

“Mission Statement”

Ticonderoga Emergency Squad is a professional healthcare team, that provides the highest quality of patient care for our community with integrity, respect and pride.

Good evening,

My name is Renee Kennedy and currently I'm the Operations Manager for Ticonderoga Emergency Squad and an Essex County employee. As we all know fire, police and EMS services are a necessary part of the community. Ticonderoga EMS has been in service for 74 years strong. It was approximately five years ago when Ticonderoga EMS and other surrounding communities had a significant number of dropped calls which were answered by Lamoille Ambulance Service or other mutual aid services. The County created a grant that would help in providing staff to agencies in need. It was a decision of the board to take advantage of what the County was offering. This put two full time employees in our station for daytime coverage. Through this difficulty time, volunteers continued to put in countless hours to serve the community when needed. This program was a huge success for Ticonderoga EMS but we knew this wouldn't be enough. With call volumes continuing to rise and volunteers starting to minimize we needed to look at our future. We needed to put more paid employees on to cover the night shifts along with weekend coverage. Volunteers continued to provide as much support as they could however, it was obvious, that like other surrounding communities, providers needed to start working two jobs to make ends meet.

We are so proud to announce for the past three years we have had no dropped calls. This is a huge accomplishment for our agency, and we couldn't have done this without the help of the County program and adding more paid staff on but most important the volunteers continuing to put in countless hours.

A challenge for every EMS agency in the United States right now is providing cost effective and timely treatment for patients when they need it. Just like every other business that was affected by inflation, the cost of providing help to others has increased. The cost of medications, and supplies and insurances have increased by at least 9% this year. Ticonderoga EMS has some fantastic ideas for fundraising events for 2023. We have applied for equipment grants in order to repair and update our current lifesaving equipment. We have increased our billing rates and explored the option of following up with those patients that have not met their financial obligations. However, these efforts will only cover a small amount of our expenses at Ticonderoga EMS. In the past five years, our agency has been gravely underfunded. We are the largest call volume agency in the county, comparable to Lake George and during the summer, our call volumes increase dramatically due to the number of tourists and summer residents that provide a boost to our community's economy.

Our budget is transparent. We, as an organization and board of directors allow any member of the community the opportunity to review it. There is nothing to hide. Ticonderoga EMS has come to the town board to ask for assistance with our financial needs, either through appropriation of funding or the creation of a fax district.

It is true that Lamoille Ambulance Service has placed two different bids to provide services to the Town of Ticonderoga for a much lower price, but we can't help but ask ourselves "WHY?" Why does a multimillion-dollar corporation need to cover Ticonderoga for 911 calls, knowing that Ticonderoga EMS will not be sustainable without financial assistance. Both services are needed in the town. Lamoille has a very crucial role in transporting patients to area hospitals where they can receive definitive care. Lamoille has a very crucial role in providing expert ALS mutual aid to several area agencies. If their availability is limited who wins? Not the patient. Elizabethtown Community Hospital's Ticonderoga Campus can already tell you that wait times for transportation is a problem. Some patients spend hours at the ER, taking up vital space and resources. It is important for the board to consider the impact that losing an emergency services agency has on a community. Residents may wait longer for help. Residents may wait longer to get to hospitals they need to be treated at. Residents may wait longer for lifesaving measures. Collaboration between agencies is the best way to cover a district. This is evident in the reduction of dropped calls in Ticonderoga in the last three years.

Thank You for your time and consideration.