



Bakerton Fire Department, Inc.
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We at the Bakerton Fire Department (BFD) are informing the public and the residents we serve that as of July 11, 2021, at no fault of its own, BFD will no longer receive paid staffing assistance from the Jefferson County Commission; assistance that your yearly and mandatory ambulance fee is supposed to supply.

Background: In February, the County Commissioner's office advised the Jefferson County Emergency Services Agency (JCESA) to look at reallocating their staffing, because in moving forward they would only supply three additional employees for the entire county. In April, Allen Keiser, (recently retired) JCESA Director, informed BFD and Middleway Fire Department that they would no longer receive staffing from the JCESA effective July. The reasons given were low call volume and the safety of a single person response.

As you may or may not know, for over two years now, BFD has been paying its own emergency medical service (EMS) personnel four days a week during the same times as the JCESA staffing was scheduled. This was due to lack of volunteers and for the safety of all EMS personnel, both BFD and JCESA. BFD has sent multiple emails and letters to the County Commissioner's office, the JCESA Board of Directors, along with the past and current director of the JCESA expressing our need for coverage.

We at BFD appreciate your continued support. In the best interest of the community, we will strive to do all we can to respond to all future emergencies. We will remain on dual dispatch with Friendship Fire Company and Shepherdstown Fire Department; however, now that we no longer have JCESA staffing assistance, there may be times that EMS from BFD will not be available. We hope this does not happen; however, it is a possibility.

We encourage you to contact the Jefferson County Commissioner's Office via their website at: [Contact Us | Jefferson County Commission, WV \(jeffersoncountywv.org\)](http://www.jeffersoncountywv.org/contact-us) and the JCESA board and leadership, at <http://www.jeffersoncountywv.org/county-government/county-agencies/jcesa/> to share your concerns. You may also want to be added to the agenda and voice your opinion at county meetings that are open to the public.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me.

Thank you,

Bradley Fritts
Acting Chief
Bakerton Fire Department
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