

Ambulance Transport Services Review

The Colchester Fire Department currently holds two licenses with the CT Department of Health for providing Emergency Medical Services for the Town of Colchester. One license authorizes first responder emergency care which includes initial patient evaluation and stabilization at the scene of the emergency. The other authorizes the Colchester Fire Department to provide ambulance transport services to an appropriate medical facility.

Members of the Colchester Hayward Volunteer Fire Company, along with Town of Colchester career Fire / EMS personnel provide the necessary manpower to staff both services. Regardless of volunteer or career, all individuals are medically certified as either an Emergency Medical Technician, EMT, or an Emergency Medical Responder, EMR. The EMTs or EMRs can fill either role as a first responder or to staff the ambulance transport depending on the situation.

Should the Colchester Fire Department no longer provide ambulance transport services, the town would relinquish the associated ambulance revenue generated to the new service provider. There is no opportunity to sell the rights for ambulance transport as no private ambulance company in the State of CT currently pays a town for exclusive ambulance transport authority. Therefore the net cost avoidance for shifting the transport services to a private entity would not offset the loss of revenue generated. The Colchester Fire Department would still be required to provide the first response emergency care and incur the operating cost associated with that service. The only staffing reduction realized by this move would be a reduction in volunteer time. The need to train and equip the same number of volunteers would remain. The career personnel would still be needed at current staffing levels to cover the fire and first responder services. Only a portion of the EMS supplies and equipment would no longer be needed to be purchased. Even taking into account the need to purchase ambulances every 8-10 years, the Town of Colchester would lose close to \$300K / year assuming the private service came at no cost to the town.

Balance Sheet Summary For Ambulance Transport Services

Example given is Fiscal Year 14-15 which is representative

Ambulance Revenue (Transport Services)	\$	498,392
Transport Related Service Contracts	\$	6,068
Ambulance Incentive Program	\$	72,000
Professional Services	\$	35,625
EMS Supplies	\$	24,400
Fuel	\$	12,844
Gear and Clothing	\$	8,900
Training Equipment	\$	1,000
Annualized Ambulance Replacement Cost	\$	50,000
Ambulance Expenses (Transport Services)	\$	210,837
Fiscal Year 14-15 Operating Gain (Loss)	\$	287, 555

Respectfully submitted
Robert Esteve, Board of Finance Vice Chair
Walter Cox, Chief, Colchester Fire Department

March 2, 2016