

LEE COUNTY
SOUTHWEST FLORIDA
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

To: County Manager's Office

From: Benjamin Abes, Director, Public Safety 

Date: March 3, 2020

Re: Staff report for renewal of Lehigh Acres Fire COPCN

In accordance with Ordinance 08-16, the Department of Public Safety has reviewed the application from the Lehigh Acres Fire Control and Rescue District for a renewal Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (COPCN) to provide Advanced Life Support Transport Service within their jurisdiction.

Application package

The application package provided by the fire district is complete. Public Safety and Risk Management have reviewed the submission and found all documentation and insurance requirements have been met.

Compliance with standards

Lee County Ordinance 08-16 outlines two core standards for EMS response within Section Seven:

1. Out-of-chute time of one minute during the day and two minutes at night
2. Response time of 8:59 or less 90 percent of the time to calls classified as Delta/Echo under the Medical Priority Dispatch System

On February 19, 2019, the Board of County Commissioners approved a one-year COPCN. The Board also stipulated that the District provide a report to the Board by October 1, 2019 to identify how the District would improve response times. The District issued this report as required, but continues to lack the capital capacity to complete the expansion necessary to improve these response metrics. The District believes this financial obstacle will be resolved with a change in the District's fire assessment methodology or increases in ad valorem values in Lehigh Acres in the coming years. The earliest opportunity to commence construction appears to be in FY21/22.

Lee County Department of Public Safety
14752 Six Mile Cypress, Fort Myers, Florida 33912 | 239-533-3911 | <http://www.safelee.org>



In January, the Fire Chief met with Assistant County Manager Christine Brady to identify a way where the response deficiencies would be addressed with assistance from the County. The Fire District and the County continue to explore ways to address the availability of emergency medical services in the District. This improvement may include a joint project between the District and County to improve service levels, but the specifics of this type of arrangement have not been solidified.

While we continue to work toward a solution on response times, I recommend granting a one-year COPCN. The County and District will continue to work together to evaluate options for service improvements in the short-term to remedy the compliance issues experienced in the District.