



Medical Unit Response in the City

Prepared for the City of Gainesville
Public Safety Committee

Legislative # 140963

Presentation Date: July 15, 2015



Staff Assignment to Fire Chief Lane:

“Commissioner Warren made a successful motion to refer Alachua County medical unit response times and City alternatives to slow County responses to the Public Safety Committee. Please prepare a Committee item which discusses the County’s *statutory authority*, response times as demonstrated by the Combined Communication Center and input on the *impact* of County response times. Also, please provide *alternatives* with fiscal impacts of each alternative for Committee discussion.”



Statutory Authority – State Law

- Florida Statutes §401.25 Licensure as a basic life support or an advanced life support service –
 - (2) (d) The applicant has obtained a certificate of public convenience and necessity from each **county** in which the applicant will operate...
 - (6) The governing body of each **county** may adopt ordinances that provide reasonable standards for certificates of public convenience...
- Florida Administrative Code 64J-1.001 Definitions
 - (4) “Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity” or COPCN means a writing permitting an applicant or licensee to provide services, not exceeding the authorization of their expected or actual license...



Statutory Authority – County Ordinance

- Alachua County - Article II. Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity

§ 52.24 Certificate or memorandum of understanding required

(a) Subject to the provisions of sections 52.42 and 52.43 of this article, as of the effective date of Ordinance No. 93-9, no person shall advertise or engage in or otherwise provide any of the following services within Alachua County without first obtaining a certificate of public convenience and necessity from the board: primary prehospital care provider...



Service Impacts – Core Service

Volume and Ratio of Responses in the City of Gainesville
 Where Fire Units and Rescue Units Arrived on Scene

Ratio of Fire Unit Arrivals to Rescue Unit Arrivals	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	Jan-May 2015	TOTAL
Fire	10893	11457	13025	12838	13839	5743	67795
Rescue	15655	16297	17383	17406	18155	7709	92605
Percentage	70%	70%	75%	74%	76%	74%	73%

- Not every medical call receives both types of units.
- Fire units run approximately 70% to 75% of the volume of incidents that Rescue Units run inside the City.



Service Impacts – Response Time

Response Time Information from ACFR for Alachua County Rescue Units:
 ACFR Study Period FY10 – FY14 for Travel Times
 (Time Unit Responding to Time Arrived)

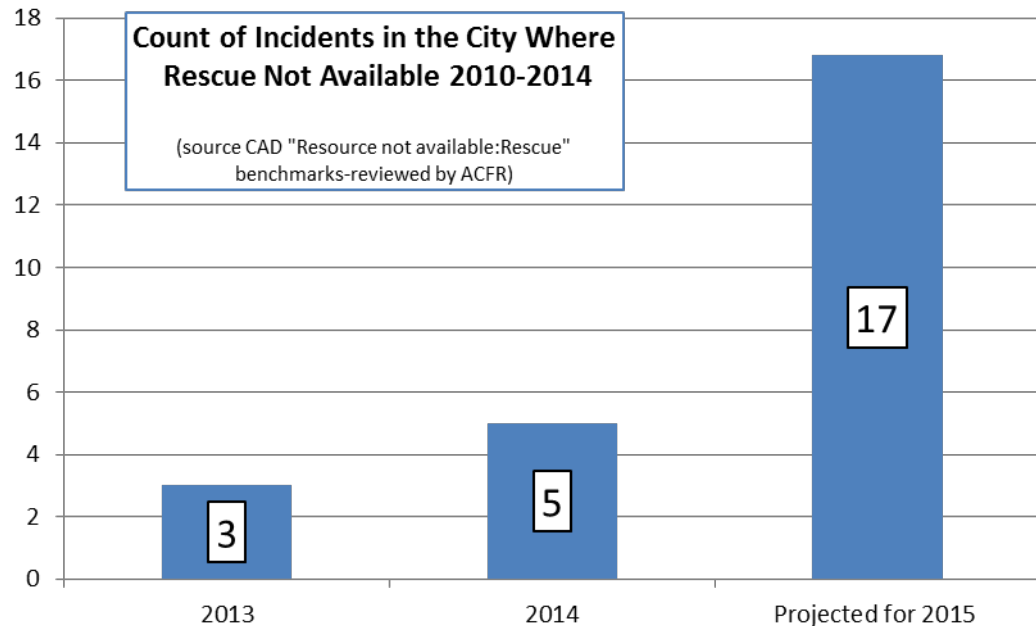
Within the City of Gainesville					
Rescue Unit - EMS Type Response only (Per CAD)					
Responding to Arrival					
(excludes non-emergency call types)					
	FY10	FY11	FY12	FY13	FY14
Responses	14,857	15,123	15,869	16,249	16,743
70%	0:07:52	0:07:42	0:08:01	0:08:04	0:07:52
80%	0:09:05	0:08:53	0:09:22	0:09:23	0:09:09
90%	0:11:28	0:15:56	0:11:49	0:11:43	0:11:25
98%	0:20:32	0:19:04	0:21:30	0:19:40	0:19:01
100%	1:36:02	2:45:03	1:45:46	1:39:23	1:14:47
Average @ 98%	0:06:38	0:06:30	0:06:48	0:06:49	0:07:02



Service Impacts – No Ambulance Available

2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015 Jan-May	Projected for 2015
0	0	0	3	5	7	17

Frequency of
 Incidents Where
 “Rescue”
 (ambulance
 transport)
 resources were
not available





