

EMS History

The **Edgerton Ambulance Service** was established in 1970. It was originally founded by Jim Neal and Gene Gruna. Prior to that, ambulance transportation was done by Bruni Funeral Home (Jerry Bruni, owner).

The EDGERTON REPORTER

VOLUME 98 NUMBER 33

SINGLE COPY 15¢

THURSDAY, MAY 21, 1970

Approves Ambulance Transfer

Preliminary plans for the purchase of the Kutz ambulance, now servicing Edgerton, were approved by the City Council at Monday night's regular meeting. Jim Neal, regular ambulance driver, and Dan Ferguson, Edgerton patrolman and part-time ambulance helper, asked the council's transfer of subsidy of \$7,200 to them after final agreement is reached with Jerry Kutz, owner of the ambulance service.

The two men told council members that they had 17 men standing by to help with ambulance calls and two men "on call" at all times. The transfer of the business will take place June 1 if plans go smooth-

ly, they indicated.

The council will open bids on electrical work and the concrete block building at the city pool at 8 p.m. Monday, June 1. City Engineer George Weir appeared before the council to explain the mix-up and delay in specifications on the work. Alderman Bill Cedars, chairman of the park board, stressed that there would be no postponement in the opening of the pool, scheduled for early June.

The council approved a motion to proceed with annexation measures to adjoin to the city property adjacent to city-owned land in the areas of the sewage disposal plant and Fassett Cemetery. Also under dis-

cussion was the possible purchase of the Ladd Property near the Swimming pool and extending to the west, through which the city plans to install sewer service. Weir is to survey the property.

City Clerk Norman Burdick reported that the city's "workable plan" will expire Aug. 1 and that re-application must be made in order to be eligible for various community improvement funds through HUD (Department of Housing and Urban Development).

Aldermen discussed the erection of the American and "Welcome to Edgerton" flags. City Clerk Burdick said that the city donated to the purchase of

History of the Edgerton Fire Department

Jim Neal was also on the Edgerton Fire Department as were several staff members of the ambulance service. According to a UW-Madison research group in 1975, "the two emergency groups have both the mutual workers and services to give Edgerton above average service for a community the size of Edgerton" (Edgerton Reporter, May 8, 1975). All 22 of the members of the ambulance service in 1975 were certified in Red Cross emergency care and nine were certified Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT).

Visitors to the fire station open house this Saturday, May 10, will have the opportunity to see the men and equipment at the Edgerton Ambulance Service that routinely save lives.

The owners of the ambulance service will also be out with their equipment for Saturday's open house at the fire station. The open house featured by both the fire department and the ambulance service is based on more than just their adjacent location. The two emergency groups have both mutual workers and services to give Edgerton what a UW-Madison research group said was above average service for a community the size of Edgerton.

The Ambulance service is owned by Jim Neal and Gene Gruna and has 22 men on call to aid in any conceivable emergency. A number of the men are also with the Edgerton Fire Department. All of the men are Red Cross trained in emergency care and nine are emergency medical technicians.

Like the fire department, the ambulance service holds regular training sessions to keep the volunteers on top of any emergency problems. Neal and Gruna hold training sessions on closed pulmonary resuscitation (CPR) as well as techniques in emergency action and care.

The ambulance service has two emergency vehicles which are radio-equipped to four area hospitals and have light extrac-



Gene Gruna (left) and Jim Neal show some of the emergency equipment they have available at the Edgerton Ambulance Service which they own. They will also be holding an open house Saturday in conjunction with the fire department.

tion gear. This equipment includes sledge hammers, pry bars, cutting tools, chisels and chains. Because of the number of motor vehicle accidents in the Edgerton area, the equipment and training is all the more important to the emergency victim.

Jim Neal said the ambulance service has been called out for "some pretty bad accidents" in the last few months. One of the biggest recently was the snow storm pile up at the Newville Bridge which involved over 100 vehicles. The ambulance service also goes outside of the immediate Edgerton district though, to help Milton and Janesville in their mutual aid relationship.

