests in local jobs, training, and infrastructure. It contributes to the overall well-being of the community.
5. **Emergency Preparedness:** Having a dedicated municipal ambulance service enhances disaster preparedness and response. It ensures adequate resources during emergencies.
6. **Revenue Generating** – Billing for services allowing generation of revenue to support the ambulance service.

Implementation and Operational Plan:

The implementation plan would follow the State of Wisconsin EMS operational plan requirements and guidelines as described in the following sections.

This section serves as an action plan for providing ambulance service to the residents/non-residents of the Village of Kronenwetter requiring emergency medical assistance. This plan reflects an anticipated start date of January 1, 2026, and includes tasks necessary for full implementation of that service.

Items listed are in no specific order and any future or in-process items may be achieved consecutively throughout this process.

- ❖ **Administrative**
 - Work with Marathon County Dispatch to align response protocols.
 - Secure mutual aid and coverage agreements with adjacent ambulance services
 - Educate staff accordingly with documentation procedures and updates to patient care reporting system to reflect transport capabilities and billing information.
 - Reinforce relationships with hospital system and local nursing facilities establishing parameters of providing an ambulance service.
- ❖ **Billing**
 - Solicit billing projections and approve one vendor. Initial conversations with vendors have already taken place. Possible vendor options:
 - EMS/MC
 - Accumed
 - Establish a billing rate schedule which would be approved by the Village of Kronenwetter Board
 - Work with chosen billing agency to establish implementation process to link systems for information transfer.
- ❖ **Insurance**
 - Work with village clerk to obtain additional insurance coverage for apparatus and personnel for the new service.
- ❖ **Equipment**
 - Purchase two ambulances (1 new, 1 used) along with associated equipment to outfit the apparatus required by the State of WI for transporting patients.
 - Outfit apparatus with radios and equipment upon delivery.
 - Establish a maintenance schedule based on manufacturer specifications with internal staff and externally as needed through a KFD preferred service center.

- Purchases additional capital assets and equipment. Capital assets have a long-use life before needing replacement/repairs.

- ❖ Personnel
 - Hire or up-train staff members to allow for completion of training prior to implementation date.
 - Begin additional recruitment processes immediately.
 - Train existing and new members on the operations and procedures relating to the new equipment and protocols with the addition of the ambulance service.
 - Currently, the Kronenwetter Fire Department has 31 members, 7 members are Firefighters/First Responders, 3 members are solely first responders. Additional firefighters are interested in training up to provide EMS coverage.

- ❖ Cost Benefit Analysis
 - See Fiscal Projections and Impact

In accordance with State of WI requirements, there is an extensive checklist of initial tasks that need to be completed prior to obtaining licensure. These checklist items are in accordance with various Wisconsin Administration Codes.

Operational Plan Initial Tasks to be Completed:

1. Complete a feasibility study and submit it to the state department for approval. (in Progress)
2. Upon the department's approval of the feasibility study, complete and submit an application and an operational plan to the state department in the manner specified by the department. (In Progress)
3. Signed patient care protocols approved by the service medical director. (Complete)
4. A formulary list of medications the emergency medical service provider will use. (Complete)
5. A list of the advanced skills and procedures the applicant intends to use to provide services within the Wisconsin scope of practice of the level of care for which licensure is sought. (Complete)
6. Proof of professional liability or medical malpractice insurance, and, if the emergency medical service provider is an ambulance service provider, proof of vehicle insurance (In Progress – proof of vehicle insurance remaining)

7. Written letters or other documentation of endorsement from the local hospital and government within the proposed primary service area, if the application is for licensure as a 9-1-1 ambulance service provider or non-transporting emergency medical service provider, whether the application is for initial licensure or a service level upgrade (In Progress – Conversations have already taken place with current Medical Director Dr Michael Clark – he supports the upgrade to service)
8. Completion of Operational Policies:
 - a. Use of lights and sirens in responding to a call. (Complete)
 - b. Use of lights and sirens in responding to a call. (Complete)
 - c. Refusal of care, describing the procedure for accepting a refusal of care from a patient (Complete)
 - d. Destination determination, describing how the transport destination of the patient is determined if the provider is an ambulance service provider. (Complete)
 - e. Emergency vehicle operation and driver safety training (Complete)
 - f. Controlled substances and how the service provider will obtain, store, secure, exchange, and account for any and all controlled substances used to provide patient care. (Complete)
 - g. Continuous quality assurance and improvement program describing the components of the program, including how patient care and documentation will be reviewed, by whom, and how the results will be shared with practitioners and incorporated into continuing education. (Complete)

