



On May 1, 2010 the fire department schedule change will increase the minimum number of firefighters on duty from the current seven (7) to nine (9). This schedule change will add \$188,000 dollars in additional costs to the department.

To achieve the same level of staffing without the schedule change the department would have needed to hire eight (8) firefighters at a cost of over \$ 480,000.

Because the schedule change increases the number of firefighters on duty and the fire department is already trained, licensed, and provides ambulance level emergency medical services to all residents, the \$188,000 in additional cost can be offset by the revenue generated by the transport fees of one ambulance.

If the fire department purchases and operates its own ambulance the department will receive, after ambulance expenses, over \$140,000 in revenue in the first year and \$ 220,000 in the second year of operation. In other words – the ambulance will pay for itself and needed extra fire protection without additional costs to the residents.

This new revenue will come primarily from the fire department's direct billing to Medicare, Medicaid and private insurance companies. Residents will gain increased fire protection from the dual trained firefighter/paramedics and will receive quicker ambulance response times from a fire department ambulance responding from the downtown East Moline fire station.

If the fire department does not purchase and operate an ambulance, the additional fire protection, resulting from the May 1, 2010 schedule change, will represent a cost that will be need to be covered with tax dollars.