The ambulance service currently has two high-top vehicles, one is a 1971 Cadillac second response, transfer vehicle. When Neal and Gruna took over the ambulance service in June, 1970, they had only a Pontiac and Buick station wagon, gradually they enlarged their fleet, equipment and services.

Neal said that originally the ambulance was used only as a transportation service, "now we have been trained to provide treatment on the scene." Neal added that the hospitals now may soon train the men in taking blood samples and starting interavenous setups.

The ambulance service crew can be reached 24 hours a day by calling the fire department number. Emergency medical care is therefore only a phone call away.

For an understanding of what equipment and training is available if you ever need emergency care, stop over to the Edgerton Ambulance Service and see the men who have saved so many lives, and may one day save yours.

Initially the members of the ambulance service were trained in Red Cross CPR and First Aid procedures, which included topics such as splinting, controlling bleeding and basic first aid. There were no medications and no monitors. In the early 1970s the Emergency Medical Technician training and certification was developed. By 1975 the Edgerton Ambulance Service had 9 of its 22 members certified as Emergency Medical Technicians.

History of the Edgerton Fire Department

Members of the Edgerton Ambulance Service in the May 8, 1975, issue of the Edgerton Reporter:



Members of the Edgerton Ambulance Service pictured with equipment and vehicles are, kneeling: Dick Brown, Emergency Medical Technician [EMT] (left), and Ron Schieldt.

Standing, left to right are: Gordon Hansen, EMT, Kenny Crandall, LaVerne Kruckenberg, EMT, Gene Gruna, owner and EMT, Jim Neal, owner and EMT, Donald Johnson, Wayne Achterberg, EMT, Dennis Simonson, EMT, Steve French, EMT.

Members of the ambulance service not pictured are Berger Anderson, EMT, Chad Kelley, William Merkle, Dan Ferguson, Gary Edwards, Dick Johnson, Gerald Bruni, Chuck Bowen, Jerry Maves, Jim Zaborek, Dennis Lee and Ron Strouse.

In 1977, the owners of the Edgerton Ambulance Service decided they could no longer run the service equitably due to operating costs and government regulations so they sold the service to Kutz Ambulance Service out of Fort Atkinson. Both Neal and Gruna were volunteers for the Edgerton Ambulance Service with full-time jobs elsewhere and as the service grew it took more and more of their time. Kutz Ambulance Service was originally owned by Jerry Kutz, then later sold in 1989 to Scott Moran, who continued the use of the Kutz Ambulance name.

From the March 24, 1977, issue of The Edgerton Reporter:

New Owner Possible For Ambulance Service

Kutz Ambulance Service, Fort Atkinson, will take over the reins of the Edgerton Ambulance Service, Mayor Ike Spike announced this week.

Jerry Kutz operator of the service, however, told the Reporter Wednesday that some of the details must still be worked out with the City before the transfer can be approved.

Mayor Spike and area townships chairmen met last Saturday morning to discuss the service and to try and set up a cost breakdown for subsidizing the service. According to Kutz's request he will need a \$800 monthly subsidy to run the service adequately.

"We've been working night and day to get this thing solved," Spike noted in

discussing the changeover.

Spike announced a payment plan in which area local governments would pay a subsidy (since the service was started). The subsidy would be figured in a percentage amount based on use of the service by the residents located in each area township or city. Edgerton has paid the majority of the subsidy for the service since it was started but Albion, Fulton and Sumner have also made payments to run the service. A breakdown shows the following percentage use of the service and how much each township is responsible for (with this plan) since the service started. Payments made by area townships through the years have not been removed from these totals:

COMMUNITY	% OF USE	PORTION OF SUBSIDY
Albion	17%	\$8,784
Fulton	17%	\$8,568
Edgerton	49.5%	\$24,732
Milton	13.5%	\$6,804
Porter	2%	\$864
Sumner	1%	\$648

Kutz is the original founder of the service but later sold to the present owners, - Jim Neal and Gene Gruna. As operating

costs and governmental regulations increased the present owners found it impossible to run the service equitably.