Additional Responsibilities as required by the State of Wisconsin:

1. Read and understand the responsibilities under Wis. Admin. Code § DHS 110.34 (Complete)
2. Designate the primary service area in which it will operate (Complete)
3. Maintain written mutual aid and coverage agreements with ambulance service providers operating within or adjacent to its primary service area (Future)
4. Designate and maintain affiliation with a regional trauma advisory council. (In-progress)
5. Maintain at least one ambulance vehicle in good operating condition as required under ch. Trans 309 (Future)
6. Provide your list of service designees per Wis. Admin. Code § DHS 110.47.(Complete/Future)

***Attachments to this proposal include the fiscal impact, patient billing fee perspectives, equipment and personnel costs, ongoing additional cost for service, graphical representation of historical EMS data, mileage and time study, and implementation and operational steps.*

Fiscal Information and Impact:

Current EMS Budget

Current EMS Budget	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
Wages	\$ 33,714.50	\$ 34,725.94	\$ 35,767.71	\$ 36,840.74	\$ 37,945.97
FICA	\$ 2,579.16	\$ 2,604.45	\$ 2,682.58	\$ 2,763.06	\$ 2,845.95
Supplies	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
Training	\$ 1,600.00	\$ 1,600.00	\$ 1,600.00	\$ 1,600.00	\$ 1,600.00
Other	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00
Medical Physicals	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
Equipment	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,000.00
Riverside per call	\$ 22,000.00	\$ 22,000.00	\$ 22,000.00	\$ 22,000.00	\$ 22,000.00
Riverside Contract	\$ 65,000.00	\$ 65,000.00	\$ 65,000.00	\$ 65,000.00	\$ 65,000.00
Total Budget	\$ 136,993.66	\$ 138,030.38	\$ 139,150.29	\$140,303.80	\$ 141,491.91

** wages include a 3% increase annually

Projected Budgets and Expenses

Capital Purchases			
Item	Cost	Quantity	Total Cost
Ambulance (New)	\$ 350,000.00	1	\$ 350,000.00
Ambulance (Used)	\$ 100,000.00	1	\$ 100,000.00
Stryker Power Load cot loading s	\$ 28,000.00	2	\$ 56,000.00
Stryker Poser Pro 2 power cot	\$ 32,550.00	2	\$ 65,100.00
Stryker Power Pro stair chair	\$ 4,500.00	2	\$ 9,000.00
Defibrillator	\$ 55,000.00	2	\$ 110,000.00
Backboards, KED, & other capital	\$ 10,000.00	2	\$ 20,000.00
TOTAL			\$ 710,100.00

** Many capital items can be purchased as refurbished for a lesser cost while still meeting standards with full warranty/ Total can be financed with an est. \$71,000 a year payment

ESTIMATED 2025 Budget	
Item	Cost
Cradlepoint wifi & router (for Defibrillator)	\$ 5,400.00
Current Firefighter - Training to EMT	\$ 7,200.00
EMS Wages	\$ 34,725.94
FICA	\$ 2,604.45
Supplies	\$ 5,000.00
Training (Conference, etc..)	\$ 1,600.00
Other	\$ 3,000.00
Medical Physicals	\$ 500.00
Equipment	\$ 4,000.00
Riverside per call	\$ 22,000.00
Riverside Contract	\$ 65,000.00
TOTAL	\$ 151,030.38

**\$13,000 increase between current budget and increase to purchase extra equipment/up-training of firefighters to EMS

Projected Revenue/Grants	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
Projected Billing Revenue	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 202,000.00	\$ 204,020.00	\$206,060.20	\$ 208,120.80
Grants	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00
2% Fire Dues	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00
Total	\$ 220,000.00	\$ 222,000.00	\$ 224,020.00	\$226,060.20	\$ 228,120.80

**1% increase annually ** Wisconsin ACT 228 – GEMT will allow for greater return of Medicaid patient billing / Grant funding is likely under-estimated due to changes in Wisconsin FAP grant

ESTIMATED BUDGET			
Item	2026	2027	2028
Wages	\$ 196,560.00	\$ 198,525.60	\$ 200,510.86
FICA	\$ 14,742.00	\$ 14,889.42	\$ 15,038.31
EMS Operating Supplies(include)	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 12,000.00
Training (Conference, etc..)	\$ 1,600.00	\$ 1,600.00	\$ 1,600.00
Medical Physicals	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
Equipment	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,000.00
Vehicle/Equipment Maintenance	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00
Fuel	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 7,500.00
Patient Billing	\$ 8,400.00	\$ 8,400.00	\$ 8,400.00
Medical Control	\$ 3,600.00	\$ 7,200.00	\$ 7,200.00
Software/Staffing Management	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00
Clothing Allowance	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00
Membership dues	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
TOTAL	\$ 258,402.00	\$ 264,115.02	\$ 266,249.17

