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City of Poughkeepsie seeks bids for ambulance contract

Michael Valkys
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The City of Poughkeepsie is searching for a company to provide ambulance and emergency medical services.

Officials said the city is issuing a request for proposals, or RFP, for companies interested in providing the around-the-clock service.

TransCare, a Brooklyn-based company with offices in Poughkeepsie and the Town of Wappinger, has provided service to the city, but without a contract.

Mayor John Tkazyik said the city has not had a contract with an ambulance service provider since the 1980s.

TransCare responds to calls, but Tkazyik said having a contract with a provider is better for the city and its residents.

"By entering into a contract, the city will guarantee those who live, work and visit in the city the best emergency medical services, while protecting the taxpayer," Tkazyik said in a statement. "The RFP will give the city a great opportunity to clearly articulate what the city expects from those providing emergency medical services."

Officials said the deadline for submitting proposals is Feb. 15. The city could select an ambulance service provider by March 1.

Tkazyik said city officials have met informally with representatives from several firms to discuss the request for proposals.

TransCare Vice President Rob Stuck said the firm has served the city well and would respond to the request. He said a contract "will allow the city to monitor the system and put controls in place."

According to the city's request for proposal, the initial contract with the provider would be for three years, with the city holding two one-year renewal options. Minimum requirements in the request calls for the contractor to:

- Transport city police officers and firefighters, at no cost to the city, when such personnel need medical attention for injuries sustained while "acting within his/her official capacity."
- Provide a minimum of two staffers and two certified advanced life support ambulances dedicated to the city and "available to respond to any emergency call."
- Provide CPR training to city employees "on a regular basis."

According to its Web site, TransCare is the largest medical transportation provider in the Middle Atlantic region, with more than 2,000 employees and a fleet of more than 400 vehicles.

Over the summer, Trans Care purchased Alamo Ambulance Service Inc., which covered the city for years.

Until it was sold, Alamo provided ambulance and wheelchair transportation, as well as emergency

medical care, as an affiliate of Poughkeepsie-based Health Quest, the parent company of Vassar Brothers Medical Center.

TransCare assumed possession of Alamo's assets, including its ambulances, and took in Alamo employees.

Officials said TransCare has served various Dutchess County municipalities, including Wappinger, Beekman, Pawling, Union Vale and Millbrook.

Additional Facts

Resources

For information on city government, visit www.cityofpoughkeepsie.com or call 845-451-4200.