Council Discusses Project

A probable buyer for the Edgerton Ambulance Service has been found, Edgerton's Mayor "Ike" Spike announced this week. Spike announced the decision Saturday morning, March 19 in talking with area township officials and related further on the plan during Monday night's City Council session (see related story).

The Council discussed the industrial development project, which will include the addition of a connector street between Stoughton Road and West Fulton Street and widening of West Fulton Street among other projects. The Council reviewed some of the cost deductive details of the plan which might be added if funding is available and questioned if it would be advisable to include them in letting bids.

Although Ned Pierce, of Strand and Associates Engineers, Madison, has pointed out some additional funding from the Economic Development Administration for the project may be available, the Council has

already taken loans on their half of the \$2 million project.

The Council decided to meet with Pierce again to further discuss the plans.

Council members will be contacting homeowners along the street starting this Saturday in order to obtain construction easements.

In other business:

.....The Council referred a proposed annexation plan of five acres owned by Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Hazeltine to the Planning Board. The Hazeltines are planning to develop the land located west of Dallman Road into a mobile trailer park;

.....City Clerk Norman Burdick reported that funding for improvement of the Saunders Creek banks in Central Park are still available. An estimated \$50,000 will be needed for the project. The City will be responsible for paying half of that amount. Plans are still being finalized for the project.

Gail Ninmer was in the first group of women to work for the ambulance service in Edgerton. Seven (?) women completed their EMT training in 1977 (1978?), and started volunteering. She had been working in the Emergency Room at Edgerton Hospital, and was often there when the ambulance service brought patients to the ER. She would kiddingly ask "When are you going let me be on [the ambulance service]?" So when the opportunity came, she was one of the first to join.

Gail enjoyed the adrenalin rush and trying to figure out was wrong with patients. She found the work exciting and challenging. She then took a job in the trauma center at UW Hospital in Madison. This gave her the unique perspective of seeing both sides of care—from the care on the scene by the EMTs to the care in the Trauma Center.

She admits it was tough being one of the first women in a typically male job. The men expected the women to be emotional and not be able to handle the situations, but she took on the challenge and earned the respect of the male members.

History of the Edgerton Fire Department

During her years of service she watched the ambulance service evolve from just transporting patients in the back of a station wagon to providing a broad range of medical care. Her son has followed in her footsteps and also became an EMT with the Edgerton Fire Protection District.

Jim Neal's wife, Mary Margaret, was also a nurse who became a certified EMT and served for 10 years on the ambulance service.



Emergency Medical Technicians who provide twenty-four hour ambulance service to Edgerton and the surrounding area include (pictured left) Bob Furan, Becky Kapallan, LaVerne Kruckenberg, Gene Gruna, Linda Matzke, Darlene Wietersen, Barb Vickers, Jim Neal and John Sherman. (Pictured right) Mark Backes, Mary Neal, Nancy Dickinson, Gerald Kutz Sr., owner of Kutz Ambulance Service, serving Edgerton, Fort Atkinson and Jefferson.

Kutz provided ambulance service until November, 1998, when it was sold to AMR. AMR initially offered several options to the District, from a fully-staffed basic life support ambulance to providing an EMT to support a District volunteer-staffed ambulance. AMR was not interested in the contract to provide services to Edgerton, so they notified the city they would need to find another service. They provided service for a few months until a replacement was found.

History of the Edgerton Fire Department

In 1998 Curtis Ambulance was contracted to provide emergency medical services for Edgerton Fire Protection District, replacing AMR.



