



BARNES COUNTY AMBULANCE

2022 STATUS REPORT

Barnes County Ambulance Service

History

Barnes County Ambulance Service is owned and operated by Scott Miller. Scott has been employed by Barnes County Ambulance Service since 1985. In the early 1990's, Scott and Deb Miller became co-owners of the service with Dick and Candy Zaun. In 2002, Scott and Deb became the sole owners of Barnes County Ambulance Service, until Deb's passing in 2016. Since that time, Scott has been the sole owner and manager of operation.

OUR FLEET

Barnes County Ambulance Service currently has four (4) ambulances, with two of them equipped for ALS (Advanced Life Support) transports, and two equipped for BLS (Basic Life Support) transports.



What is Advanced Life Support?

Advanced Life Support (ALS), also referred to as Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS), is a set of life-saving protocols and skills that extend beyond Basic Life Support (BLS). It is used to provide urgent treatment to cardiac emergencies such as cardiac arrest, stroke, myocardial infarction (heart attack), pain management, and other conditions.

ALS is one of the vital steps in the American Heart Association's "Chain of Survival", which is a sequence of actions that can increase survival rates of sudden cardiac arrest and other emergencies. Paramedics are licensed to provide ALS interventions such as the administration of medications, providing emergency cardiac care, advanced airway procedures in the pre-hospital setting, in addition to all BLS skills.

What is Basic Life Support?

Basic Life Support (BLS), is a level of medical skill used to treat victims experiencing life-threatening illnesses or injuries until patient care can be transferred to a higher level of care (either ALS, Air Med, or hospital). BLS requires knowledge and skills related to CPR, use of AED's and relieving airway obstructions, in addition to treatment of injuries and various medical conditions. BLS services are provided by licensed Emergency Medical Technicians - Basic (EMT-B) trained personnel.

ALS Intercepts

Barnes County Ambulance frequently intercepts with surrounding BLS ambulance services for critical care patients requiring treatments above the EMT level. Intercepts are generally coordinated through State Radio.

Levels of EMS Certification

All EMRs, EMTs, AEMT,s and Paramedics are certified through the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians and are licensed to practice in North Dakota.

- **Paramedic** - All AEMT skills in addition to complex knowledge and skills necessary to provide patient care and transportation. Paramedics perform invasive and pharmacological interventions, such as inserting IV lines, administering drugs, and providing emergency cardiac care. Paramedics have earned certification by completing a paramedic program (2 year associates degree), involving extensive clinicals and field internships.
- **Advanced Emergency Medical Technician (AEMT)** - all EMT skills in addition to limited advanced interventions, such as IV placement, fluid administration, limited medication administration, and some advanced cardiac care.
- **Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)** - an EMT can provide out of hospital emergency medical care and transportation for critical and emergent patients. EMTs have the basic knowledge and skills necessary to stabilize and safely transport patients ranging from non-emergency and routine medical transports to life threatening emergencies. EMTs perform basic, noninvasive interventions with the basic equipment typically found on an ambulance.
- **Emergency Medical Responder (EMR)** - can provide immediate lifesaving care to critical patients. EMRs have the knowledge and skills necessary to provide immediate lifesaving interventions while awaiting additional EMS resources to arrive. EMRs also provide assistance to higher-level responders at the scene of emergencies and during transport.
- **CPR/Driver** - must have successfully completed EVOC course, have current CPR certification unless there are two primary care providers or one provider and another person CPR certified.

Employees

Barnes County Ambulance Service currently employs four (4) full time paramedics, two (2) full-time EMT-B's, one (1) part-time paramedic, 13 part-time EMT-B's, and one (1) part-time administrative assistant. Three of our paramedics are also Certified Instructors.

