



**SMITHS STATION
FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**



Our Ambulance operation is currently suspended.

It is our hope to have our ambulance operations back online in
1st Quarter of 2023.

Q: When were ambulance operations suspended?

A: February 2022

Q: Why were ambulance operations suspended?

A: The answer is complex, but the primary reason was inability to recruit and retain personnel. This was due to lack of funding, which meant we were unable to pay competitive rates or offer competitive benefits such as retirement and health insurance.

Q: Weren't folks charged for being transported? Why wasn't this income enough to support the ambulance operation?

A: This is another complex answer, but basically only about 25% of the amount billed for transports is ever actually paid/collected.

Q: Do we currently have an ambulance service in the Smiths Station area?

A: Yes, we are currently being serviced by the EAMC ambulance service.

Q: If EAMC has an ambulance in our area, why does SSFR need an ambulance?

A: EAMC is responsible for providing 911 response in the entire county. While they keep a single ambulance primarily stationed in Smiths Station, a single ambulance is not enough. With almost 4,000 911 calls a year Smiths Station needs at least 2 ambulances stationed in Smiths Station.

Q: Why doesn't EAMC just put another ambulance in Smiths Station?

A: This has been discussed for years and the subject of innumerable county commission meetings.

Q: Why does SSFR need an ambulance?

A: As stated above with the number of 911 calls we have each year; we need a dedicated ambulance for Smiths Station. This dedicated ambulance can literally be the difference between life and death. The EAMC ambulance we have is shared with the entire county and may not be in Smiths Station or maybe on another call when you call 911.

Q: What happens when the EAMC ambulance is on another call?

A: When the EAMC ambulance is on another call we must wait for another ambulance to come from Opelika or Auburn.

Q: Does EAMC and SSFR work together on Ambulance Operations?

A: Yes. EAMC and SSFR have a great working relationship and work hard to provide lifesaving ALS ambulance service to the Smiths Station community.

Q: What is SSFR doing in the interim to help 911 callers?

A: SSFR maintains a ALS non-transport license. This allows us to administer lifesaving medications before the ambulance arrives in certain situations.

Q: When ambulance operations are restarted, will transport fees make the ambulance self-supporting?

A: No. As stated above the ambulance operation only ultimately collects about 25% of charges billed.

Q: Where will the funding needed to reestablish the Ambulance Operations come from?

A: In addition to hiring full time firefighters, restarting ambulance operations is part of the plan once we start collecting the new fire fee.

Q: If ambulance operations aren't self-supporting, why does SSFR need an ambulance?

A: Saving lives is more important than a self-supported operation. The life saved by our ambulance could be yours or the life of someone you love or care about.

Q: Where can I learn more about the new fire fee or submit a question?

A: visit: www.ssfr.link/faq