



ESSEX RESCUE, INC.

**1 Educational Drive
Essex Junction, VT 05452
Phone (802) 878-4859**

November 2022

It is with incredible pride that Essex Rescue provides emergency medical transport services to Essex, Essex Junction, Jericho, Underhill, and Westford. During all times of the day and night, and regardless of weather conditions, our providers, ranging from EMT to paramedic, respond quickly to the sick and injured to deliver basic and advanced life support transport services.

Between July 1, 2021, and June 30, 2022:

- Essex Rescue received 2,754 requests for an ambulance
- Ambulance requests have increased nearly 12%
- Our crews now average 8-10 calls per day

As of October 1st, we are 235 calls ahead of last year at this same time (an increase of XX%).

Commitment to Service

We remain committed to the high-quality service we have provided for the last 50 years. Our service will continue to meet the needs of the communities we serve while providing patient-centered pre-hospital emergency care. While these may be challenging times, Essex Rescue continues to stand ready to fulfill our duty and serve our communities. We are grateful for all the community support which we have received over the years and especially during the darkest days of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Organizational Challenges

Essex Rescue is currently dealing with two big challenges: an increasing call volume and limited funding sources. Although the data identifies the need for two staffed ambulances, Essex Rescue faces significant challenges in meeting that need; with the lack of funding and workforce shortages as leading causes. And while Essex Rescue remains committed to a paid / volunteer workforce, that is becoming harder to sustain as nationwide volunteer shortages are now being seen across Vermont.

Changing Workforce

Many of our volunteers left the job due to COVID while others are leaving Vermont for better paying jobs. Volunteerism in the United States is down to an all-time low leaving organizations like Essex Rescue, who rely on volunteers to supplement their workforce, struggling to fill the schedule. The reality is that EMS has become a profession for some, an educational steppingstone for others, and a volunteer opportunity for only a few.

Financial Reality

We are sensitive to the financial impact the COVID-19 pandemic has had on the community and local government; these are unprecedented times. Due to fixed insurance reimbursement rates organizations like Essex Rescue are falling short of funding their operating costs. Simply stated, the cost to provide the service is more than what government

Fiscal Year Ending 2022 *	
Expenses	\$1,151,560.40
Revenue	\$ 861,519.40
Capital Reserve	\$ 131,365.00
Total:	\$ -158,676.00
<i>*Capital campaign expenses/contributions removed</i>	

insurance carriers, like Medicare and Medicaid, allow for reimbursement. With 64% of our insurance reimbursement coming from Medicare and Medicaid, more calls results in less reimbursement per call.

Essex Rescue is committed to keeping our per-capita rate as low as possible. Over the last two years we elected to forgo funding of our reserve account. Without properly funding our operational budget, including the reserve account, we will no longer be able to sustain operations.

We are committed to being a good neighbor, assuring you that we have done, and will continue to do, whatever is necessary to reduce expenses and control costs.

- Sought state and federal grant programs for education and equipment
- Secured Public Health & Social Services Emergency Funding for COVID-19 pandemic related costs

Even though we are in the midst of a public health emergency, we continue to develop our workforce and support our providers, so they are ready to respond to emergencies in the communities we serve.

Volunteer Service

Essex Rescue is committed to remaining a combination volunteer and career department. We offer a rewarding volunteer activity, which provides an opportunity for education and giving back to the community; we are always looking for new volunteers. Previous experience in EMS is not a requirement. If you are interested in joining a motivated team, committed to providing high quality pre-hospital emergency medical care, we would like to speak with you.

Capital Campaign and New Building Project

Due to a number of factors our building project has been paused. However, this does not change the fact that our current building is unsuitable. While our immediate priority is to ensure continued operation from our current headquarters, we continue working toward realizing the vision of a new building.

Annual Subscription

Are you enrolled in Essex Rescue's Subscription? **Program subscribers pay an annual \$50 per household subscription fee and pay nothing else out-of-pocket for expenses relating to emergency ambulance service provided by Essex Rescue.** Our subscription mailing is sent out during the month of November. For more information visit our website: www.essexrescue.org. It is important to note that if a patient is transported to the hospital by an ambulance service other than Essex Rescue, the subscription program benefit does not apply.

Lastly, Essex Rescue will always accept donations, large or small, and are grateful for the ongoing generosity demonstrated by the community.

Thank you,

Colleen M. Ballard, NRP
Executive Director
Essex Rescue, Inc.