PENDLETON COUNTY AMBULANCE SERVICE

SERVICE DEMAND
VS
FINANCING

A Presentation By The Pendleton County Fiscal Court
Seeking Public Comment Regarding The Future Of
Ambulance Service In Pendleton County

December 18, 2008
Pendleton County Courthouse
7:00 p.m.

Pendleton County Ambulance Service Presentation

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Ambulance Funding Problems

- **Service demand is outstripping available funding**

- **The County has no available income to fund this budget and growth demand**

Understanding Our Current Ambulance System

- **Basic Life Support (BLS): Provides Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) to transport citizens to the nearest hospital. EMTs cannot administer advanced on-site care**

- **Advanced Life Support (ALS): Paramedics can administer medications, IVs and air passage breathing procedures**

Services Provided Over the Past Several Years

- **1960-1970's – Basic Life Support was provided at no cost to the county by local Funeral Directors**
- **1980's – Stewart Ambulance Service provided Basic Life Support at no cost to the county**
- **1990's – In 1991, the Fiscal Court, through local property tax revenue, began funding Basic Life Support ambulance service. Advanced Life Support was provided by an outside agency at no cost to the county**

Services Provided Over the Past Several Years

- **2000 – Fiscal Court continued to fund growing demand for BLS services**

- **2005 – Due to the withdrawal of the private ALS provider, the county assumed this funding responsibility. The loss of this critical health care need caused the County to implement a .5% payroll tax.**

Rising Cost of ALS Services

2006/07

TOTAL PAYROLL TAX REVENUE	$375,000
COLLECTION COST	-$50,000
NET PAYROLL TAX REVENUE	$325,000

NET PAYROLL TAX REVENUE	$325,000
2006/07 ALS SERVICE	-$260,000
Depreciation Reserve	***$65,000***
(for equipment purchase)	

Rising Cost of ALS Services

2008/09

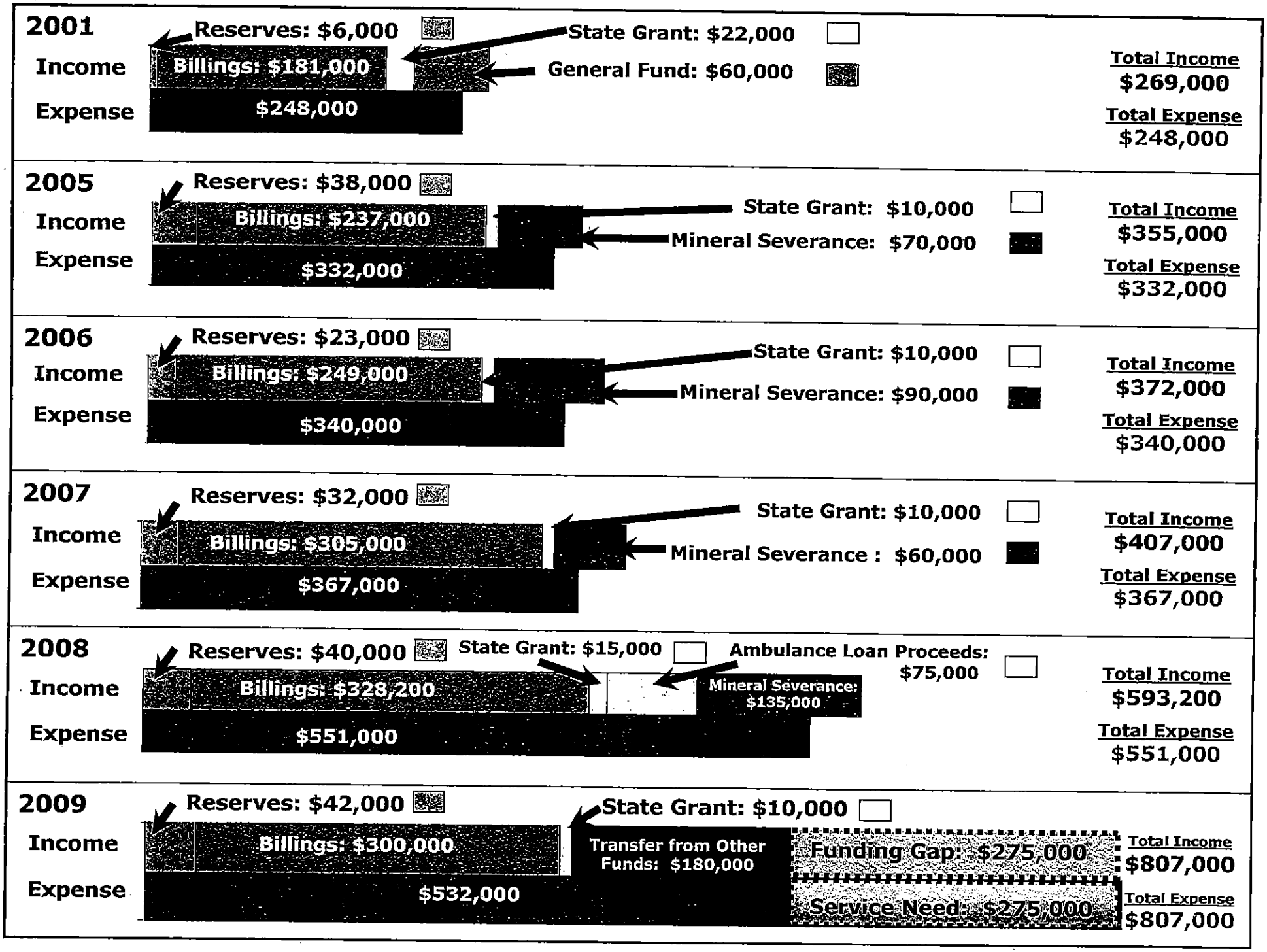
PROJECTED PAYROLL TAX REVENUE	$365,000
COLLECTION COST	-$50,000
NET PAYROLL TAX REVENUE	$315,000

