

Gov. Evers Announces \$30 Million to Support EMS in Rural Communities

Written by GOV Press Wisconsin

Wednesday, 16 February 2022 12:09 - Last Updated Saturday, 19 February 2022 10:21

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Access to telehealth services, protected healthcare for pre-existing conditions, and reduced costs for prescription drugs targeted.

MADISON — During his 2022 State of the State address Tuesday night, Gov. Tony Evers announced a plan to support and stabilize Wisconsin's emergency medical services (EMS) system across the state with a nearly \$30 million investment. The governor's plan includes efforts to supplement the Funding Assistance Program (FAP), which provides annual grants to all public ambulance service providers, including volunteer fire departments, nonprofits, and counties and municipalities, create a new grant program to help those providers who are not eligible for FAP, and fund a 16 percent reimbursement rate increase for private and municipal ambulance providers for emergency medical transportation.

For a decade, local governments have been asked to do more with less. Since 2011, state aid to communities has gone down even as costs have gone up. Help from the state was cut by more than nine percent while public safety costs have increased more than 16 percent. Between these rising costs and lack of available staffing, some have even gone without ambulance services, left with no other option but to hope and rely upon neighboring providers.

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