

The Highland County Rescue Squad will be a public-private partnership to serve our community operating under one license from joint facilities and with joint equipment. The ownership of any of the aforementioned items will be a matter of what is the best way to operate and fund the Highland County Rescue Squad to serve our community. In order to accomplish the above, all parties will have to work together to achieve these goals. If we don't work together, we will accomplish nothing.

In order for the Highland County Rescue Squad to operate under the current volunteer license, the volunteer organizations and the Highland County Rescue Squad will have to be led by a Board of Directors of non-volunteers with voting rights and non-voting EMS providers consisting of the command group. The voting members of the Board will be appointed by the Board of Supervisors and consist of the OMD, a Board of Supervisor or designee, a member of the Sheriff's Department and two citizens for a total of five members. With this structure, the ultimate authority rests with the community through the election of the Board of Supervisors and Sheriff.

In addition, the County and volunteer organizations will have to agree to provide the other party a minimum of 12-months' notice if either party were to close their rescue squad service. If either party were to close their rescue squad services then all equipment, facilities, etc. would revert to the other party without any compensation to either party, if legally possible

This will be the first major decision that will have to be made in order to achieve one rescue squad system to serve our community. Therefore, the Board of Supervisors directs the EMS Comprehensive Plan Review Board to accomplish the establishment of the one license and associated documents by February 29th, 2024 and report to the Board of Supervisors at the March 5th, 2024 meeting.