

# Lanark Proposal at a Glance...

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Background – Lanark has been contracting for fire/rescue services since prior to the formation of the Amherst Fire District (AFD) in 1992 for 24 of 36 sections. The remaining 12 sections Lanark contracts with Waupaca Fire District. In 2010, I attended a Lanark Town Board meeting and discussed the possibility of Lanark joining the AFD. A committee was formed and the feasibility was explored.

Currently Lanark residents have an average response time of nearly 14 minutes from the time we are dispatched, compared to the average response time of 9 minutes for communities closer to the fire station in Amherst. *Each minute a fire burns unchecked the fire will double in size and intensity.* This proposal is about saving lives and property and not about creating a “bigger” fire department.

Lanark Fire Station – AFD will construct a remote fire station in Lanark at the intersection of Hwy 54 and County Hwy A.

Use existing equipment – AFD will move one engine initially to Lanark, this engine carries 1000 gallons of water, 2 people, rescue equipment and much more.

Improve Response Times – Due to available roads and distance, the response times into southern Lanark from the AFD Amherst station are longer than desired. The Lanark station will result in safer driving and shorter response times.

Owner vs. Contract – Lanark will become a full partner/owner of the Amherst Fire District. Ownership provides equity and oversight. This will secure Lanark’s future for public safety services for years to come.

Improved ISO rating for Lanark – The current rating for Lanark is a 6 for all property within five miles of the Amherst fire station. Five miles from a remote fire station will also have a rating of 6. (property more than 5 miles from a fire station receives a rating of 10, the worse score possible)

Operating Budget – Although AFD would be maintaining another station, the operating cost increases should be minimal.

Capitol Purchases – These costs will be shared between all owners (Amherst, Lanark, Amherst, Amherst Jct, and Nelsonville) actual percentages are formula driven to maintain fairness to all taxpayers. Increases in the contracted prices are also likely.

Larger response area – AFD may cover a larger area with the addition of a remote fire station in Lanark.

Building Cost – The cost to Lanark will be the price of the actual building. We have received estimates around \$300,000. The actual cost will not be known until the project is put out for bids.

Deferred Budget Increase – The current partners/owners of the AFD have agreed to freeze costs to Lanark for two years from the construction of the Lanark fire station. This will keep the costs to Lanark steady while the building is being financed. This has a value of approximately \$16,000.

Future possibilities – the station will be constructed to support an EMS crew or second ambulance. It will also be well positioned to possibly provide fire service for other townships under contract (earned income).

Lanark Fire Fighters – The AFD already has fire fighters living in Lanark and eastern Buena Vista. These fire fighters must now travel to the fire station in Amherst and then return back to Lanark when a call is received. A station in Lanark would result in better response times and safety for our fire fighters.

EMS/Ambulance Staging – A station in Lanark will allow AFD to stage medical responders and possibly an ambulance closer to the residents of Lanark. Staging would be a temporary repositioning of existing equipment to the Lanark station.

Additional information – you may contact me directly with concerns or questions about this proposal.

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Fire Chief

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