**Patient Billing using billing company estimated at \$21 per call @ 400 calls

COMPARISONS	2026	2027	2028
Current Budget	\$ 139,150.29	\$ 140,303.80	\$ 141,491.91
Revenue	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Village Expense	\$ 139,150.29	\$ 140,303.80	\$ 141,491.91
Projected Budget	\$ 258,402.00	\$ 264,115.02	\$ 266,249.17
Capital Expense (Loan payment)	\$ 71,000.00	\$ 71,000.00	\$ 71,000.00
Total Expenses	\$ 329,402.00	\$ 335,115.02	\$ 337,249.17
Revenue/Funds/Grants	\$ 220,000.00	\$ 222,000.00	\$ 224,020.00
Village Expense (total Expense -	\$ 109,402.00	\$ 113,115.02	\$ 113,229.17

Projected savings to the Village of Kronenwetter = Current Village Expense – Projected Village Expense with revenues:

2026	\$ 29,748.29
2027	\$ 27,188.78
2028	\$ 28,262.74

Per Capita = ((total expenses – revenue)/total census (8500 residents))

Current	\$ 16.37	Per Capita
Projected	\$ 12.87	Per Capita

PATIENT BILLING

PATIENT BILLING RATE - CURRENT SERVICES						
Description	Mosinee	Wausau	SAFER	Stratford	Riverside 2022	Riverside 2023
BLS - Resident	800	1300	900	800	1050	1100
BLS - Non Resident	925	1300	1050	900	1250	1300
ALS1 - Resident	975	1450	1075	1050	1200	1300
ALS1 - Non Resident	1075	1450	1225	1250	1400	1500
ALS2 - Resident	1150	1800	1475	1275	1400	1600
ALS2 - Non Resident	1275	1800	1625	1475	1600	1800
BLS On Scene Care - Resident	275	500	425	300	350	400
BLS On Scene Care - Non Resident	275	500	500	375	425	500
ALS On Scene Care - Resident	775	1100	425	650	1200	1300
ALS On Scene Care - Non Resident	900	1100	500	725	1400	1500
Mileage - Resident	16	23	20	21	25	26
Mileage - Non Resident	17	23		22	25	26
Oxygen					82.5	90
Spinal Immobilization					165	200
Lift Assist (1st 2)		0				
Lift Assist after 2		275				

SUGGESTED KRONENWETTER PATIENT BILLING RATE	
Description	Suggested Rate
BLS - Non-Emergent	\$ 950
BLS - Emergent	\$ 1,100
ALS1 - Non -Emergent	\$ 1,100
ALS1 - Emergent	\$ 1,250
ALS2	\$ 1,400
BLS On Scene Care	\$ 250
ALS On Scene Care	\$ 450
Mileage	\$ 25

**Per EMS Regional Director – Resident and Non-Resident charges are not recognized by billing companies

Mileage and Response Times study (addresses blacked out to retain privacy)

Address Example	Address	RSFD Mi.	RSFD Time	KFD Mi.	KFD Time	Direction	Time Diff.	Mileage Diff
Address 1		8.9 mi.	14 mins.	5.1 mi.	7 mins	South	7 min	3.8
Address 2		9 mi.	15 mins	8.9 mi.	15 mins	East	0 min	0.1
Address 3		8.8 mi.	14 mins.	9.2 mi.	14 mins	East	0 min	0.4
Address 4		9.2 mi.	13 mins	3.6 mi.	5 mins	South	8 min	5.6
Address 5		7.9 mi.	12 mins.	2.3 mi.	5 mins	South	7 min	5.6
Address 6		12.9 mi	18 mins	9.1 mi.	11 mins	South	7 min	3.8
Address 7		5.6 mi.	9 mins	2.0 mi	4 mins	West	5 min	3.6
Address 8		4.3 mi.	7 mins	3.0 mi.	5 mins	West	2 min	1.3
Address 9		4.2 mi.	7 mins	2.9 mi	5 mins	West	2 min	1.3
Address 10		3.7 mi.	8 mins	3.7 mi	7 mins	Central	1 min	0
Address 11		7.6 mi	13 mins	3.9 mi	6 mins	Central/South	7 min	3.7
Address 12		4.4 mi	9 mins	4.2 mi.	8 mins	Central	1 min	0.2
Address 13		5.7 mi	11 mins	6.1 mi	10 mins	East	1 min	0.4
Address 14		4.0 mi	8 mins	2.8 mi	5 mins	Central	3 mins	1.2

