

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

OVERVIEW

Lambton EMS offers land ambulance services to the residents of Lambton County. EMS staff members work at nine different stations located at Brigden, Corunna, Forest, Grand Bend, Petrolia, Sarnia (2), Thedford and Watford.

In 2004, staff responded to approximately 22,000 calls for medical assistance.

Total FTE's:	97.00
Total Budget:	\$9,970,817

COMMUNITY SERVICES

DEPARTMENT: Emergency Medical Services

SERVICE UNIT: Land Ambulance

BUDGET YEAR: 2005

Description of Service	Benefit of the Service	Categorization of the Service	Legislation, Regulations, Standards	Costs and FTE's (Five Largest Expense Categories)	Funding Sources (as a % of Total Funds Required)																				
<p>MANDATORY:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provision of land ambulance services. 	<p>Ambulance services are provided out of 9 stations across the county, with 10 vehicles available at all times. The deployment strategy ensures 70% of the vehicles are always available for emergency coverage.</p> <p>Strategic Plan Area(s) of Effort:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Development Initiatives Responding to the evolving needs of an aging population. <p>Policies and strategies that support more positive and respectful urban and rural settlement relationships and which active work to enhance the sustainability of local communities.</p>	<p>Mandatory</p>	<p>Ambulance Act RSO 1990 Ontario Regulations: 256/00 317/04</p> <p>Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care: Ambulance Service Patient Care and Transportation Standards Land Ambulance & Emergency Response Vehicle Standards</p> <p>County Council Motion June, 2003: "That all ambulance stations move to 24 hour coverage by January 2005."</p>	<table> <tr> <td>Total Budget</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$9,965,817</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Salaries & Benefits</td> <td style="text-align: right;">8,635,811</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Vehicle Purchases</td> <td style="text-align: right;">300,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Rent/Debentures</td> <td style="text-align: right;">166,729</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Maintenance/Repairs</td> <td style="text-align: right;">131,767</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Vehicle Fuel</td> <td style="text-align: right;">102,468</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total FTE's</td> <td style="text-align: right;">97.00</td> </tr> </table>	Total Budget	\$9,965,817	Salaries & Benefits	8,635,811	Vehicle Purchases	300,000	Rent/Debentures	166,729	Maintenance/Repairs	131,767	Vehicle Fuel	102,468	Total FTE's	97.00	<table> <tr> <td>Levy</td> <td style="text-align: right;">63%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Provincial</td> <td style="text-align: right;">36%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other</td> <td style="text-align: right;">1%</td> </tr> </table>	Levy	63%	Provincial	36%	Other	1%
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Service Level

- Under the provincial legislation, Ambulance Services are required to maintain call response times at or under the 1996 90th percentile or face potential reductions in funding. Lambton's 1996 90th percentile is 12.43 minutes. Call levels have increased over 34% since 1996 and Lambton's response times exceeded this during all of 2001, 2002, and 2003. In mid 2004, when the deployment strategy was revised to move to 24/7 service and reduce the number of Code 1 & Code 2 calls, our response time has been maintained at or better than the 1996 90th percentile.
- The current level of care provided in the rural areas is under review and a recommendation regarding increasing the skill levels of the P1's is to be brought back to Council later this year.
- The Provincial funding formula is substantially under its promised 50% and as the level of service improves, the Provincial share continues to decrease. When the service was downloaded, the Province promised to pay 50% of "Approved Costs" but the term "Approved Costs" was never defined. The Provincial stance is that "Approved Costs" means the cost of running the service at the same level as it was when it was downloaded plus any of the service level enhancements the Province approved as part of its response time funding. One of the major issues is the Province's stance that they will only pay their share of an approved wage increase equal to 2% per year. Since the service has been downloaded to municipalities, wage rates have increased almost 42% across all municipalities.
- The issue of cross border billing has not yet been resolved between the municipalities. There has been substantial work undertaken by the Western Warden's caucus as well as the EMS Director's group and the Municipal Treasurers' to try and find a solution that will work for all the upper tier municipalities. Resolution of this issue would allow us to bill the surrounding municipalities for services we provide in their area, in particular, Huron County. The net cross border revenue could be potentially as high as \$50,000.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

DEPARTMENT: Emergency Medical Services
 SERVICE UNIT: Special Events Coverage
 BUDGET YEAR: 2005

Description of Service	Benefit of the Service	Categorization of the Service	Legislation, Regulations, Standards	Costs and FTE's (Five Largest Expense Categories)	Funding Sources (as a % of Total Funds Required)
<p>DISCRETIONARY:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of ambulance services to special events such as Bayfest, the Offshore Boat races, etc. These services are provided on a fee for services basis. 	<p>Ambulance services are provided to ensure the public's safety during special events. Events such as Bayfest require additional resources in order to provide adequate coverage.</p> <p>Strategic Plan Area(s) of Effort:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Development Initiatives Policies and strategies that support more positive and respectful urban and rural settlement relationships and which actively work to enhance the sustainability of local communities. 	<p>Discretionary</p>	<p>Ambulance Act RSO 1990 Ontario Regulations: 256/00 317/04</p> <p>Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care: Ambulance Service Patient Care and Transportation Standards Land Ambulance & Emergency Response Vehicle Standards</p>	<p>Total Budget \$5,000</p>	<p>Fee for Service 100%</p>

Service Level

EMS has been providing coverage for special events on an as requested basis. Coverage provided at these events ensures at least one ambulance is on-site, fully staffed and totally available to cover the event. On average, one or two of these events occur each year.