

Life-Saving Emergency Services: Who Pays?

Written by Jeff Smith, State Senator District 31
Wednesday, 26 April 2023 09:27

<http://newiproggressive.com/images/stories/S5/emt-s5.jpg>



Sen. Smith writes about the shortage of funding for emergency medical services, and how increasing the shared revenue formula will meet this need to provide life-saving services in the most critical cases.

MADISON - When you call 911, you expect with rock-solid confidence there will be someone to answer the call. You also expect help is on the way. Confidence in the midst of a catastrophe is taken for granted every day.

What many people don't know is how it all works on the back end. It takes dedicated people and immense resources through shared revenue to local municipalities to get injured and sick individuals to a place they can be treated.

It's not supposed to matter where you are located. You should expect someone trained in emergency medical services (EMS) to show up when you call.

But increasingly it does matter where you are as more villages and towns struggle to provide emergency services. There are two major reasons for this: lack of personnel and lack of resources and funding.

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A red Chevrolet Silverado pickup truck is parked in front of a brick building. The truck has "TOWN OF LEONIA" and "FIRE STATION" written on its side, along with a fire department emblem. The building behind it has a sign that reads "TOWN OF LEONIA FIRE STATION". To the right, another brick building is partially visible.