Service Impacts – Waiting on Ambulance

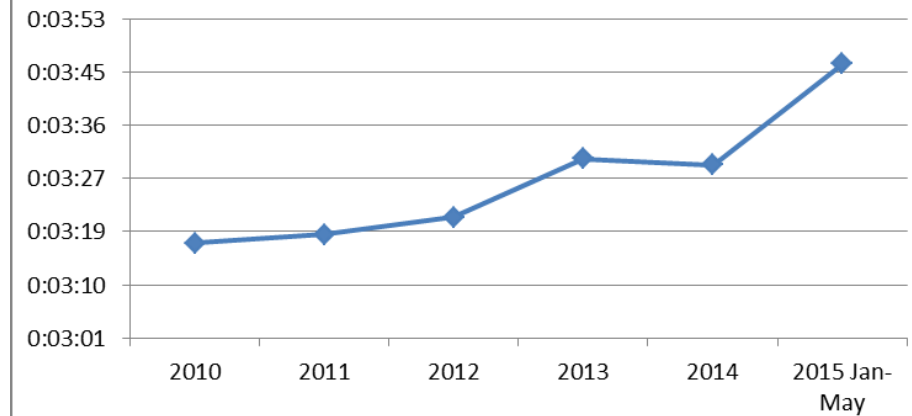
GFR Study of Elapsed Time Between Fire-Rescue Unit Arrival (GFR or ACFR Unit) and Rescue (Ambulance) Arrival

Elapsed Time from Arrival of Fire Unit to Arrival of Rescue Unit	All Years	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015 Jan-May
90th percentile	0:07:20	0:06:56	0:07:14	0:07:14	0:07:32	0:07:19	0:07:56
50th percentile	0:02:41	0:02:37	0:02:32	0:02:36	0:02:44	0:02:44	0:03:01
Average	0:03:26	0:03:17	0:03:18	0:03:21	0:03:31	0:03:30	0:03:46
Count of Incidents Studied	47,437	7622	7998	9033	9020	9739	4025

59,831 incidents were studied where both a Fire Unit and a Rescue Unit arrived.

On 47,437 incidents (79%), the Fire Unit arrived before the Rescue Unit

Average Elapsed Time from Fire Unit Arrival to Rescue Unit Arrival Per Year





Costs to Add an Advanced Life Support Ambulance

A recent article from Manatee County quoted the cost of adding an ambulance at \$944,355 for the first year:

- Apparatus and Equipment = \$425,000
- Personnel = \$519,355



Revenue/Cost Considerations

Examples of Fees charged by Alachua County for TRANSPORT – fees are also charged for services not requiring transports:

- Level 1 Advanced Life Support: \$458.00
- Level 2 ALS: \$647.00 for advanced services such as CPR and surgical airways
- Basic Life Support \$382.00

ACFR recovers approximately 64% of actual pre-adjustment service amounts after Medicare/Medicaid reductions and bad debt write-off.

- Level 1 Potential Revenue per transport \$293
- Level 2 Potential Revenue per transport \$414
- BLS Potential Revenue per transport \$244

Not all responses result in transports. Based on ACFR Historical Rescue Unit Data, 62% to 67% of their responses result in a transport – note that this includes inter-facility transfers.



Revenue/Cost Considerations

Transports in the City
 per Unit per Year
 Including Scheduled
 and Non-Emergency
 Transfers

ACFR staffs nine
 personnel to handle
 medical billing and
 collections

Unit*	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015 Jan- May	Average 2010-2014
R3	2029	2081	2400	2458	2574	1069	2308
R11	1646	1945	2032	1914	2089	910	1925
R10	1653	1863	1986	1988	2121	971	1922
R19	1512	1544	1865	1919	1877	801	1743
R9	1616	1630	1775	1696	1897	787	1723
R2	1445	1576	1633	1705	1721	724	1616
R16	982	1081	1136	1085	1064	487	1070
CC1					207	189	NA
R15	230	242	279	303	293	149	269
R17	174	203	209	218	172	82	195
R25	62	72	102	85	113	73	87
R8	57	61	53	89	115	39	75
R20	53	37	63	69	78	25	60
R21					3	9	NA

*The seven urban units are highlighted.



Additional Considerations

ACFR Fire Chief Bill Northcutt plans to recommend that the BOCC deploy three peak-time units that will operate Monday – Saturday on 13-hour shifts.

This request will be addressed through the County budget process from July – September 2015.



Fiscal Impacts of Alternatives

Developing fiscal impact statements for alternatives requires further study time.

Fiscal impacts will be related to:

- Cost of apparatus purchase or modification
- Cost of apparatus operation – fleet expenses for fuel, maintenance
- Amount of downtime impacting availability
- Purchase, replacement, repair of equipment and supplies
- Personnel costs – new personnel vs overtime
- Potential impact to FSAA compensation if an existing squad unit is modified
- Types of services provided by unit impacting its availability and fees
- Administrative costs of billing and collection
- Collection rate
- Unanticipated costs



Possible Options for Further Exploration

- Monitor Alachua County Fire Rescue request for three peak-load transport units in FY16 and: a) Monitor performance for one year after units are added; or b) Study alternatives 1 and 2 more extensively during FY16 if the peak-load units are not added.
- City purchases and operates one or more Advanced Life Support (ALS) transport units with County approval.
- City modifies an existing Fire Rescue Squad Unit to operate as an ALS transport unit with County approval. (May negatively impact current service in the City by changing the function of the unit)



Discussion and Follow-up Actions