Celebrating National EMS Week

In honor of National EMS Week, which was last week, members of Curtis Ambulance Service-Edgerton Division pose in front of one of their two ambulances. Members of Curtis Ambulance of Edgerton visited Edgerton elementary schools last Monday. On Thursday night, Memorial Community Hospital put on a dinner for the crew in recognition of EMS week. Including drivers, Curtis Ambulance of Edgerton has 26 members.

This ambulance, a 2000 Wheelcoach with 36,000 miles, was recently acquired to replace a 1993 model that had 148,000 miles on it. The new ambulance features a center-mounted cot, which allows EMTs to treat patients from all sides. Curtis Ambulance of Edgerton is in its first year of being a state-certified 'IV technician'-level service provider. Curtis Ambulance of Edgerton began offering the higher level of emergency medical services to the community last October. The designation means that at least one certified IV technician is on board during each ambulance call.

Back row, left to right: Wayne Schwartzlow, Adam Walton, Chris Lund, Tom Freeman, Andy Wiersma and Keith Conroy. Front row: Nancy Dickinson, Brian Demrow, Cindy Kirby, Carl Marino, Tanya VanDeventer, Allison Wilson and Rose Trick.

(Edgerton Reporter, May 25, 2005)

History of the Edgerton Fire Department

In May, 2008, Curtis celebrated EMS week by celebrating 10 years in Edgerton and moving to a larger location at 515 W. Fulton Street, which was an old tobacco warehouse.

Curtis Ambulance Service

would like to thank all of the employees of the Edgerton EMS division for their commitment and dedication to the Edgerton Community. 2008 marks the 10th year that Curtis Ambulance Service has been serving the Edgerton community. Curtis Ambulance Service is dedicated to making improvements for the benefit of the employees, residents and visitors to Edgerton and is committed to accomplishing this and with the continued support of our employees will make Curtis Ambulance Service-Edgerton EMS Division a model for other localities to follow.

Thanks for all you do!

Nancy Dickinson-EMT IV	Tom Freeman-EMT IV
Tanya VanDeventer-EMT IV	Wayne Schwartzlow-Driver
Bette Schieldt-EMT IV	Josh Finn-EMT B
Tim Poole-EMT B	Allison Wilson-EMT IV
Brian Demrow-Driver	Brennon Rusch-EMT IV
Carl Marino-EMT IV	Alexis VanDeventer-EMT IV
Chris Lund-Driver	Candy Davis-Driver
Craig Fryda-Driver	Diane Lobner-EMT IV
Cindy Kirby-EMT B	Nicole Dallman-EMT IV
Deb Schwartzlow-EMT IV	Nancy Kreager-EMT B
Adam Walton-EMT IV	

(Edgerton Reporter, May 21, 2008)

New station for Curtis Ambulance

Open house part of EMS Week

By Jason Francis
Reporter Staff

With Emergency Medical Services Week starting Sunday, Curtis Ambulance-Edgerton Division is ready to reveal its new station to the community.

Seeking more space than their longtime location on Burdick Street offered, Curtis Ambulance moved into part of a renovated former tobacco warehouse at 515 W. Fulton St. last Monday.

The new station offers three times the space of the old facility, including a large garage, living quarters and office space.

"This new facility opens up greater opportunities for the advancement of emergency medical services in Edgerton," said Tom Freeman, an EMT in Edgerton since 2002.

To showcase its new station and observe EMS Week, Curtis Ambulance-Edgerton will be holding an open house on Sunday, May 18, at the station from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

During the event, the Edgerton Police Department will be offering child fingerprinting and Curtis Ambulance-Milwaukee Division will provide child car seat safety checks. The Edgerton Fire Department will also be on hand for the festivities.

Coincidentally, 2008 marks the 10th anniversary of Curtis Ambulance-Edgerton.

Pointing to the new station as an example, Jeff Ropicky, vice president of Milwaukee-based Curtis Ambulance Service, said his company is committed to "making improvements for the health and welfare of the residents and visitors to the

Edgerton community."

