

New Ambulance For Falls City

(KLZA)-- The Falls City Council voted unanimously Monday evening to be the sponsoring entity for a \$50-thousand grant application for the purchase of a new ambulance for the Falls City Volunteer Ambulance Squad.

City Administrator Gary Jorn, who is the President of the ambulance squad, said donations have been accepted toward the purchase of a new ambulance. Jorn says the squad intends to apply for a USDA grant which would fund a large portion of the cost.

USDA rules will not allow the ambulance squad to apply for the grant, it must be a foundation or a municipality to be the borrower for the USDA funds.

Jorn explained the new unit will be used for both local calls and long distance transfers. Jorn said the squad intends to be the main source to transfer patients from Community Medical Center in Falls City to larger hospitals.

During the presentation Jorn said so far in 2017 the squad has already responded to 206 calls for service.

Jorn also explained the Falls City Volunteer Ambulance Squad is a stand-alone corporation, maintaining all of the ambulance squads, paying their own insurance and buying supplies from revenues generated by calls of service.

Mayor Jerry Oliver noted the City donates the land for the Ambulance Squad garage and does not charge for utilities in the building.

Longtime squad member Jim Gerweck told MSC News it has been about 15 years since a new ambulance was purchased. A new ambulance is anticipated to cost about \$135-thousand, not counting equipment that will be added.

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