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Wilmington fire district in need of an EMT

January 17, 2011 - By ERIC VOORHIS, For the Enterprise

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WILMINGTON - Due to a lack of volunteers, Wilmington's fire district commission is in need of an emergency medical technician.

"The state requirements to become a medical person are horrendous nowadays," town Supervisor Randy Preston said during Tuesday night's board meeting. "We've been steadily losing volunteers. There is very little interest in taking even the most basic EMT course, which is upward of 160 hours in training."

In the past six weeks there have been nine emergency calls that Wilmington has not been able to respond to, Preston said.

"They had to call in mutual aid for all of those," he said. "It's to the point that we had two calls in one day last week that we couldn't answer. We need someone to fill the void."

But it's not that simple.

Taking on a full-time EMT would cost the fire district more than \$50,000 a year, but Preston presented a solution to lessen the cost by creating a position shared by the fire district and the town highway department.

"This person would be working for the town the majority of the time, but if there's a call they're going to respond," Preston said.

Because the town already has money budgeted for a part-time employee and the fire commission has tax money available, the new position wouldn't cause any increase in taxes for town residents.

As it is, Wilmington doesn't have many calls, according to Preston, "so a full-time EMT wouldn't make sense."



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Preston said they had someone in mind who would fit the criteria and would be willing to work as a town employee and also an EMT.

"Of course, we would be more than willing to advertise, if there's somebody else out there that we don't know about," Preston said. "But this is a very specific situation."

The board passed a resolution to move forward and look into the specifics of creating the position.

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