"With the continued support of our employees, we will make Curtis Ambulance Service-Edgerton EMS Division a model for other localities to follow," Ropicky said.

Curtis Ambulance Service, which has been in operation since 1853 and is the oldest ambulance service in the United States. The company took over Edgerton's ambulance services from AMR in 1998.

"The ambulance service has been

located on Burdick Street for as long as most can remember," said Tanya VanDeventer, operations manager for Curtis Ambulance-Edgerton.

"The old station was not large enough to accommodate the growing needs of a modern ambulance service."

For instance, the old garage could barely fit the service's two ambulances. Now, the service can eventually move forward with purchasing a larger secondary ambulance.

Curtis Ambulance-Edgerton is taking up one bay in the massive former tobacco warehouse, which is being renovated by developers John Kinnett and Tim Clark. The warehouse's Fulton Street-facing exterior wall features a large, antique "Chew Mail Pouch Tobacco" advertisement.

Curtis Ambulance-Edgerton has 22 employees. In 2005, it increased its service level to "Intermediate

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Tom Freeman (left) and Brennon Ruosch, both with Curtis Ambulance-Edgerton Division, pose next to an ambulance in front of Curtis Ambulance's new station in Edgerton (515 W. Fulton St.). In honor of the move and also EMS Week, an open house will be held at the new station on Sunday, May 18, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

(Edgerton Reporter, May 14, 2008)

In October, 2008, Curtis nearly doubled their fee to the Edgerton Fire Protection District from \$106,000 in 2008 to \$199,000 for 2009. At the same time, Curtis was having legal troubles because the son of the owner who had taken over in 2006, was being sued for selling his brother's trust fund's shares in Curtis and using the money to buy more of his own shares in Curtis, giving him more control of the company.

History of the Edgerton Fire Department

From the October 8, 2008, issue of the Edgerton Reporter:

Fire district budget approved

The Edgerton Reporter, Edgerton, WI 53534, Wednesday, October 8, 2008

Proposed ambulance service costs soar

By Jason Francis
Reporter Staff

Despite the inclusion of \$160,000 for the creation of full-time chief and administrator/deputy chief positions, the 2009 Edgerton Fire Protection District budget currently features a half-percent decrease in the tax levy.

But the final budget will hinge on just how much ambulance services will cost.

The fire commission, which adopted the 2009 budget Thursday, included \$120,000 in the budget for the services.

But Curtis Ambulance-Edgerton Division, which has served Edgerton for nearly a decade, has requested to increase its fee to \$199,000 – roughly a \$93,000 increase over 2008.

The request, received by the fire district Tuesday in an e-mail, was shocking, said fire commission member Dave Viney.

Jim Baker, Curtis Ambulance owner and CEO, said the increase is needed due to staffing requirements. This spring, following a decrease in EMT volunteers, Curtis Ambulance-Edgerton Division doubled its amount of full-time positions, from two to four.

"The majority of the increase is because we had to go to four full-time positions in addition to some part-time staff," Baker said.

The fire district has also been presented with other options that would lower the request from \$200,000 down to about \$170,000, he said. One major change that would lower costs would be for ambulance teams to be comprised of two people instead of three, Baker said.

Based out of Milwaukee, Curtis Ambulance has handled ambulance services in Edgerton for nine years. Its average profit during that time has been \$5,900 per year, Baker said.

This year, Curtis Ambulance-Edgerton Division is being paid \$106,296. Due to the new positions and the new policy of paying volunteers for being on call, Curtis Ambulance is projected to lose \$31,000 in Edgerton this year, Baker said.

Jim Linsley, fire commission president, said the commission is set against increasing the levy in 2009.

If higher ambulance service fees are needed, the district will likely be forced to dip into its truck fund and cash reserves.

Linsley and other fire district officials plan to meet to discuss the situation and also to focus on EMT recruitment efforts, whether that means coaxing former EMTs back, finding new volunteers or a combination thereof.

