Town of Lisbon

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MEMO

To: Town Council
From: Glenn Michalowski, Town Manager
Subject: Second Reading of Ordinance to Create a Department of Emergency Medical Services
Date: November 19, 2024

Summary
Following the ordinance introduction to establish a town-run EMS department, staff were tasked with developing a preliminary budget estimate for municipal EMS operations. We are still awaiting a response from our Worker's Comp Carrier to refine premium costs, but a rough approximation gives us a range between a slight savings to a slight increase on operating costs, pending negotiations and Lisbon Emergency's board approval.

Lisbon EMS has cross-referenced budget figures and awaits a requote on workers' compensation, as current payroll estimates were slightly below projections. Adjustments are not expected to significantly impact the budget. Currently, the projected budget stands at $208,740 for Bowdoin and $626,221 for Lisbon for FY25/26. Upon ordinance approval, staff will initiate negotiations to unwind the corporation, contingent on the Lisbon Emergency board's decision to proceed with the merger.

These projections assume status quo operations and honoring the existing agreements with Bowdoin and Bowdoinham under the current cost sharing formula.

Recommendation
I recommend postponing action on the ordinance until the next meeting to provide the incoming Fire Chief an opportunity to meet with Lisbon EMS and allow staff to reassess the structure of EMS operations. This will facilitate a comprehensive evaluation of the advantages and disadvantages of integrating EMS as a division within the Fire Department under a Division Chief, compared to establishing a standalone department.

Attachments
1. Draft EMS ordinance 100824 KMC (1)
2. town cost project fy26 ems 10 31 24
3. Payroll hours revision 6