

Truman City Council Minutes
January 28, 2025

A Truman City Council Work Session was duly held at the Municipal Building Fire Hall on the 28th day of January, 2025 at 5:30 p.m.

Present: Mayor Jake Ebert, Councilors Chris Mosloski, Ron Kelley, Dannielle Williams, and Chad Truax.

Absent: None.

Staff present: City Clerk Melissa Sirovy, Ambulance Director Joshua Kitzerow, Assistant Director Matt Lange, Department Members Ramona Weihe, Barb Kubly, Curtis Hodge, and Savannah Hodge.

Others present: Tim Akers Truman Tribune, Mark Griffith MJM Consortium.

The purpose of the work session was to meet with ambulance and fire department members to discuss various departmental issues and concerns.

Assistant director Lange provided a power point presentation on the ambulance department that included information on staffing, equipment, the primary service area, mutual aid agreements, variances held by the department, service rates, and policies & procedures for operation of the department. The department has three ambulances to use for emergency calls, and for events and fire rehab services. There has been ongoing discussion about the need for a third ambulance. Lange explained that the cost to license and maintain the third rig is minimal. It is set up for use on all calls for service, but it is used mostly for events and fire standby services that provide additional revenue to the department. Those services also provide training opportunities that would not otherwise be available. When the third ambulance is at an event, there are still two others here to take emergency calls. The third rig is also used to store extra supplies and meds that are then rotated regularly to the other rigs to prevent loss due to expiration.

All three ambulances can be used for remounts, which costs much less than a new ambulance. Remounts take only a couple of months while a new ambulance can take a couple of years. Kitzerow explained that rig 2, a 2016 Chevrolet, will not be used as a remount and will not be replaced when it is removed from service.

Reimbursement rates from calls for service from 2023 were reviewed. Rates varied based on the type of call, from 37.7% for return trips, to 57.7% for lift assists, with the average reimbursement rate of around 50%.

Councilor Danielle Williams left the meeting at 6:15 p.m.

Discussion followed on providing mutual aid to area departments that are short staffed and whether the added cost for those calls could be billed to those departments, or if the rate billed could be higher than it is for local service calls. Mileage is billed only for loaded miles, so the cost to get to the call is not reimbursed. This is an added expense to the department when calls are farther away, outside of the primary service area. It isn't possible to bill other departments for that cost, but it might be an option to charge a higher rate for calls outside the PSA. Because the majority of calls are billed to Medicare, the reimbursement rate would generally be the same even if the charge is higher.

Councilor Mosloski asked for information on revenue obtained by the department now, with three rigs, versus when there were just two.

Councilors Chris Mosloski and Chad Truax left the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

The ALS service rate is billed when an ALS intercept is required or when IV/IO access & IV meds are required. Lange explained that the higher ALS rate might also be billed when the ambulance is staffed by a department member who is a paramedic or a TRN. The department would need to obtain the required certification to do that.

It was the consensus of ambulance department members present that because the third ambulance provides revenue to the department, along with added training opportunities for department members, is maintained for minimal cost and is a benefit to the community, that it should be kept in service as long as there are no major repair expenses incurred. Mayor Ebert agreed the third rig pays for itself and he would take their recommendation. Councilor Kelley agreed with having three ambulances in the rotation.

Various thoughts on how to reorganize vehicles and equipment in the fire hall were discussed to help with safety and efficiency. Further discussion will take place at the February 18th council meeting.

The work session ended at 7:11 p.m.

Melissa Sirovy, City Clerk/Treasurer