

***** Ambulance press release was presented at this time. No action was taken.*****

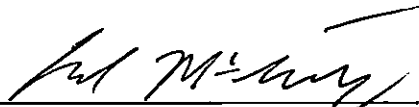
ORDER: ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS POTENTIAL LITIGATION

Motion was made by Brent Larson, duly seconded by David Rikard, to enter Executive Session to discuss potential litigation.

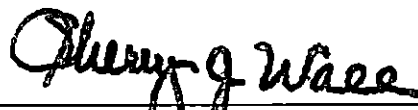
The vote on the motion was as follows:

Supervisor Brent Larson, voted yes
Supervisor Larry Gillespie, voted yes
Supervisor David Rikard, voted yes
Supervisor Chad McLarty, voted yes
Supervisor Mike Roberts, absent

After the vote, Vice President McLarty, declared the motion carried, this the 1st day of March, 2021.



Chad McLarty, Vice President
Board of Supervisors



Sherry Wall, Chancery Clerk

March 1, 2021

Lafayette County and the City of Oxford are in the process of negotiating with Baptist Memorial Health Care Corp. on the terms of how it will continue to provide ambulance service in Lafayette County.

Our chief interest is ensuring that the people of Lafayette County can count on swift response times from ambulances and quality care from well-trained emergency medical technicians (EMTs) and paramedics. Toward this goal, we are working with the city and the hospital system to define the specific terms of BMHCC's ambulance service agreement.

At issue is the specific definition of how BMHCC must continue to provide ambulance service for Lafayette County, which it agreed to do in August 2011 as part of its agreement in purchasing the local hospital from the city and county.

That agreement specified that BMHCC would “continue to provide ambulance service at the current level” — but it did not define whether the “current level” would be measured by the number of ambulances per population, by response times or by other metrics. It is defining these metrics — and the potential penalty for not meeting them — that the city and county are now working to resolve with BMHCC. These new terms, which include specific response time standards and penalties for non-compliance, will be a supplement to that agreement.

Since 2016, the Lafayette County Fire Department has invested in training its firefighters as EMRs and EMTs. Alongside ambulances, the LCFD responds to emergency medical calls outside the city limits. County leaders have relied on input from LCFD first responders throughout the current negotiation process.

The county and city are proposing to include in the supplemental agreement with BMHCC an Ambulance Service Committee, which would include representatives from the city, county, hospital and ambulance service provider, along with the Lafayette County Communications Director who oversees 911 dispatch. The proposed committee would have the authority and responsibility to review response time performance on a monthly basis, impose penalties where appropriate, and collaboratively work to overcome problems or concerns with that performance.

At this point in time, the terms between the city and county and BMHCC are still in negotiation. We understand how important swift and well-trained emergency medical care is to everyone in Lafayette County, and we are committed to seeing this process through.

Lafayette County is also served by CareMed Ambulance Service, a private company which does not have a contractual obligation or right to provide these services but does receive dispatched calls on a rotation with the ambulance service provided by BMHCC. Just as the County and City continue to evaluate the role of BMHCC in providing ambulance services to our community, we will continue to evaluate CareMed's role as well as we go forward.