NET PAYROLL TAX REVENUE	$315,000
2008/09 ALS SERVICE	-$273,000
Depreciation Reserve	***$42,000***
(for equipment purchase)	

Rising Cost of BLS Ambulance Service

- 1990 Ambulance Fund Expenditures - $120,094
- 1994 Ambulance Fund Expenditures - $193,355
- 2001 Ambulance Fund Expenditures - $248,000 (Including $55,000 for ½ of a New Ambulance)
- 2008 Ambulance Fund Expenditures - $551,000 (Including $150,410 for a New Ambulance)

The following graph shows the Ambulance Budget over the past several years as well as the revenue needed verses the past, present and projected revenue available.


2001
Income
Expense
Reserves: $6,000
Billings: $181,000
$248,000
State Grant: $22,000
General Fund: $60,000
Total Income
$269,000
Total Expense
$248,000
2005
Income
Expense
Reserves: $38,000
Billings: $237,000
$332,000
State Grant: $10,000
Mineral Severance: $70,000
Total Income
$355,000
Total Expense
$332,000
2006
Income
Expense
Reserves: $23,000
Billings: $249,000
$340,000
State Grant: $10,000
Mineral Severance: $90,000
Total Income
$372,000
Total Expense
$340,000
2007
Income
Expense
Reserves: $32,000
Billings: $305,000
$367,000
State Grant: $10,000
Mineral Severance : $60,000
Total Income
$407,000
Total Expense
$367,000
2008
Income
Expense
Reserves: $40,000
Billings: $328,200
$551,000
State Grant: $15,000
Ambulance Loan Proceeds: $75,000
Mineral Severance: $135,000
Total Income
$593,200
Total Expense
$551,000
2009
Income
Expense
Reserves: $42,000
Billings: $300,000
$532,000
State Grant: $10,000
Transfer from Other Funds: $180,000
Funding Gap: $275,000
Service Need: $275,000
Total Income
$807,000
Total Expense
$807,000

Causes of Funding Problems
(Diminishing Revenues)

Funding impacted by diminishing revenues:

- **2001: The LGEA Mineral Severance revenue was $428,000**
- **2009: The LGEA Mineral Severance revenue is projected to fall below $275,000**

The following graph shows this revenue decline.