"We're going to look at all the alternatives and look at how to bolster the volunteers," Linsley said.

Baker speculated that volunteer EMTs are getting harder to find due to tough economic times.

"Part of the problem is the economy. People are picking up part-time jobs," he said.

Viney hopes a deal can be reached that would be in the best interest of Curtis Ambulance and the fire district.

"We will try to work out a solution based on what their needs are and what our needs are," he said.

Baker called the relationship his company has had with the fire district "a longstanding and good one."

The budget issue "is a frustrating thing for all of us," he added.

Budget details

The 2009 fire district budget, as approved Thursday, features a levy

decrease of a half percent. The levy, barring the outcome of the ambulance services situation, is set at \$542,611.

In accordance with equalized value, the fire district levy is split up over parts or the entireties of the city of Edgerton and the towns of Albion, Fulton, Porter and Sumner.

The budget includes total expen-

ditures of \$648,000, a 6.7 percent increase over 2008. The commission used \$50,000 in leftover funds from the lawsuit to off-set the increase's impact on the levy.

The largest single expense in the 2008 budget is the \$160,000 set aside for the intended creation of new full-time chief and administrator/assistant chief positions.

From the December 3, 2008, issue of the Edgerton Reporter:

Ambulance company executive being sued

By Jason Francis
Reporter Staff

The chief executive officer of Curtis Universal Inc., the Milwaukee-based private ambulance company that operates Curtis Ambulance-Edgerton Division and numerous other ambulance services in the state, is being sued by his two brothers.

The siblings accuse James Baker Jr., Hartland, Wis., of taking control of the company through self-dealing, according to a Milwaukee Journal Sentinel story dated Nov. 24.

The plaintiffs in the lawsuit, Michael Baker and Jon Baker, contend their brother "gained control of the company by violating his fiduciary duty as trustee for the trust that held Michael Baker's shares in Curtis Universal," reads the story.

Michael and Jon Baker, who live in Arizona, also claim that James Baker Jr. "ignored their requests to look at the company's financial statements and other records," according to the story.

The civil suit, filed in Milwaukee County Circuit Court Nov. 21, has

"no validity," James Baker Jr. told the Reporter Monday.

"We don't believe the litigation will be successful," he said.

The lawsuit requests that the court appoint a receiver to operate Curtis Universal Inc. while it is dissolved. But Baker Jr. said there is no legal reason for the company to be forced to fold.

"There is zero chance of the company being dissolved. The company is healthy and successful and we believe we will be successful in the litigation," he said.

Before December 2006, Curtis Universal Inc. – which operates ambulance services in Milwaukee, Dane, Rock and other counties – was owned by James Baker Sr. and his three sons with Michael Baker's shares being held in a trust overseen by James Baker Jr.

According to the Journal Sentinel, the lawsuit alleges that on Dec. 27, 2006, James Baker Jr. agreed to sell the trust's shares to Curtis Universal Inc. for \$33,000. The trust was paid \$1,500 in cash and given a promissory note for \$31,500.

Around the same time, 375 of

Curtis Universal Inc.'s shares were purchased by James Baker Jr. for \$33,000, increasing his stake in the company to 50%, the complaint contends.

Curtis Ambulance-Edgerton Division has served the Edgerton Fire Protection District for nearly a decade.

In October, Curtis Ambulance requested a major increase in its fee for providing ambulance services. At that time, James Baker Jr. said the increase – from \$106,000 in 2008 to \$199,000 in 2009 – was needed due to staffing requirements and that Curtis Ambulance-Edgerton Division expected to lose approximately \$31,000 in Edgerton in 2008. If less personnel were used, the price tag for Curtis Ambulance's services could be lowered in 2009 to around \$170,000, Baker said.

In recent weeks, the fire district has been reviewing other options regarding ambulance services, including that the district could run its own service.

A fire district representative contacted Monday declined comment on the suit filed against Curtis Universal Inc.