Figure 1

Historical Call Times and Days of Weeks:

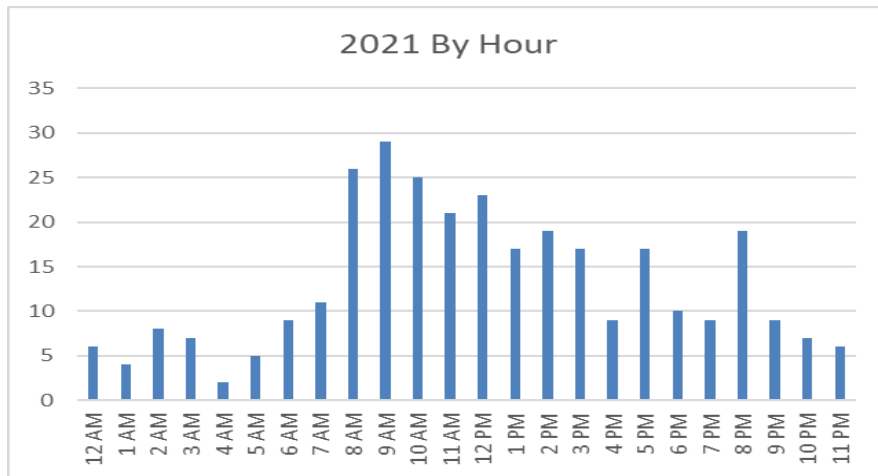


Figure 2

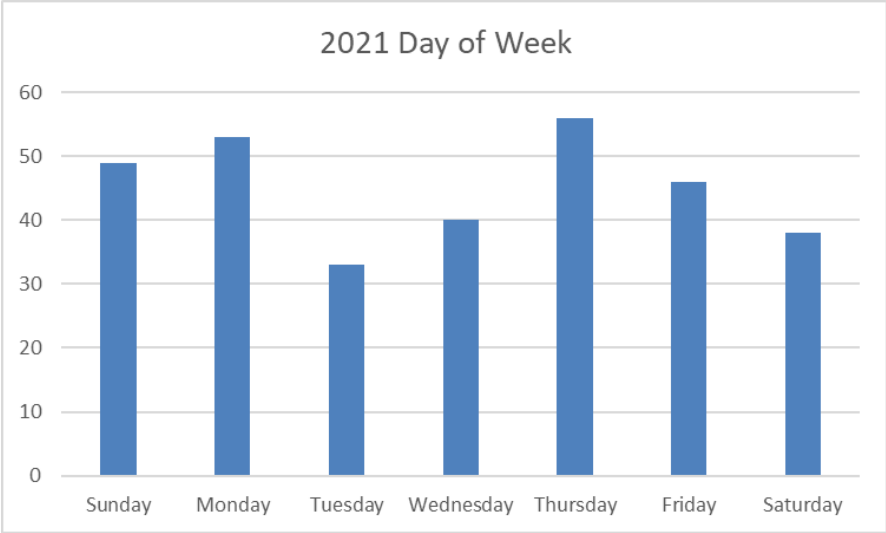


Figure 3

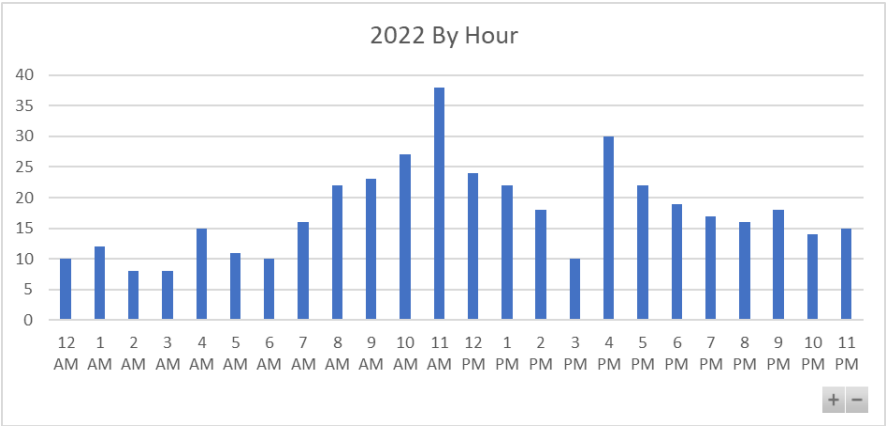


Figure 4

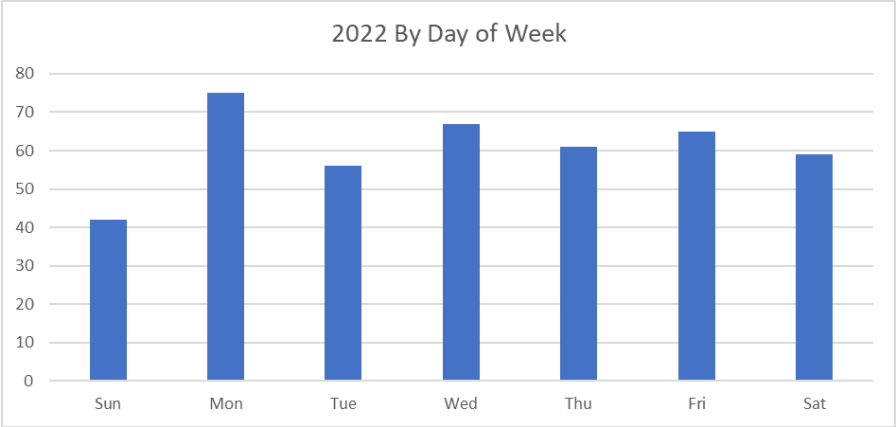


Figure 5

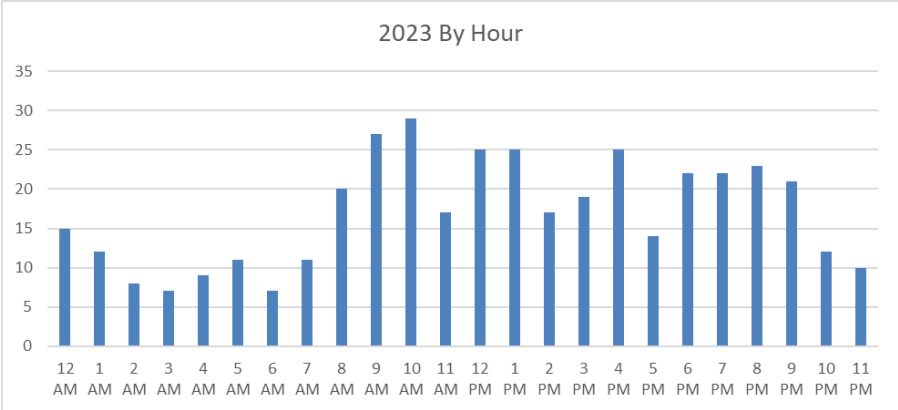


Figure 6

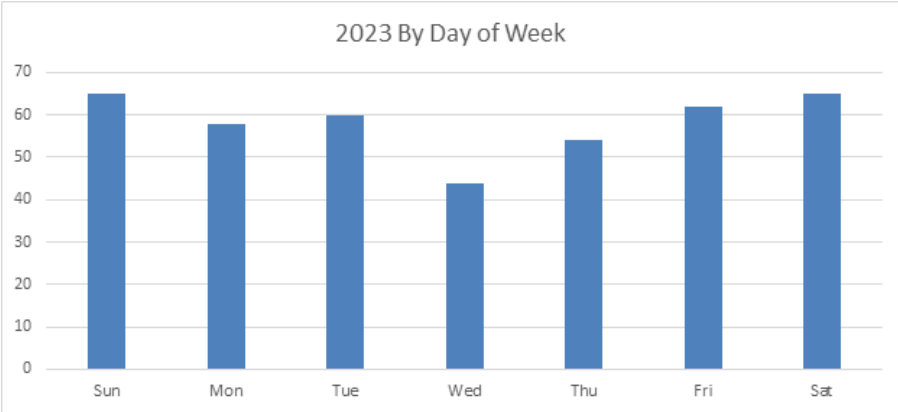


Figure 7

Call by Transport Type

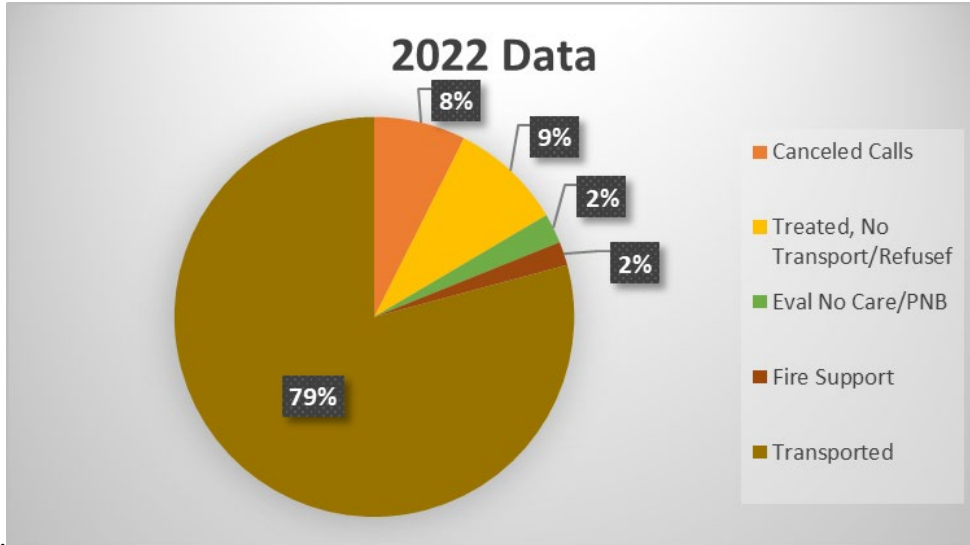


Figure 8

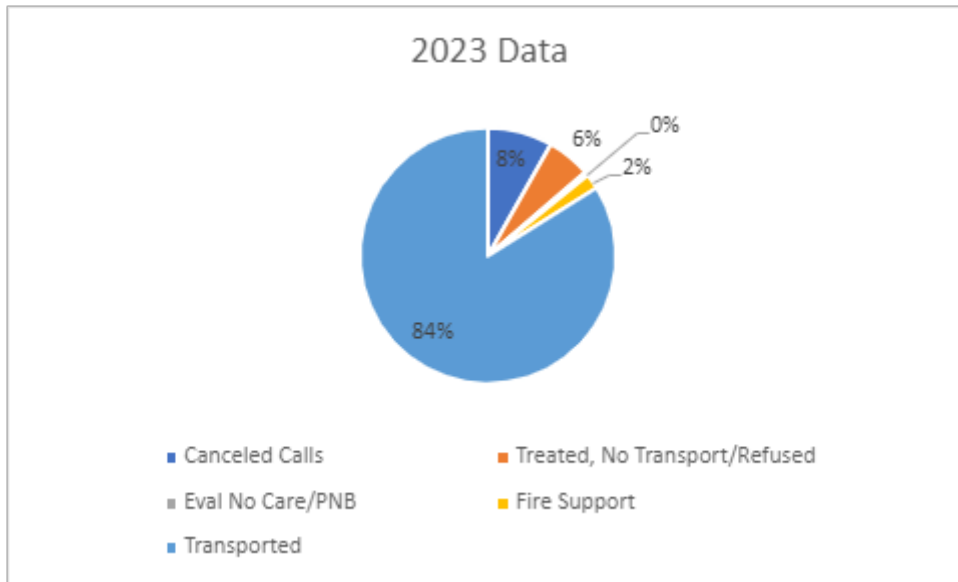


Figure 9

Kronenwetter Fire Ambulance Service Q&A

1. How long would it take to see a return on the investment?

Per the estimations included in the fiscal impact the return would be immediate.

2. What is the cost to implement this service (including equipment, personnel, and associated training)?

See financials to understand the capital expenses for equipment, cost of personnel associated with training, broken down in future budgets.

