



Venice Fire Chief James Warman. (Provided by City of Venice)

By [Dale White](#)

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VENICE - On the job just three months, Venice's new fire chief is recommending that his department take on a new and major responsibility: running its own ambulance service.

Currently, the Sarasota County Fire Department oversees paramedics and ambulances at Venice's three fire stations. It charges Venice property owners 66 cents for every \$1,000 in taxable value for that service, which brings in about \$1.8 million.

Venice Fire Chief James Warman, the only paramedic in his department, says response times are unlikely to differ much if city, rather than county, paramedics respond to emergencies.

But Warman said Venice taxpayers may benefit if the city determines it can reduce that Emergency Medical Services charge added to their property tax bills each year.

"We're going to look at the details," Warman said. "We're still in the preliminary phase and still running some numbers."

Warman's suggestion is not without precedent.

Although the City of Sarasota also relies on county paramedics, the fire departments of North Port and Longboat Key have their own ambulance services.

So far, the Venice City Council thinks Warman's idea may have merit.

But the Sarasota County Commission would have to agree to remove its EMS crews from Venice by awarding the city what is called a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity.

County Commission Chairwoman Christine Robinson, who represents southern Sarasota County, says she would be agreeable to letting Venice assume EMS duties.

"I have no problem with it," Robinson said.

Venice has applied for that certificate before and been denied, city attorney Robert Anderson said.

Even so, the city may try again.

[Venice fire chief wants city to have own ambulances](#) By DALE WHITE

Information on Sarasota County application for a COPCN

From the Sarasota County Code of Ordinances

http://library.municode.com/31511:level9:PTICOR_CH50EMSE_ARTIEMMETRSE.htm#TOPTITLE

Sec. 50-33. - Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (COPCN).

It shall be unlawful for any person to provide or advertise that it provides EMTS anywhere within Sarasota County without first obtaining a COPCN issued in accordance with this Ordinance, unless exempted by state law. In considering applicants for a COPCN, the Board will determine if the best interest of the community will be served by the addition of the applicant as a provider of EMTS to the community by review and consideration of all relevant data and testimony.

(a)

Private entities: Each private entity providing EMTS within Sarasota County shall apply for a COPCN in accordance with this Ordinance.

(b)

Governmental entities: Governmental entities providing EMTS within Sarasota County shall be granted a COPCN upon submittal of an affidavit, executed by the Emergency Services Medical Director for that governmental entity, stating that the provision of EMTS within that community is necessary for the health, safety and welfare of that community. No affidavit shall be required for governmental entities that have been granted a COPCN prior to the adoption of this Ordinance. The COPCN issued shall stay in effect throughout the governmental entity's licensure period, including all renewals. Unless expressly specified herein, no other provisions of this Ordinance shall apply to governmental entities providing EMTS within Sarasota County.



VENICE FIRE DEPARTMENT

SUMMARY WORKSHEET - PART I

| YEAR / PHASE | 1 Year | 2 Year | 3 Year |
|----------------------------|--------|--------|--------|
| Estimated Transport Volume | 4,122 | 4,328 | 4,706 |

PERSONNEL

| | | | |
|-----------------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Number of New Personnel | 28 | - | - |
| Wages | 1,144,144 | 1,384,320 | 1,520,821 |
| Employer Paid Payroll Taxes (FICA & Medicare) | 87,527 | 105,900 | 116,343 |
| Hiring Costs (Physicals) | 16,936 | 14,732 | 14,732 |
| Other | - | - | - |
| Subtotal Personnel Costs | 1,248,607 | 1,504,952 | 1,651,896 |

COST OF BENEFITS

| | | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Health | 401,492 | 425,581.52 | 451,116 |
| Dental | - | - | - |
| Vision | - | - | - |
| Disability (Long & Short Term) | 2,878 | 3,165.80 | 3,482 |
| Life Insurance (incl. AD&D) | 3,708 | 4,078.80 | 4,487 |
| Pension Contribution | 238,897 | 289,046 | 317,547 |
| Workers Compensation Costs | 78,568 | 86,424.80 | 95,067 |
| Subtotal Cost of Benefits | 725,543 | 808,297 | 871,700 |

TRAINING & CERTIFICATION

| | | | |
|---------------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Personnel Requiring Exams and Certification | 2,175 | 2,175 | 2,175 |
| Examination and Certification Costs * | 2,400 | - | 2,400 |
| Training/Conferences (including Div Chief) | 2,000 | 2,000 | 2,000 |
| Other | - | - | - |
| Subtotal Cost of Training | 6,575 | 4,175 | 6,575 |

* Some certifications are bi-annual not annual.



