



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Contact:**

**Carina Walters**  
**City Administrator**

**September 25, 2023**

**CITY OF BURLINGTON, WI.** – The City of Burlington is honored and proud to have serviced the Town of Burlington residents and looks forward to continuing to collaborate on other municipal projects. The last day of service will be December 31, 2023, at 11:59 p.m.

In December 2019 the Burlington Rescue Squad (BRS), a volunteer 501c3 that provided both the City and Town of Burlington of over 70 years of superior EMS services dissolved. The dissolution was a result of the increased demand for emergency medical services due in part to the aging demographics of our communities. During those 70 years, both the City and Town benefited from a low-cost service run by dedicated community volunteers.

As a result of the dissolution, the City of Burlington entered into a contract with the Town of Burlington to provide ambulatory services. The city, being new to the ambulatory service, recognized immediate challenges running services that include obtaining the licensure of Advanced Medical Technicians (A-EMTs), the patient care response to the Covid-19 pandemic, and a Common Council initiative to upgrade our A-EMT license in order to provide our constituents Paramedic level services our communities deserve.

Recognizing the original contract between the two communities was heavily reliant on the City of Burlington's taxpayers, in December of 2021, the City began discussions with the Town. An adjustment of true costs needed to be identified which included administrative costs (of city and billing company), equipment, supplies, wages, fuel, insurance, ongoing training, etc., amounting to an approximate \$340,000 reliance to the city's General Fund for calendar year 2023. This is why the City asked the Town to re-negotiate the original contract and accordingly asked the Town to pay their proportionate share to run the service. This also included recommending to the Town to complete due diligence on potential vendors for the services to ensure they are getting the best deal possible for their residents.

In order to ensure transparency and to meet the conditions of our current contract staff sent a letter to the Town on December 27, 2022, indicating the above and that our EMS contract would end on December 31, 2023. The city anticipated having a mutually beneficial agreement executed in early 2023.

The City had transparent, good faith communications/negotiations with members of the Town in December of 2021, May, September, October, November and December of 2022, January, February,

March, April, June, July and August of 2023 regarding actual costs of service and thorough explanations of the budget. Staff also offered to meet with the Town Board to explain the methodology of the budget and calculation of their proportionate share of costs, without avail. Due to the 2024 budget approaching and needing to provide Racine County Dispatch sufficient time to work with the Town on who will service the Town, the City respectfully requested a decision from the Town by August 31, 2023.

Unfortunately, as of today, we have been unsuccessful with our negotiations as the Town was asking the City for a portion of the ambulatory billed revenue and a reduction on their payment which fell short of the Town's proportionate share.

A few highlights, since the City absorbed the EMS service from BRS:

- In 2019 the BRS Squad serviced over 1600 calls on a dedicated core group of volunteers covering over 43 square miles between the City/Town and an average dispatch time of over 8 minutes and arrival on scene time of 11 minutes.
- In 2020, the total calls for service were 1,576. The city responded to 403 town calls with an average dispatch time of 1 minute 55 seconds with an arrival time to a town scene of 7 minutes 45 seconds.
- In 2021, the total calls for service increased to 1,850. The city responded to 483 town calls with an average dispatch time of 1 minute 47 seconds and arrival time to a town scene of 7 minutes 35 seconds.
- In 2022, the total calls for service were 1,957. The city responded to 407 town calls with an average dispatch time of 1 minute 37 seconds and arrival time to a town scene time of 7 minutes and fourteen seconds.
- We anticipate that by the end of 2023, total calls for service will be over 2,735. We are estimating 2,305 calls to the city and 430 calls to the Town.

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