



TOWN OF TRURO FIRE & RESCUE DEPARTMENT

HISTORY



THE CONTRACT
1938

Truro signs its first contract with Lower Cape Ambulance Association (LCAA) to provide supplementary ambulance and emergency medical services (EMS) when needed. Provincetown also agrees to a similar partnership.

FULL-TIME
2016

Annual Town Meeting approves the request to transition the department from volunteer (per diem staffing + on-call) to full-time.

RE-EVALUATION
2021

A regional EMS study for the Outer Cape is conducted. The results recommend the need for additional staffing: (4) FF/Paramedics and (1) Fire & EMS Administrator.

ANNOUNCEMENT
2023
January

The LCAA board announces they will cease operations in Truro and Provincetown, effective July 1st.

NEGOTIATIONS
2023
March

A series of meetings are held between LCAA, Truro, and Provincetown. The LCAA board decides to re-enter negotiations with the two towns.

THE VOTE
2023
April

Article 6 - Section 14: Transfer funds from free cash to temporarily fund LCAA and short-term EMS support - \$706,000.

Article 11: General override to permanently fund (4) FF/Paramedics and (1) Fire & EMS Administrator positions to bring department into full staffing capacity - \$601,122.

Article 32: Create a receipts reserved account to collect ambulance receipts and off-set taxpayer costs after the LCAA contract is terminated. Unspent funds will be used to purchase a new ambulance.

THE FUTURE
2023 -
2026

Short Term: The town contracts with LCAA for up to three years with option to terminate contract after two years.

Long Term: Eliminate LCAA contract after achieving full staffing. Create internal EMS capacity to provide consistent, reliable, and professional ambulance service for Truro.

SHORT & LONG-TERM GOALS

2023

The town negotiates a new contract with LCAA. Request override for recruitment of (4) FF/Paramedics and (1) Fire & EMS Administrator. Continue recruitment to fill existing vacancies and train current staff.

Current Approved Staff: 14

(1) Chief and (13) FF/Paramedics/EMTs.

Needed Staff: 19

If override is approved will bring the department into full staff: (1) Chief, (1) Fire & EMS Administrator, and (17) FF/Paramedics/EMTs.

2024

Continue LCAA contract (FIRST YEAR OF TWO-YEAR CONTRACT + ONE-YEAR OPTION). Use contract paramedics to fill vacancies.

2025

Continue LCAA contract (SECOND YEAR OF CONTRACT). Notify LCAA in December 2024 (18-month mark) that service will cease in July 2025. Continue recruitment efforts. Begin collecting ambulance receipts.

2026

A full staff is hired resulting in the termination of the LCAA contract for ambulance services. Contract paramedics used to fill vacancies only as needed. A third ambulance is purchased, and one ambulance replaced every five years.

Select Board High Priority.

As recommended by the "Regional Study of EMS Provision for the Lower Cape Cod Region," completed by Capital Strategic Solutions, and the announcement of LCAA's dissolution, the optimal model for long-term ambulance service is to increase Fire & Rescue staffing levels, **allowing the department to operate an independent EMS transport system.**

Reduce Risk of Emergency Service Interruption.

The override would increase staffing as recommended, and when coupled with the Free Cash article for supplemental ambulance service, **provide a solution** to address the short-term challenges associated with recruitment and mitigate risk of ambulance service interruption.

FUNDING PLAN

YEAR ONE

Request free cash transfer (\$706,000) and general override (\$601,122) for hybrid ambulance service model.

YEAR TWO

Use existing staff and continue to hire and train paramedics to build internal capacity.

YEAR THREE

Discontinue LCAA Service. Use funding for paramedic reimbursements and begin collecting ambulance receipts to offset taxpayer cost for an EMS transport system.

YEAR FOUR

Fully staff Truro's Fire & Rescue Department and continue funding for ambulance replacement and paramedic reimbursements.