3. Do we need additional building space? Where would we house the equipment?

As previously discussed at CLIPP meeting on March 4th, this is something that is being evaluated regardless of Ambulance Service. The current Fire Station was designed and built with the two bays' closest to the building to house Ambulances. Having additional space or converting existing space for sleeping quarters would allow us to expand our staffing network for both Fire and EMS to outside of the Village of Kronenwetter. *Added 5/06/2024: We currently have available space that could be easily converted to sleeping quarters, Male/female lockers rooms with showers, and kitchen area with basic essentials are already available for KFD Members to use.*

4. What is the current need for an ambulance service in Kronenwetter based on call log data?

Call volume in Kronenwetter has continued to rise with 243 calls in 2019, 267 in 2020, 324 in 2021, 410 in 2022 and 408 in 2023. We are already tracking over 100 calls for 2024. Based on averages over 90% of all calls have a non-paramedic level need.

5. Is there a known rate of failure of Ambulance Services for villages/smaller municipalities in the State of Wisconsin?

There is not a known rate of failure directly due to financial reasons. There are a few agencies in the past 5 years that were not able to be financially sustainable due to low call volumes (under 150 calls a year). They, in turn, merged or outsourced the service with other service providers. An example provided to us by our Regional EMS Coordinator, there was a service provider that in 2 years of service only had 14 calls, which is not sustainable for any service at that level.

