



236 E. Main Street  
Twin Lakes, WI 53181



**VOTE YES**  
**FOR EMS REFERENDUM**  
**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5TH**

Dear Residents of Twin Lakes,

We are reaching out to you regarding an important decision we need you to make when you vote in the upcoming election. There will be a referendum question on the upcoming ballot that will shape the future of emergency medical services in our community.

You may not know this, but the Twin Lakes Volunteer Fire Rescue Squad (TLFR) is not a village-run entity, we are a private, non-profit 501(c)(3) charity organization. Since 1929, TLFR has been committed to providing Fire and EMS Services to the Twin Lakes area.

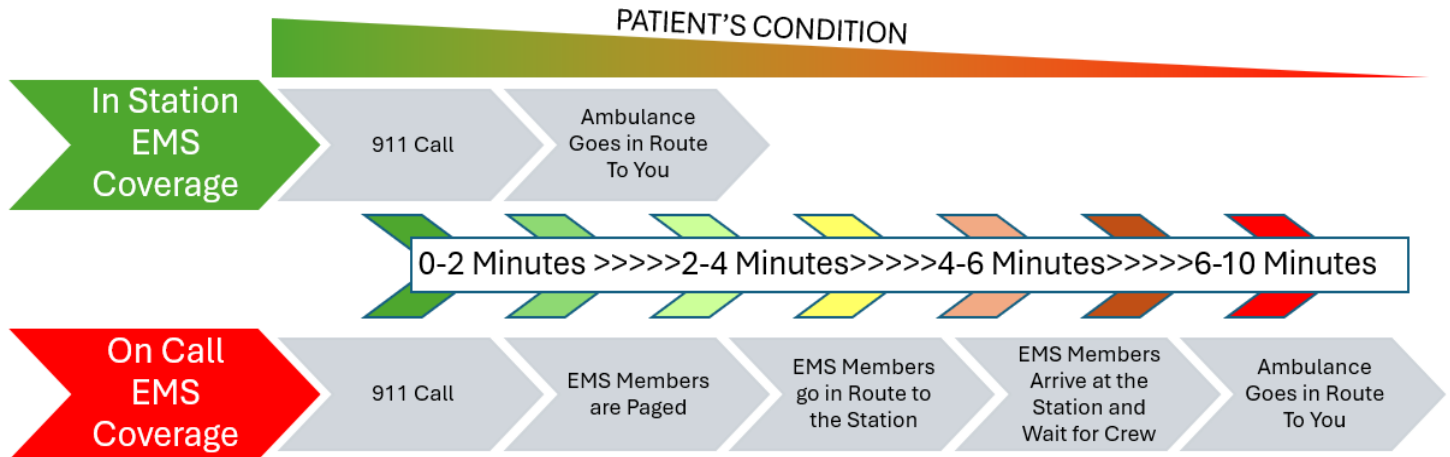
Over the past century, emergency services have evolved significantly, and the needs of our village have grown as well. The reality is that in the last 20 years, the number of calls is up, and the number of EMS / Fire Dept. volunteers has significantly declined.



**TWIN LAKES**  
**WE NEED YOUR HELP**  
**VOTE YES FOR**  
**EMS STAFFING**

Due to the shortage of EMS professionals available to volunteer, we've taken on the responsibility of compensating them for their time and expertise. It's important that we take the time to explain to you how we currently operate. Our firehouse is not staffed 24/7. We currently provide **"In Station"** coverage from Friday 7 AM to Sunday 7 PM, and weekdays from 7 AM to 7 PM. During the overnight hours from Monday to Thursday, 7 PM to 7 AM, we rely on **"On Call"** EMS professionals to respond to emergencies.

**Understanding How 24-Hour Coverage vs. On Call Coverage works:**



As you can see, the **"On Call"** process can significantly increase response times, but it's the current reality we face. When the firehouse is not staffed with an **"In Station"** crew, response times are inevitably longer compared to when it is staffed.

Starting in 2024, TLFR began operating paid **"In Station"** 12-hour shifts during the week and 24-hour shifts on Fridays and Saturdays to reduce response times and improve patient care. The results have been life-saving, with an average **"Out the Door"** time of just 2 minutes when the station is staffed. This rapid response can be the difference between life and death, especially during emergencies like heart attacks or strokes.

Our plan for 2025 is to have 2 EMS professionals staffed **"In Station"** 24 hours per day, 7 days a week, ensuring help is always available, day or night, delivering life-saving care without delay.

Our neighboring communities, Wheatland and Randall, recently voted **YES** on this referendum to improve emergency services. In Wisconsin, villages face levy limits that cap tax increases. To provide more funding for fire departments, voter approval is required to raise taxes slightly beyond this limit. A **YES** vote ensures the extra funds are earmarked specifically for the fire department, without breaking tax rules. The cost is \$47 per \$100K of home value. For example, if your home is valued at \$350K, divide \$350K by \$100K (350/100 = 3.5) and multiply by \$47. That's only \$164.50 per year, or about 45¢ per day for a home valued at \$350k, to enhance your EMS protection to 24-hours per day.

Most tax increases are tough to accept, but this one is essential. On your worst day, whether it's a medical emergency for you, your child, loved one, or neighbor, we want to be there to provide care without delay. Your **YES** vote could be the difference between life and death for someone in our community.

Thank you for taking the time to consider this important issue. We urge you to vote **YES** on the referendum to help ensure a safer future for all residents of Twin Lakes.

Sincerely,

Twin Lakes Volunteer Fire Rescue Squad