VENICE FIRE DEPARTMENT

WAGES AND BENEFITS WORKSHEET

| | Year 1 | Year 2 | Year 3 |
|--------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| WAGES | ### 4,706 | | |
| Marginal Personnel | 28.0 | 28 | 28 |
| Wages | 1,154,158 | 1,200,324 | 1,235,684 |
| Hiring Costs (physicals) | 16,936 | 14,732 | 14,732 |
| Other | | | |
| Wages Subtotal | 1,171,094 | 1,215,056 | 1,250,416 |
| BENEFITS | | | |
| Pensions Contribution (20.88%) | 240,988 | 250,628 | 258,011 |
| Employer's FICA (6.2%) | 71,558 | 74,420 | 76,612 |
| Employer's Medicare (1.45%) | 16,735 | 17,405 | 17,917 |
| Health Insurance | 401,492 | 425,582 | 451,116 |
| Life Insurance | 3,708 | 4,079 | 5,363 |
| Disability - Short Term | 498 | 548 | 603 |
| Disability - Long Term | 2,380 | 2,618 | 2,880 |
| Worker's Comp | 78,568 | 86,425 | 95,067 |
| Benefit Subtotal | 815,927 | 861,704 | 907,569 |
| TOTAL PERSONNEL COST | 1,987,021 | 2,076,760 | 2,157,985 |



VENICE FIRE DEPARTMENT

VEHICLE AND EQUIPMENT COST WORKSHEET

| | Year 1 | Year 2 | Year 3 |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|
| VEHICLE COSTS (Funding to be provided through fleet replacement plan) | | | |
| Transportation Units Replacement | 118,000 | 118,000 | 118,000 |
| Based on 7 year replacement cycle | 118,000 | 118,000 | 118,000 |

EQUIPMENT COSTS

| | | | |
|------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Monitor/Defibrillators Maintenance | 4,100 | 4,100 | 4,100 |
| EMS Radios/Cell Phone Rep & Mt | 2,400 | 2,400 | 2,400 |
| Disposable Supplies & Medications | 99,000 | 64,800 | 69,984 |
| EMS Equipment Maintenance | 5,500 | 5,775 | 6,064 |
| Uniforms and Bunker Gear | 23,200 | 23,200 | 23,200 |
| Total Equipment Costs | 134,200 | 100,275 | 105,748 |

OPERATIONAL COSTS

| | | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Transport Fuel | 15,600 | 17,160 | 18,876 |
| Transport Maintenance | 18,400 | 18,400 | 18,400 |
| Transport Vehicle Insurance | 4,000 | 4,000 | 4,000 |
| Medical Director (estimated) | 12,000 | 12,000 | 12,000 |
| EMS Billing Charges | 79,009 | 82,957 | 90,202 |
| Medical Liability Insurance | 7,639 | 8,671 | 9,574 |
| Service License Fee | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| EMS Vehicle Inspection Fee | 700 | - | 700 |
| ALS Personnel Certification Fee | 1,045 | - | 1,045 |
| Other (CLIA - lab license) | 125 | - | 125 |
| Other station utilities and equipment | 156,182 | 163,991 | 172,191 |
| Total Operational Costs | 294,800 | 307,279 | 327,213 |



VENICE FIRE DEPARTMENT

MARGINAL PERSONNEL REQUIREMENTS WORKSHEET - CURRENT

| Type of Apparatus | # of Apparatus | Minimum Staffing | Staffing Factor | Total Personnel Required |
|------------------------------|----------------|------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|
| Engine | 3 | 18 | 1.5 | 27 |
| From County's current transp | 1 | 0 | | |
| Ladder * | 1 | 6 | 1.5 | 9 |
| Rescue | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Reserve Rescue | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Support Vehicle (HD Rescue) | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Command Vehicle | 1 | 3 | 1 | 3 |
| Admin. Staff Vehicle | 2 | 2 | 1 | 2 |
| Support Vehicle - F350 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Fire Prevention Vehicle | 2 | 2 | 1 | 2 |
| Other | | | | |
| Current Total | | | | 43 |

* Staffing for Ladder rotates to Support Vehicle as needed.

MARGINAL PERSONNEL REQUIREMENTS WORKSHEET - PROPOSED

| Type of Apparatus | # of Apparatus | Minimum Staffing | Staffing Factor | Total Personnel Required |
|-----------------------------|----------------|------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|
| Engine | 3 | 18 | 1.5 | 27 |
| Reserve Engine | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Ladder | 1 | 6 | 1.5 | 9 |
| Rescue | 3 | 18 | 1.5 | 27 |
| Reserve Rescue | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Support Vehicle (HD Rescue) | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Command Vehicle | 1 | 3 | 1 | 3 |
| Admin. Staff Vehicle | 3 | 3 | 1 | 3 |
| Support Vehicle - F350 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Fire Prevention Vehicle | 2 | 2 | 1 | 2 |
| Other | | | | |
| Proposed Total | | | | 71 |

