

Letter to municipalities (Sept 3, 2015) re: Fire and EMS Service Consolidation Study

Earlier this month, several community leaders approached me expressing interest in creating consolidated fire and EMS service areas within Waukesha County. I am writing to you today to gauge your interest in participating in a discussion of the issues surrounding this topic.

Each community in Waukesha County either has its own fire and EMS service or has entered into an agreement with another municipality to provide joint emergency services to their constituents. These services often have high annual operating costs and require periodic capital investments which can cost taxpayers hundreds of thousands of dollars. Emergency services are expensive and necessary to provide the level of safety residents in our communities have come to rely on.

As a municipal leader, you are very familiar with the pressures of providing these much needed services while balancing your local budgets under state imposed levy limits. My discussion with other local leaders resulted in us asking if there was a better way to deliver the same or improved level of emergency service while reducing the amount of money spent as a whole. We believe the answer is yes and we would like to learn more about what our options could be moving forward.

I would like to know if you are willing to be a part of the conversation. We would like to bring interested leaders together in the very near future to gauge interest in a collaborative model for providing fire and EMS services.

One of the areas of discussion I would like you to think about is engaging a consultant to take a closer look at the options we may have for such a collaboration.

By the end of 2015, I would like to hire a consultant to research Waukesha County's complex and diverse fire and EMS environment, focusing on Lake Country and surrounding communities to the South and East. We will direct the consultant to detail what options are available to us and make a recommendation as to how we should proceed.

I am willing to invest county tax dollars to partner with other interested local municipalities and fund a study of this issue. I am hoping that your community will join me at the table and be willing to commit \$1,000 to \$2,000 to help pay for this study.

I would appreciate it if you could respond to this letter by September 18, 2015 so that the county and participating communities can develop our budget and begin the process of hiring a consultant. If you have any questions regarding this process please feel free to contact my office directly at 262-548-7902.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul Farrow". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

PAUL FARROW
Waukesha County Executive