



City of Poquoson Fire/Rescue

11/7/16

To: Poquoson City Council

Through: Poquoson City Manager

From: John Young, Battalion Chief

Re: Grant Proposal

Members of Poquoson City Council:

I would like to take this opportunity to provide you with information on an upcoming grant opportunity that I believe would benefit our department. Due to the total cost of this project, if the grant is awarded, Council will have to approve the expense. For this year's Assistance to Firefighters Grant through FEMA I would like to seek funding for improving our stretcher system in the Fire Department.

Our current system is completely manual in function, requiring a minimum of two staff members to lift the weight of each patient they transport multiple times throughout the emergency call. The new systems are mechanically operated and will raise and lower patients with the push of a button. Additionally our fastener system used to hold these stretchers in place in the ambulance no longer meet the minimum safety standards. While we are not under a mandate to upgrade to the newest standard, I believe that we should be proactive in seeking out monies for this upgrade. The projected project cost is estimated at \$135,697.32.

This new equipment will help to relieve strains on our staff due to repetitive lifting and moving. It is my recommendation that we seek the monies to upgrade three of our four ambulance units. I believe that we should upgrade the fourth unit when we look to replace the ambulance in the next year. This way the installation can be done at the factory at a savings to us in the future.

I have attached a brief information page that should answer some questions and provide some background information. If you have any other questions or I can provide anything else, please do not hesitate to request it. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

RESOLUTION NO. ____

**RESOLUTION APPROVING THE REQUEST TO SEEK GRANTS FOR THE
PURCHASE OF THREE STRYKER POWER STRETCHERS**

WHEREAS, according to the American Journal of Emergency Medicine, more than half of all prehospital provider back injuries result from lifting patients; and

WHEREAS, the City's current restraint system does not meet the current standards governing ambulance operations; and

WHEREAS, the Power Load restraint system meets these new standards and are currently used by the three jurisdictions immediately surrounding our locality; and

WHEREAS, because of the cost of the Power Load restraint system and the need to install it on three units the City is desirous of seeking grants to pay for them and to install them as funds are received.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Poquoson, Virginia:

Section 1: That approval is hereby granted for the submission of a grant(s) application for the funds needed to purchase up to three Stryker power stretcher(s) for installation on City ambulances.

Section 2: That this resolution shall be in effect on and after its adoption.

ADOPTED: _____

TESTE: _____

City Clerk

Stryker Power Stretcher Information

- Currently being used by all three immediately surrounding jurisdictions: Hampton, Newport News, and York. The Power Load restraint system will meet the newest restraint standards governing ambulance operations. Our current restraint system does not meet these standards.
- The XPS (quoted) version is able to lift and hold up to 700 pounds without staff needing to lift. Additionally these stretchers will be outfitted to be used by any mutual aid ambulance in the surrounding area, whether they have the Power Load system or not.
- The Power Load fastener will lift the stretcher and patient into the ambulance with the push of a button. Will lift patients weighing up to 700 pounds. This system will meet the newest restraint requirements set forth by national guidelines. This system will also work with other non-Power Load stretchers in a mass casualty situation.
- The cost breakdown is as follows:
 - Power Pro XPS stretcher with Power Load compatibility - \$18,110.40
 - Power Load restraint system - \$23,542.04
 - Installation with an authorized center - \$3,580.00
 - Grand total per medic unit - \$45,232.44
- According to the American Journal of Emergency Medicine, more than half (62%) of all prehospital provider back injuries result from lifting patients. While these mechanical stretchers are more expensive than the traditional stretchers, they have been shown to decrease the back injury frequency rate. NIOSH has reported a reduction of workers' compensation filings by 41%, claim costs dropped by 49%, lost days by nearly 68%, and restricted days by 70% in one large urban EMS system that introduced mechanical stretchers to their fleet.
- It is my recommendation that these units only be placed on Medic 1, Medic 2, and Medic 11 (in that order, newest to oldest unit). Medic 21 should be the next unit up for replacement and the cost of the Power Load system can be built into the purchase price of the new unit. Having it factory installed will save some money.
- I am currently researching various grant opportunities to try and start this project. The estimated grand total for all three units will be \$135,697.32.