2001		**Other: $428,000**	**Total $428,000**
Other: Emergency Management, Recreation, Economic Development, Senior Citizens, Airport, Fire Dept, Water Lines, Misc.			
2005	**BLS: $70,000**	**Other: $296,000**	**Total $366,000**
Other: Emergency Management, Recreation, Economic Development, Senior Citizens, Airport, Fire Dept, Water Lines, Misc.			
2006	**BLS: $90,000**	**Other: $281,000**	**Total $371,000**
Other: Emergency Management, Recreation, Economic Development, Senior Citizens, Airport, Fire Dept, Water Lines, Misc.			
2007	**BLS: $60,000**	**Other: $370,000**	**Total $430,000**
Other: Emergency Management, Recreation, Economic Development, Fire Dept, Water Lines, Misc.			
2008	**BLS: $135,000**	**Other: $252,000**	**Total $387,000**
Other: Emergency Management, Recreation, Fire Dept, Water Lines, Misc.			
2009	**BLS: $180,000**	**Other: $92,000**	**Total $272,000**
Other: Emergency Management, Recreation, Fire Dept, Water Lines, Misc.			

Causes of Funding Problems

(Pendleton County EMS Run Volume Increase)

- **1992- Ambulance Calls - 754**
  Ambulance Runs Redirected - ?
- **1996- Ambulance Calls - 932**
  Ambulance Runs Redirected - ?
- **2002- Ambulance Calls -1032**
  Ambulance Runs Redirected - 40
- **2008- Ambulance Calls -1195**
  Ambulance Runs Redirected - 108

Option Possibilities

Option 1: Service Need

Local Government Provides No Ambulance Service

Pros:

- **No additional tax burden on the public by redirecting current tax revenue to other services**

Cons:

- **Significant potential for loss of life following a serious illness or accident due to elimination of service**
- **Significant reduction of health care**
- **Extreme harm to community and economic development**

Option 2: Service Need

Create an Ambulance Structure That Provides Two Units Each Having a BLS Employee and an ALS Employee

Pros:

- Much greater potential to extend lives by covering runs not able to be made by Ambulance 1
- Each ambulance will now have a paramedic on board, thus doubling ALS service
- Less wear and tear on vehicles, thus extending vehicle life

Cons:

- Overall tax burden will impact working citizens living both in and out of the county

Option 2 Funding

Increase Occupational Tax

Pros:

- Additional tax revenue will generate sufficient funding for 2 full time ambulance crews with paramedics (ALS)
- Long term cost savings due to greater efficiency of operations
- Residents that work outside the county will not be affected

Cons:

- Overall tax burden will impact working citizens living both in and out of the county

Option 3: Service Need

County Maintains Current Operations and Provides Second 24/7 BLS Ambulance With Paid Crew

Pros:

- More potential to extend lives by covering runs not able to be made by Ambulance 1
- Less wear and tear on vehicles thus extending vehicle life

Cons:

- More cost than current system
- More costly than Option 2
- Overall tax burden will impact working citizens living both in and out of the county

Option 3 Funding

Increase Occupational Tax

Pros:

- Additional tax revenue will generate sufficient funding for 2 full time BLS ambulance crews and continuation of existing ALS service
- Residents that work outside the county will not be affected

Cons:

- Overall tax burden will impact working citizens living both in and out of the county

Option 4: Service Need

Do Nothing and Force Reversal of Ambulance Service to Cover Only One BLS Ambulance and Discontinue ALS

Pros:

- **More potential to save dollars by reducing services and redirecting current funds from ALS to fully fund one BLS Service**

Cons:

- **Increased potential for loss of life following a serious illness or accident due to reduction of service**
- **Reduction of health care**
- **Severe harm to community and economic development**

Option 5: Service Need

Establish Both a County Wide Ambulance District and Fire District

Pros:

- Ability to extend lives and protect property
- Revenue available to provide needed additional services and equipment
- More efficient operations
- Ensures continued funding of BLS and ALS services, as well as increased funding for fire protection

Cons:

- Increased tax burden to property owners
- Constitutes fundamental change to current services

Option 5 Funding

Implement County Wide Fire and Ambulance Taxing Districts, and in the Interim, Increase Payroll Tax Until District Tax Revenue Generated

Pros:

- **Will, along with current county funding, add required revenue to fund BLS and ALS services**
- **Will provide required revenue for additional fire protection**
- **Funding will be shared across greater population, thus reducing potential for additional contribution amount**
- **Long term cost savings due to greater efficiency of operations**
- **Greater ability to compete for and win state and federal grants**

Option 5 Funding

Implement County Wide Fire and Ambulance Taxing Districts, and in the Interim, Increase Payroll Tax Until District Tax Revenue Generated

Cons:

- Overall tax burden will impact working citizens living both in and out of the county
- Increased tax burden to property owners
- Success of this option relies on the administrative professionalism of each board