ALS Service

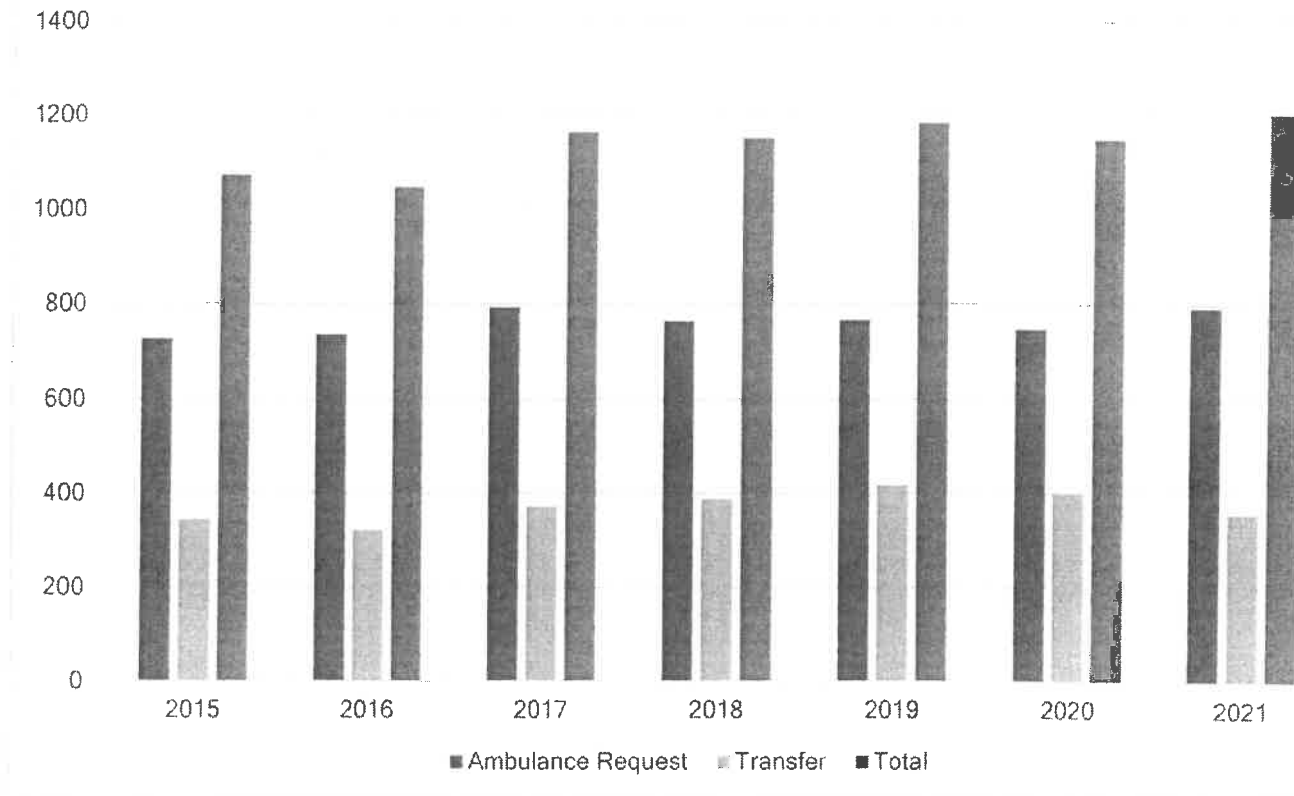
Barnes County Ambulance is a licensed *ALS service provider* in the state of North Dakota. This means that we are required to have one ALS ambulance staffed with the minimum of one (1) Paramedic and one (1) EMT, and one BLS ambulance staffed with a minimum of two (2) EMTs.

Current Staffing Scheduling

Barnes County Ambulance currently meets the minimum state requirement for ALS service staffing and has utilized the same staffing schedule since the early 1990's, with one Paramedic and 3-4 EMTs scheduled for each 12-hour shift. There are approximately 60 of these shifts per month.