6. Are there grants available for the funding?

Yes. Options include: FAP Grant, AFG (FEMA Grant, SAFER Grant (another FEMA Grant), and additional State of WI Funding that we could utilize towards purchasing supplies necessary to stock the apparatus. *Added 5/6/2024 – Additional grants that can be explored include Fire House Subs Grant, USDA Rural Development grants.*

7. Would the income go towards general revenue for the village or specifically fire?

The revenue would be applied to general revenue (100) of the Village of Kronenwetter and will offset expenses.

8. How would personnel respond, from the station or from home?

There would be a combination of personnel response. Our implementation plan includes daytime staffing hours as well as daytime and after hours on call staffing. On shift staff can provide additional support to the Kronenwetter Fire Department by assisting with fire inspections and business and community relations with those wages being covered out of Fund 270 (2% dues). Our staffing model also continues to utilize first responders who respond directly to patient's locations to start patient assessments and care while the ambulance crew responds with the ambulance. *Added 5/6/2024 Note to clarify staffing: Daytime hours staff would be paid at a higher rate and can be utilized to assist with fire inspections, business and community relations events with those wages being covered by Fund 270 (2% dues). These staff would also be available for responses to fire calls within the Village. After hours would include paid on call staff that would not be required to do station duties but could/would still be within the fire station for immediate responses. Use of other EMS staff would include an additional on call EMS personnel that would act as a "First Responder" going directly to the patient's home with all equipment necessary to start immediate care (including AED) – these personnel would be certified and trained to the same level of the ambulance crew members and could become part of the ambulance crew if needed allowing for less confusion on transfer of patient care. Our hours of proposed operations are supported by historical data which breaks down the days of the week and times of day, statistically, that we have received the most number of calls. This model ensures that patient care would not be affected or delayed by on-call after hours.*

9. What does coverage look like for the southside of Kronenwetter? Ability to contract with Town of Guenther?

Currently, the Kronenwetter Fire Department provides fire service to the Town of Guenther. They are contracted with SAFER Fire Department for an ambulance service, although contract details and expiration of that contract are not known.

Response times to Kronenwetter's residents could be faster than the current service provides, based on various locations throughout Kronenwetter. A mapping exercise was completed using Google Maps showing the various locations and the differences in both mileage and time to those locations. This study is included in the implementation plan.

10. How many Medical Emergency calls actually required a paramedic?

Because the data from Riverside Fire District does not differentiate actual paramedic skills being applied, we reached out to surrounding ambulance services to review their total calls and how many required a paramedic intercept with resulting data indicating between 7-10% of their total call volume requiring an ALS intercept. Since some of these services are EMT Basic level, had they been providing AEMT level service this number may be lower. Data was obtained from Mosinee, Hatley, Edgar, and Stratford.

11. How many medical emergency calls were not treated/transported calls?

Data from 2022 and 2023 (through 12/5) there was a total of 91 in 2022 and 77 that fell under the categories of no treatment or no transport. Prior to 2022 data is not available.

12. How many apparatuses would be in service?

Two Ambulances would offer ideal service coverage. The implementation plan recommends acquiring one brand new apparatus and one used apparatus. This would allow for additional coverage while one apparatus is out in the event another call for emergency service comes in, or calls that require two apparatuses upon initial dispatch (motor vehicle accidents). In addition, it would ensure that we have a secondary apparatus in the event of any mechanical issues that would place one of the apparatuses out of service.

13. When does the contract with Riverside Fire District renew?

The contract will auto-renew at the end of 2025 unless a decision is made to create ambulance services within Kronenwetter Fire Department, renew with Riverside Fire District, or go out for RFP (request for proposals) from other ambulance providers. *Added 5/6/2024: The contract has an auto-renew clause but that does not guarantee renewal.*

14. What are mutual aid options with surrounding communities?

We currently have an auto-aid fire agreement with Mosinee Fire District. Kronenwetter Fire Department is also part of MABAS Division 130. *Updated 5/6/2024: Mutual Aid agreements can also be put in place for Ambulance support when needed such as multiple patients in a vehicle accident.*

15. What would the start-up period look like?

The anticipated startup date would be January 1, 2026. Per the State of Wisconsin, we could utilize a 12 month phase-in period which would allow us the time to completely staff and obtain all necessary medical equipment. This can be followed by an additional 12 months if necessary. This phase-in period allows the service to run with lower staff (EMT vs AEMT licensure) during this time until staff trains up to the AEMT level.