Difference Between Current & Proposed 28



VENICE FIRE DEPARTMENT

STAFFING FACTOR CALCULATION WORKSHEET

Hours of work to be covered in 1 year

| | | |
|----------|----------------------------|------|
| From Cou | Days of work | 365 |
| | Hours of work | 24 |
| | Total annual hours of work | 8760 |

| | |
|------------------------------|-------|
| Number of Shifts / Positions | 3 |
| Hours worked per shift | 2,920 |

(8760 divided by # of shifts)

| | |
|-------------------|----|
| Work week (Hours) | 50 |
|-------------------|----|

Annual Average Leave Used Per Employee (Hours)

| | |
|----------------------------------|-----|
| Average Sick Leave | 173 |
| Average On-Duty-Injury Leave | 60 |
| Average Vacation Leave | 170 |
| Average Training Leave | 30 |
| Average Holiday Leave | 125 |
| Average Bereavement Leave | 9 |
| Average Other Leave | 59 |
| Average Kelly Day | 344 |
| Total Average Leave Per Employee | 970 |

Hours Actually Worked by Average Employee

| | |
|-------------------------------------------|-------|
| Staffing Factor Calculation | |
| Total annual hours of work | 2,920 |
| Hours actually worked by average employee | 1,950 |

| | |
|-----------------|------|
| STAFFING FACTOR | 1.50 |
|-----------------|------|

(The number of employees required to fill one position 24/7 within the department.)

Personnel Costs

| | Year 1 | Year 2 | Year 3 |
|-----------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| WAGES | | | |
| Personnel | 28.0 | 28 | 28 |
| Wages | 1,154,158 | 1,200,324 | 1,235,684 |
| (physicals based on current VFD budget) | 16,936 | 14,732 | 14,732 |
| Wages Subtotal | 1,171,094 | 1,215,056 | 1,250,416 |
| BENEFITS | | | |
| FRS Pensions (20.88%) | 240,988 | 250,628 | 258,011 |
| City's FICA (6.2%) | 71,558 | 74,420 | 76,612 |
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| Worker's Comp | 78,568 | 86,425 | 95,067 |
| Benefit Subtotal | 815,927 | 861,704 | 907,569 |
| TOTAL PERSONNEL COST | 1,987,021 | 2,076,760 | 2,157,985 |

EMS Consolidation Estimate

PERSONNEL

| | | | |
|-------------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Number of New Personnel | 28 | - | - |
| Wages | 1,144,144 | 1,384,320 | 1,520,821 |
| City Paid Payroll Taxes (FICA & Medicare) | 87,527 | 105,900 | 116,343 |
| Cost of FF Physicals | 16,936 | 14,732 | 14,732 |
| Subtotal Personnel Costs | 1,248,607 | 1,504,952 | 1,651,896 |

COST OF BENEFITS

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|----------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Health | 401,492 | 425,581.52 | 451,116 |
| Disability (Long & Short Term) | 2,878 | 3,165.80 | 3,482 |
| Life Insurance (incl. AD&D) | 3,708 | 4,078.80 | 4,487 |
| Pension Contribution | 238,897 | 289,046 | 317,547 |
| Workers Compensation Costs | 78,568 | 86,424.80 | 95,067 |
| Subtotal Cost of Benefits | 725,543 | 808,297 | 871,700 |

TRAINING & CERTIFICATION

| | | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Exams and Certification | 2,175 | 2,175 | 2,175 |
| Medical Certification Costs | 2,400 | - | 2,400 |
| Training estimate | 2,000 | 2,000 | 2,000 |
| Subtotal Cost of Training | 6,575 | 4,175 | 6,575 |

EMS Consolidation Estimate

| | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 |
|----------------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| EMS Millage from County documents ^^ | 1,857,082 | 1,912,794 | 1,989,306 |
| Projected Transport Revenue ** | 1,732,302 | 1,801,594 | 1,855,642 |
| Subtotal Estimated Revenue | 3,589,384 | 3,714,389 | 3,844,948 |
| Personnel Costs estimate VFD contract | 1,987,021 | 2,076,760 | 2,157,985 |
| Training cost estimate of % of current bud | 6,575 | 4,175 | 6,575 |
| Ambulance Replacement Costs ■ | 118,000 | 118,000 | 118,000 |
| Equipment Costs (based on County Cost | 134,200 | 140,910 | 147,956 |
| Operational Costs (based on County Cost | 294,800 | 309,540 | 325,017 |
| Subtotal Costs | 2,540,596 | 2,649,385 | 2,755,533 |
| Net Revenue (Marginal Cost) estimated | 1,048,788 | 1,065,004 | 1,089,415 |

* County Document Costs plus 5% annual increase projected.

^^ Current EMS millage rate plus 4% projected annual increase in property value.

** Actual County revenue collected for 2014 plus 3% projected annual increases.

■ Ambulance Fleet Replacement Cost.