Call Volume

Barnes County Ambulance Total Calls by Year



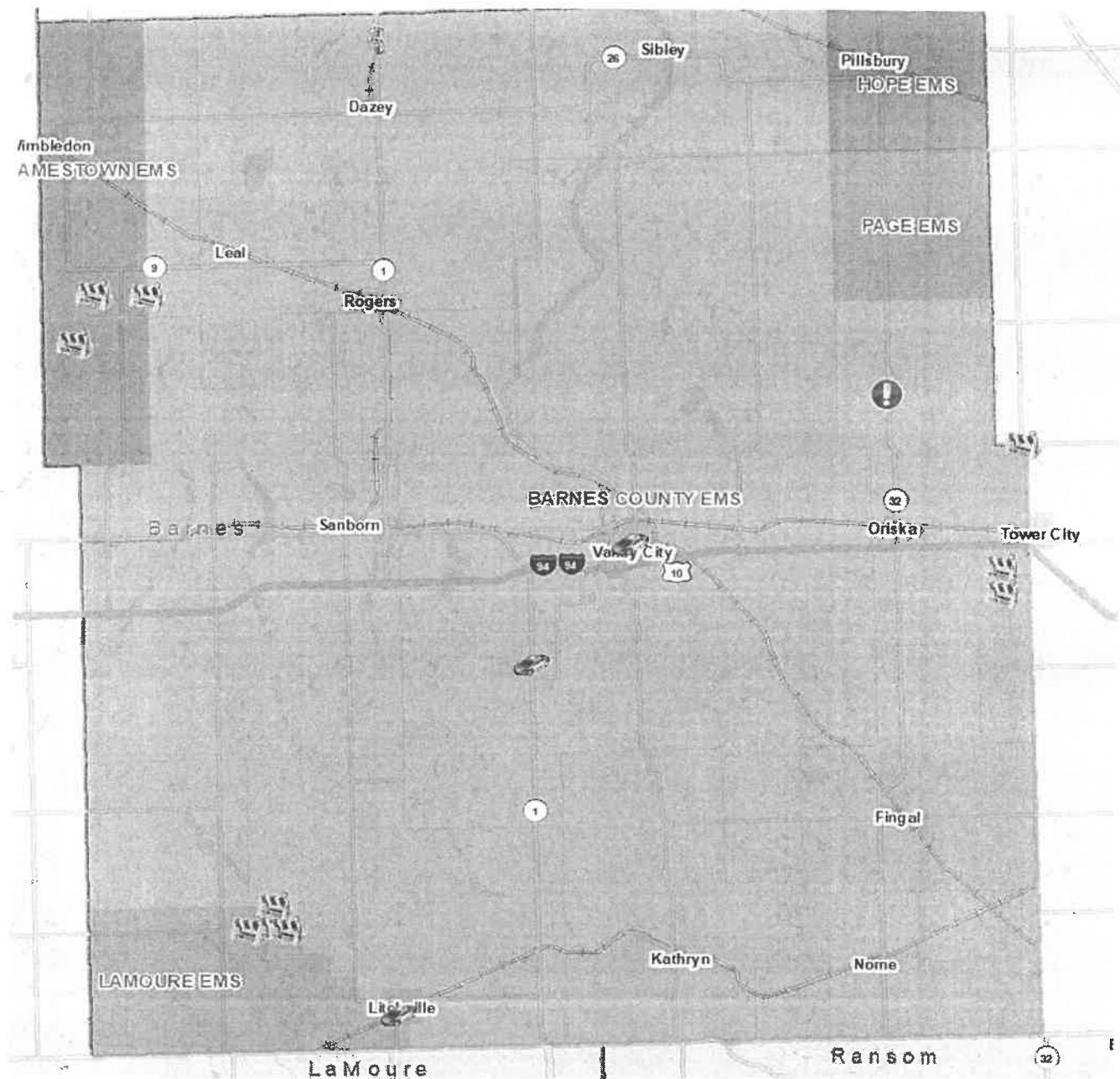
Ambulance request includes any time an ambulance response is requested, and includes all medical calls, standby requests (fire calls, rodeos, etc.), and public relations events such as parades.

Transfers are inter-facility patient transfers from one agency to another. Most of these transfers are to and from St. Raphael's Nursing Home, and to Fargo hospitals (Essentia, Sanford, and VA); however, transfers to Bismarck, Grand Forks, and Minneapolis hospitals are not uncommon.

Total calls include all times an ambulance is placed in service, whether a transport occurred or not. For example, in 2021, there were 1205 total calls, with 1037 patient transports and 168 calls with no patient transport. Patients can choose to refuse transport, or EMS may arrive on scene and determine there are no patients needing assistance (i.e., rollover calls with no injuries). This averages out to 14 no carry calls per month.

Service Area

Service areas are determined by the ND Department of Health/EMS service area designation. This coverage area is determined by the “fastest response” of an ambulance service. Barnes County Ambulance has a service area that includes almost all of Barnes County, and extends into LaMoure, Ransom, and Cass counties. Barnes County Ambulance also has mutual aid agreements for ambulance intercepts with LaMoure Ambulance, Hope Ambulance, and Page Ambulance services. Barnes County Ambulance is not bound by jurisdictional boundaries and can provide EMS services outside of our service area when requested.



Funding Request Justification

Barnes County Ambulance is seeking funding for the following reasons:

Expenses/Revenue Changes:

1. Increase in costs - 29% increase since 2018 (supplies, fuel, etc)
2. Decrease in revenue - 20% increase since 2018
 - a. Increased number of no-pays
 - b. Increased number of patients without insurance
 - c. Decreased Medicare/Medicaid reimbursements
 - d. Increase in Medicare/Medicaid denying claims
 - e. Increased number of no-carry's, standby, etc.

Additional ALS Crew:

1. Increased number of ALS transfers (require a Paramedic)- means no local ALS coverage for minimum of three (3) hours
2. Changing demographics - increase in elderly population and individuals with co-morbidities (multiple medical problems requiring advanced medical care)
3. Multiple calls simultaneously
4. Incidents requiring more than one ambulance or paramedic to improve patient outcome (MVA, cardiac arrest calls, etc.)
5. STEMI/Trauma Codes that go directly from scene to Fargo
6. Rural calls/ALS intercepts - tie up medic for extended periods of time

Funding Solutions:

1. One time request of funds from COVID Relief funding
2. Request to have mill levy increase on June ballot to ensure continuation of necessary funding in the future