

Southern Berkshire Ambulance, Inc.

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January 10, 2023

Town of Monterey
Melissa Noe, Town Administrator
Monterey Town Hall
P.O. Box 308
Monterey, MA 01245

Dear Community Partner,

Since 1968, the Southern Berkshire Volunteer Ambulance Squad has been providing quality emergency medical care to the residents and visitors of the southern Berkshire County region. In the early years, our strictly volunteer personnel helped operate the agency at minimal costs supported entirely by public donations.

Through the years as the local population grew, the agency expanded to meet the continued needs. In 2014, additional personnel were hired to provide Advanced Life Support, (Paramedic Level) services. This level of service is now routine for most communities in the nation and has greatly enhanced patient's outcomes in the Berkshire communities we serve in at times of cardiac and traumatic events.

But providing this level of service has not been without challenges. Until recently, our main source of funding relies primarily on the agency's ability to invoice insurance companies for each of the patients it transports. With the funds from those reimbursements, we have been able to continue to pay our staff and cover our operational costs. May I add that more and more frequently we are transporting sick and injured individuals that lack health care insurance, so we receive absolutely nothing in return for providing life-saving care.

Today, as most of us have personally experienced, continued escalating operating costs, including fuel, medical supplies, and insurance along with a lack of increases in insurance reimbursement rates have made it more difficult for our agency to survive. On many of the calls for service we handle, our expenses exceed the amount that the insurance company will reimburse this agency.

If you ask many of your town's residents, they believe our services are supported by taxpayer dollars, much like their police and fire departments. On a few occasions in the past, the Southern Berkshire Volunteer Ambulance Squad had sought some municipal funding to cover operational costs. But those requests were made on an as needed basis, not for continual annual support.

With all of this in mind, we would like to formally request an annual appropriation from each community we serve, based on a four-year average property tax valuation of each municipality. Our formula has developed the following appropriation requests for each of our six covered towns, which would start with your Fiscal Year 2024.

TOWN	APPROPRIATION REQUEST
Alford	\$ 27,275.39
Egremont	\$ 45,144.19
Great Barrington	\$ 151,293.43
Monterey	\$ 51,669.36
Sheffield	\$ 65,825.11
Mount Washington	\$ 8,792.52

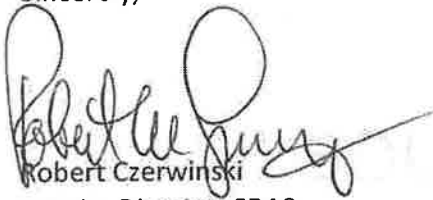
Today, town's supporting their local emergency medical services is not an unusual circumstance. Over the past few years, we have seen a growing number of Berkshire County communities, (i.e., New Marlborough, West Stockbridge, Richmond, Lanesborough & Dalton) increase their budgets to offer basic emergency medical services. And, in most cases, those increases do not include the vital paramedic services like we provide to your community.

We sincerely hope your town will consider supporting us, as we want to be here for your community's emergency medical needs. Without your assistance, our ability to continue to provide future services may be in jeopardy. We would like to be able to continue to staff two Paramedic level ambulances on a 24/7 basis. Failure to meet that goal may mean there could be some reduction in services.

Please understand that this is a new direction we must pursue. This has not been a line item in any of your community's budgets in years past. But we feel that for Southern Berkshire Ambulance to continue as the primary 911-transport service for your town we need your assistance.

We would be more than happy to meet with your community leaders to discuss any questions or concerns you may have.

Sincerely,



Robert Czerwinski
Interim Director, SBAS



James Santos
Chairman, SBAS
Board of Directors

Department #171 Conservation Commission

Submitted By: Noel Wicke

Total Req. Dept Budget (FY24) \$ 15,500.00

Total Capital Request (FY24) \$ -

New Code	Description	2022 Expended	2023 Appropriated	2024 Requested	Comments
5580	Conservation Commission expenses	675.14	1,500.00	1,500.00	
New Code	Conservation Commission Agent	-	-	14,000.00	\$35/hr for up to 400 hours/annually

TOTAL Budget Request \$ 675.14 \$ 1,500.00 \$ 15,500.00

FY2022 Actual Exp to FY2023 Approved Budget Change 122.18%

FY2023 Approved Budget to FY2024 Department Request Change 933.33%

Capital Purchase Requests (list items below)		Total Cost
Item 1		
Item 2		

Department # 240 Building

**Submitted By: Don Torrico via phone to TA
1/13/23**

Total Req. Dept Budget (FY24) \$ 52,318.33

Total Capital Request (FY24) \$ -

New Code	Description	2022 Expended	2023 Appropriated	2024 Requested	Comments
5110	Building Inspector Hourly	32,378.50	33,784.82	42,586.33	FY23 rate \$46.2299, 14hrs/week (added 3 add hrs each week Jan - Jun 2023). Proposing 17hrs/wk at \$47.99/hr
	Alternate Building Inspectors	381.60	1,000.00	1,000.00	FY23 rate \$36.9495
	Building Inspector Expenses (Please break down request below)				
5340	Telecommunications	486.88	672.00	672.00	
5580	Other Expenses/Software and Licensing	5,103.64	4,845.00	4,845.00	
5710	Business Travel	653.73	2,000.00	2,000.00	
New Code	Professional Development	-	800.00	800.00	45hrs/credits required every 2-3 years
5730	Dues & Memberships	145.00	215.00	215.00	
	<i>Total Expenses</i>	<i>6,389.25</i>	<i>8,532.00</i>	<i>8,532.00</i>	
5580	Plumbing Insp Expenses	-	100.00	100.00	
5580	Electrical Insp Expenses	-	100.00	100.00	

TOTAL Budget Request 39,149 43,517 52,318

FY2022 Actual Exp to FY2023 Approved Budget Change 11.16%

FY2023 Approved Budget to FY2024 Department Request Change 20.23%

Total Wages/Salaries 32,379 33,785 42,586

Capital Purchase Requests (list Items below)		Total Cost
Item 1		
Item 2		