

Weston EMS appeals for donations for new ambulances and free service

Written by Kimberly Donnelly
Friday, 27 August 2010 00:00



The Weston Volunteer Emergency Medical Service (EMS) is in the midst of its annual fund drive. This year, donations from Westonites served by EMS will help to pay for two new ambulances.

At the beginning of this year, Weston EMS purchased two new state-of-the-art ambulances, at a cost of about \$450,000 — nearly double the cost of the department's 12-year-old vehicles.

Weston EMS, an all-volunteer organization, does not receive money from the town budget. It relies on donations from individuals in town, and funding from local organizations and foundations.

EMS reports that the increase in the costs of the new ambulances, coupled with what the department says are "significantly lower contributions" over the past two years has severely depleted the department's financial reserves.

Weston EMS is making an appeal that donors give twice this year: once for the ongoing EMS service the department provides at no cost to everyone in town, and once to help cover the cost of the community's new ambulances.

Weston EMS estimates that the town of Weston saves more than \$750,000 every year by having an all volunteer, self-funded EMS. In addition, individuals who need ambulance service are never charged in Weston, whereas towns in the surrounding area charge anywhere from \$450 to \$750 for an ambulance call.

Weston EMS answers more than 500 calls a year. Fully trained volunteers are on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

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In a letter being sent to residents, John Weingarten, president of Weston EMS, said, "We think you deserve state-of-the-art equipment when you have an emergency. Since our new ambulances are your new ambulances, we hope you will share in the cost."

EMS hopes to raise \$300,000 to help cover its operating costs and the new ambulances.

For questions about Weston EMS or corporate sponsorship of the department, e-mail Mr. Weingarten at [jnweingarten@ gmail.com](mailto:jnweingarten@gmail.com).

More information about Weston EMS and the fund drive may be found at www.westonems.com