16. What are the benefits of having an ambulance in Kronenwetter?

The benefits of having an ambulance service location in Kronenwetter are multiple. The staff of Kronenwetter Fire Department would provide high quality patient care on scene and continue that care and treatment to the hospital. The revenue realized through the service would come back to the Village of Kronenwetter. The Village is currently losing out on funding options and the ability to report gains or losses because this service is not currently part of the Village.

In addition, we would be able to offer lower-cost billing to our residents in relation to what is currently charged per service. A study of area services and their fees is included in the implementation plan.

As also addressed in question 9, the response times by both time and mileage were compared amongst various locations throughout Kronenwetter. Since our area of service is vast and includes some very rural areas to the east and south, we would be able to service those areas faster from our centrally located fire station.

Updated 5/6/2024: Some additional benefits of having our own ambulance service –

- *Support of our police department: knowing our officers well is a huge benefit – it builds trust and confidence in our relationship to support them.*
- *Continued cross training between EMS and Fire staff – so on accidents and fire scenes the EMS staff knows and trusts the skills of the fire personnel and vice versa – Knowing who is there to help and their skill levels especially on accident scenes where we all have to work together.*
- *Community outreach programs can grow – currently we offer some trainings to local businesses (example fire extinguisher training) – EMS group can be utilized to train businesses and residents in CPR, basic first aid, etc.. giving opportunities for additional donated funds which are used to supplement equipment and trainings.*
- *Possibility of a “back home transport” – we have 3 residential homes in the village – these residents pay a high rate for a transport from hospital back to residential facility to another ambulance service today. In addition residents are charged over \$1000 for rides home If family is not able to transport.*

17. Does the Kronenwetter Fire Department have members that are on multiple departments?

Yes. The majority of the personnel that are on the Kronenwetter Fire Department as well as other departments is due to Kronenwetter not having ambulance service. Once an individual has their training as an EMT or higher, they want to be able to utilize their skills on an ambulance service. We currently have three members that are licensed as first responders for Kronenwetter but are also on another service to utilize their license on an ambulance service. Most recently, we provided and paid for the training of one member to the EMT level, and they now work for a service out of the area three days a week to utilize their skills.

18. What is the difference between an AEMT and a Paramedic?

An AEMT (or Advance Emergency Medical Technician) provides emergency medical services with additional training and ability to administer fluids and some medications. They can also be trained to use the advanced medical equipment on the ambulance. A paramedic provides the same care as an AEMT but also includes advanced medical care for critical patients such as major trauma and cardiac arrest.

Data in Question 10 supports an AEMT level service as ‘Paramedic Level’ calls have been less than 10% of total calls with other services with an AEMT or lower service throughout Marathon County. (2% for Stratford running as an AEMT service) Again, this percentage could have been even lower for the services that were only running an EMT service versus an AEMT service.

19. What about response times? What does that look like or how will it be affected or change?

With our current proposal, we would have day-time staffing paid at a higher wage, located at the KFD station, and would leave upon dispatch. We would additionally have at minimum one first responder (of any level) on-call as well (for a total of 3 staff). In the after-hours, our staffing model would remain the same (3 personnel on call) with two staff being on-call for the ambulance and one first responder. This first responder would carry everything needed to start the patient’s care while the other staff would arrive with the ambulance. Our current response times for our first responders going ‘enroute’ directly to the patient’s home are generally within 2 minutes of the initial page and arriving on scene prior to the ambulance. If the on-call staff is not within a few minutes of the station they would be required to stay at the station even during on-call only times. With the location of the fire station that would be the majority of the time.

20. What happens if the call volume decreases?

In the event that the call volume decreases, the service would still be able to be supported as the cost of other expenses would also decrease.

21. What is the 8-minute rule about?

Per Marathon County Dispatch we have 4 minutes after being dispatched to acknowledge the page and 8 minutes to get enroute to a call – either Fire or EMS.

22. What was the coverage level of our contracted service when initial contract was signed and what is it now?

When we first contracted with Riverside Fire District they were a daytime staffed with off hours on call coverage, AEMT flex to Paramedic service. Due to call volume increase across Schofield, Rothschild and Kronenwetter as of 1/1/2023 they were approved by their district board to have 2 full-time paramedics on staff 24 hours a day, supported by 2

additional part time staff 8am to Midnight, 2 additional on call staff during those hours and 2 on call staff from 12am-8am. Until 8/4/2023 Riverside was still operating and billing at an AEMT level at which point their EMS license with the State of Wisconsin was granted for Paramedic. On call staff is required to stay at the station if they are more than 8 minutes away. Paramedic level service provides that the first emergency call of the district is guaranteed to have a paramedic assess the call but does not always include a paramedic on the actual transport and any subsequent calls are not guaranteed a paramedic.