



## Buncombe County Board of Commissioners

### Request for Board Action

**Meeting Date:** November 2, 2021

#### New Business

**Presenter(s):**

Jennifer Barnette, Budget

**Requesting Department:** Emergency Services

**Budget Amendment Item:** Positions and funding for Emergency Services Response

**Contact(s):** Taylor Jones, Emergency Services  
Rafael Baptista, Strategy and Innovation

**Subject:** Emergency Services Response

**Brief Summary:**

As discussed at the 10/19/21 Commissioner Briefing, Emergency Services is struggling to meet the demands of service due to significantly increased call volume, staff quarantines, and hospital turnaround times. Response times for ambulances and 911 call answer time both exceed industry standard at this time due to the increased volume. Additional vehicles and staff are needed to improve response times. The department is asking for funding to increase the number of units by stocking spare ambulances, purchasing two quick response vehicles (QRV's) and the associated staff as well as provide shift differential and on-call pay to retain existing staff in both Emergency Medical Services and 911 Communications.

This amendment requests \$360,000 for two QRV's, associated equipment, and additional equipment to stock spare ambulances from appropriated fund balance. The request also asks to establish 18 new regular paramedic positions (14 full-time, 4 part-time). Estimated lapse salary in the function will be used to cover new positions and salary changes. This will be monitored and if unable to cover, we would plan to bring another amendment back to the Board.

**Recommended Motion & Requested Action:**

1. Approve budget amendment
2. Approve 18 additional regular paramedic positions

**County Manager's Comments & Recommendation:**

County Manager recommends as presented