

From: "Davis, Randall (PRESIDENT CAO)" <rdavis26@covhlth.com>
Date: September 5, 2025 at 10:38:46 AM CDT
To: Mayor RJ Crawford <rj.crawford@crossvilletn.gov>
Subject: City EMS - my perspective

Good morning RJ. Sorry I missed last Tuesday's work session. I didn't realize City EMS was coming up again; otherwise, I would have tried to attend.

I read the Chronicle article today, and I wanted to drop a note which you can share.

We have not experienced issues with Cumberland County EMS. Of course, there are days of very high volume where we may have to wait in line for a patient to be transported to a nursing home or maybe to their house, but those patients are stable and just comfortably waiting in a hospital bed or ED stretcher until the ambulance comes. When I say wait in line, I also mean maybe an hour. Also, the reason those patients are waiting is so EMS can respond to true emergencies, which is the appropriate use of their resources.

Dr. Allingham mentioned our stroke and STEMI patients. We have not experienced issues with those patients as related to how quickly an ambulance responds to the scene and gets them to us. Our Stroke Gold Plus rating as well as our Chest Pain Accreditation demonstrates very strong results which can only happen if EMS transports occur timely enough for our treatments to be effective.

My preference would be to have data brought forward. If it is felt timely access to care is not being achieved when looking at EMS transport time combined with hospital treatment times, I am more than happy to initiate a quality improvement effort with Cumberland EMS to meet goals and objectives established by national or state standards. I don't think the answer is to throw another EMS service at it until we have had an opportunity to address perceived or actual issues.

Lastly, I think there are other questions lingering out there about who is responsible for hospital patients if a city EMS service exists. I don't think any of us have an official answer and able to point to TN statute, law, etc. I would argue most EMS services I have worked with in the past felt hospital transports were the 'cash cow' of the whole operation. I think any financial model for an EMS service which does not include the hospital transports needs to be evaluated, and it definitely does not create an apples-to-apples comparison if using Crossville transports teased out of the Cumberland EMS data. It just feels very premature to begin going after grants when a fact based, data supported need has not been clearly defined. Opinions are great, but in God we Trust...everyone else should bring data.

Thanks for your time, and I hope you have a great weekend.

Randy Davis, MBA, FACHE
President & Chief Administrative Officer
Cumberland Medical Center
421 South Main Street
Crossville, TN 38555