History of the Edgerton Fire Department

The District looked at other options and decided to add their own ambulances and EMTs to provide emergency medical services.

Fire Protection District votes to purchase ambulances

The Edgerton Fire Protection District continues to move forward with the formation of its own ambulance service.

Thursday night, Jan. 29, the district board voted unanimously to begin purchasing ambulances and other equipment in preparation for taking over ambulance services later this year from its current private contractor, Curtis Ambulance of Milwaukee.

The start-up costs for the new ambulance service, including the purchase of two ambulances and

other equipment, are estimated to total \$243,000.

District officials believe the district can run its own service cheaper than the cost of paying Curtis. A consultant crunched the numbers for the district and came to that conclusion.

Curtis, which raised its fee to the district from \$103,000 in 2008 to \$176,000 in 2009, disagrees with that finding. The fire district is paying Curtis \$88,000 for its ambulance services for the first half of 2009 to give the district time to organize the new service.

Fire district hires four

By Mark Scarborough

On behalf of a newly created Edgerton Fire Protection District-operated ambulance service, the district has hired four employees, according to Dave Viney, district commission president.

The district-provided service, replacing Curtis Ambulance Service, is expected to be in operation by June 22, Viney said.

District board members met May 20 and agreed to hire three full-time employees and one part-time worker.

The full-time employees are:

- David Fonder, Grafton, who currently works as a paramedic there.

Fonder, who will work as director of emergency medical technician services for the district's ambulance service, will be paid \$35,000 a year.

- Cindy Kirby, Edgerton, a former emergency medical technician with Curtis Ambulance who has worked at the Edgerton hospital.

As assistant director of the district's new ambulance service, Kirby will earn \$30,000 a year.

- Brennon Rousch, Edgerton, who is currently employed with Curtis Ambulance. As a full-time advanced emergency medical technician working for the new district ambulance service, Rousch will earn \$10 an hour.

(Edgerton Reporter, February 4, 2009,

May 27, 2009)

They started their new service on June 22, 2009, and hired three EMTs to their paid staff. David J. Fonder was hired as the new director of emergency medical services, and Cindy Kirby was named assistant director. Kirby had worked for Curtis the previous nine years in the Edgerton area. Fonder had been a paramedic-EMT for Paratech Ambulance Service in the Milwaukee area, as well as a volunteer on Grafton and Thiensville fire/rescue departments. Brennan Rousch, a current Curtis employee, was the third EMT hired.

History of the Edgerton Fire Department

In 2018, Deputy Chief Jason Russ investigated the possibility of becoming a paramedic level service and made the necessary arrangements to do so. While large cities like Madison and Janesville had paramedic ambulances, they were also close to large hospitals. Rural areas were actually more in need of paramedics because of the time to get to remote locations and transport to a trauma hospital.

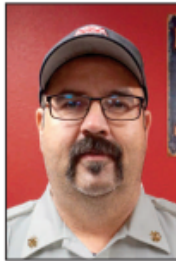
Effective January 1, 2019, EFPD was certified to start providing paramedic level service. From the November 14, 2018 Edgerton Reporter:

EFPD set to go live with paramedic service Jan. 1

*By Tristan McGough
Special to the Reporter*

Three years in the making, the Edgerton Fire Protection District is officially and finally ready to “go live” with full paramedic service on Jan. 1, 2019.

“Working out the Paramedic Drug Restocking Agreement with Edgerton Hospital,” Deputy Chief of Operations Jason Russ told commis-



RUSS

sioners at the regular board meeting on Thursday, Nov. 8, 2018, “was the final thing we needed to do.

“Now that we have it, with your approval to sign it,” he continued, “we’ll be able to launch our paramedic program the first of the New Year.”

That was the news the six representatives from the participating municipalities of the City of Edgerton and the Towns of Albion, Fulton, Porter and Sumner had been waiting for ever since word of DHS approval arrived in early September this year.