



# *Monroe County Legislature*

**FRANK X. ALLKOFR**

LEGISLATOR – DISTRICT 4

September 13, 2021

To the Honorable  
Monroe County Legislature  
407 County Office Building  
Rochester, New York 14614

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No. <u>210329</u>
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Committee Assignment
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<b>WAYS &amp; MEANS</b>

**Subject: Authorize the Allocation of Emergency Grant Funding to the Gates Volunteer Ambulance Service to Reimburse Expenditures Incurred During the COVID-19 Pandemic**

Honorable Legislators:

During some of the most difficult times of the COVID-19 pandemic, our emergency service providers have been diligent in protecting all residents. While the vast majority of residents protected each other by staying distant and refraining from gathering in unsafe areas due to ease of spread, these brave individuals faced the brunt of the public health crisis on a daily basis. It is because of their rapid and effective response that the current health of Monroe County is intact and COVID-19 infection rates are dropping. In March of 2021, the American Rescue Plan Act (Pub L. No. 117-2) was signed into law.

In the Town of Gates, the ability for the Gates Volunteer Ambulance Service (GVAS) to respond to the public health crisis quickly and effectively was due to purchasing necessary supplies and funding pertinent levels of operation to address the needs of the local area while infection rates were most concerning. Specifically, items including Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for crews to wear, medical equipment for airway management that could not be reused, and disinfectants to clean the equipment, vehicles and buildings were quickly acquired in order to save lives.

Additionally, there were vital technological purchases such as infrastructure for video conferencing several times a day with staff, town, and county leaders along with VPN software to work remotely and limit possible exposure to their leadership team to keep operations going 24/7. GVAS also incurred some loss of equipment and uniforms through the increased need of services, including a stretcher mattress and several member's uniforms that could no longer be worn and needed to be replaced. This is mainly due to both excessive washing (sometimes more than once during a shift), exposure to airborne and bodily fluids, and exposure to cleaning products which have made the uniforms no longer acceptable per their standards. This led GVAS to incur \$80,380.23 in expenditures.

The necessities that were purchased to combat the COVID-19 pandemic, and the use of these supplies to benefit the community, qualifies GVAS for reimbursement under the American Rescue Plan Act.

Unfortunately, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act did not provide for the allocation of funding to Emergency Medical providers and these organizations were not able to be supported properly in 2020 and early in 2021. Monroe County's use of American Rescue Plan Act funding for reimbursement must accurately reflect the substantial impact that this public health crisis has had on the tourism industry. Our Monroe County Legislature aims to assist Emergency Medical providers that incurred higher-than-usual costs during the COVID-19 pandemic.

**The specific legislative action required is to** authorize the County Executive, or his designee, to allocate emergency grant funding in the amount of \$80,380.23 to the Gates Volunteer Ambulance Service to reimburse for expenditures incurred during throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

This is a Type II Action pursuant to 6 NYCRR 617.5(c) (26) ("routine of continuing agency administration and management, not including new programs or major reordering of priorities that may affect the environment") and is not subject to further review under the State Environmental Quality Review Act.

Funding for this agreement is included in the 2021 operating budget, general fund 9001, funds center 1001030000, Local Recovery Fund.

Respectfully Submitted,



Frank X. Allkofer  
Monroe County Legislator  
District 4