Cambria Community Healthcare District

AMBULANCE FACILITY PROJECT

OVERVIEW:

The CCHD has proposed replacing a facility that was built in 1957 to provide medical offices and a detached garage for two ambulances. A new facility will enhance emergency medical and ambulance services to our community but requires some long-term investment. The following brief Q&A highlights the most important topics that have been considered. More in depth discussion of the project is available at https://cambria-healthcare.org/facility-project.html.

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS:

1. Why do we need a new Ambulance Facility?
Over the past 65 years, the current building that houses our ambulances and crew has deteriorated far beyond its useful life. At this point, renovation costs to satisfy current health and safety codes for essential service buildings exceed new building costs.

2. How will a new Ambulance Facility benefit our community?
There are a few key ways including: A) It will **improve response times**, particularly at night, as heated equipment bays provide operations by our staff at a moment's notice unlike our current situation which has the fleet parked outdoors requiring longer to get underway. B) It will **provide a secure, indoor location** for the vehicles which will protect the finishes from premature deterioration and afford security of very expensive equipment and on-board medications including narcotics. C) It will allow funds currently being used to repair and replace worn out and defective systems to be redirected to provide increased community services.

3. Can the current building be repaired or remodeled instead?
The current facility is simply not a candidate for a cost-effective remodel project. It has deteriorated beyond its useful life and lacks critical safety and security infrastructure to meet facility standards such as: no central heating or cooling, insufficient electrical and plumbing capacity. Any significant remodel would trigger building code requirements from the foundation to the roof making it neither technically, nor financially feasible for the existing structure to meet modern requirements.

4. Are there other benefits to having an Ambulance facility with a garage?
There are. For example, one benefit to having a heated garage is that in the event of a widespread emergency such as flood or earthquake, the garage can be used as a temporary collection point for patients to rest in warm, comfortable surroundings before either returning to their homes or being transported by ambulance to a medical care facility.

5. Can the crew move into one of the Fire Department facilities in the area?
With the advent of the three-year fire safe Grant filling out each Cambria fire crew to four firefighters, there is no room for permanently quartering ambulance crews at the Cambria Fire Department and neighbors have previously voiced objections to enlarging Cambria Fire Department facilities. CalFire also lacks the facility to house Cambria ambulance crews.

6. What is the cost for the new Ambulance Facility and how will it affect taxes?
The new ambulance facility is estimated to be between $8 and $9 million which will cost ratepayers less than $10 per $100,000 assessed valuation (not current market value) annually for about 30 years. A home currently assessed at $200,000 will be charged less than $25 a year while one assessed at $1.5 million will draw a charge of less than $180 every year. The "design to build" approach is planned to be used which will substantially eliminate the possibility of any significant cost changes.

7. How will the new Ambulance Facility be financed?
Municipal bonds will be sold offering investors a steady return of 3 to 4% over the life of the bond — currently projected to be between 28 and 32 years.

8. Why will the new Ambulance Facility cost so much?
The ambulance facility will be built to standards established for an essential services facility. It will be designed to withstand hard use and require materials that will assure proper operations for more than five decades without extreme maintenance requirements. Adding features such as solar power with battery backup and on-site fuel dispensing have up-front costs but results in saving operating costs over the life of the facility.