

113858**DATE:** June 3, 2026**TO:** Board of Acquisition and Contract**FROM:** Sherlita Amler, MD
Commissioner of Health**RE:** Authorization to enter into an emergency agreement with Starnet Emergency Services, Inc. dba Westchester EMS to provide both advanced life support certified and trained staff and equipment on standby 24/7 and be ready to transport 24/7 individuals exposed to the Hantavirus currently in quarantine in Westchester County to a local receiving hospital, should such individuals need immediate non-Hantavirus medical care, or if such individuals develop life threatening Hantavirus symptoms needing immediate care, as per the scope of work, for the period beginning June 1, 2026 12:00 am and continuing through June 21, 2026 11:59 pm at a daily cost of \$7,000 per 24-hour period inclusive of all costs for an amount not-to-exceed \$147,000, to be paid upon invoices submitted at conclusion of the period.

As I informed your Honorable Board in a Declaration of Emergency Situation memorandum dated June 3, 2026, the County of Westchester ("County"), acting by and through its Department of Health ("Department"), has supervision and oversight of two individuals who have been exposed to Hantavirus. The County, acting by and through the Department, now requests authorization to enter into an emergency agreement with Starnet Emergency Services, Inc. dba Westchester EMS ("WEMS") to provide both advanced life support ("ALS") certified and trained staff and equipment on standby 24/7 and be ready to transport on a 24/7 basis individuals who have been exposed to the Hantavirus currently in quarantine in Westchester County to a local receiving hospital, should such individuals need immediate non-Hantavirus medical care, or if such individuals develop life threatening Hantavirus symptoms needing immediate care, as per the scope of work, for the period beginning June 1, 2026 12:00 am and continuing through June 22, 2026 11:59 pm, at a daily cost of \$7,000 per 24-hour period inclusive of all costs for an amount not-to-exceed \$147,000, to be paid upon invoices submitted at conclusion of the period.

Individuals exposed to the Hantavirus returned to the County on June 1, 2026 and must remain in quarantine through June 21 as per the Commissioner of Health's Orders to prevent possible further exposure to other members of the public.

WEMS is the closest locally-based ambulance service that has the necessary ALS certified and trained medical staff to deal with life-threatening communicable diseases and the ALS equipment and capacity to provide dedicated standby and immediate transport to a County receiving hospital if medically necessary for both situations described above.

The Department is required to establish a protocol for the safe medical transport of these patient(s) should the need arise. NYSDOH has identified a NYC transporter who would transport these exposed individuals if they develop Hantavirus symptoms to a NYC designated hospital with the ability to perform testing and provide the appropriate medical care. The Department is also required to have arrangements for all other non-Hantavirus medical emergencies and thus the need for the Department to enter into this agreement with WEMS.

As part of this contract, WEMS would be paid to be on standby 24/7 and available to transport these individuals on a 24/7 basis to a County designated hospital should either the Department of Health or the Westchester County Department of Emergency Services approve such a transport during the 21-day contract period.

This agreement will promote the public health, safety and general welfare of not only the individuals exposed to the Hantavirus but all members of the public. This will be accomplished by the provision of a certified and trained medical staff along with the proper equipment and transport vehicle to transport if deemed medically necessary.

The objective is to minimize the possible spread of the Hantavirus to other members of the public.

WEMS will be in direct contact and communication with officials of the Department to coordinate transport if needed.

DOH determined, in consultation with the Law Department, and based on the facts presented, that this is a condition that was unforeseen, affects the life, health, and safety of the inhabitants of the County, and obtaining these services requires immediate action that cannot await competitive bidding. Therefore, this situation meets the legal requirements for an emergency contract under Section 167.171(5) of the Laws of Westchester County and Section 103(4) of the New York General Municipal Law.

The time required to conduct such a competitive procurement would endanger the public health, safety and general welfare of the public.

Approval of the attached resolution is respectfully requested.

Attachment(s)

RESOLUTION

UPON A COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSIONER OF HEALTH, be it hereby

RESOLVED, that the County of Westchester ("County"), acting by and through its Department of Health ("Department"), is authorized to enter into an emergency agreement with Starnet Emergency Services, Inc. dba Westchester EMS ("WEMS") to provide both advanced life support ("ALS") certified and trained staff and equipment on standby 24/7 and be ready to transport on a 24/7 basis individuals who have been exposed to the Hantavirus currently in quarantine in Westchester County to a local receiving hospital, should such individuals need immediate non-Hantavirus medical care, or if such individuals develop life threatening Hantavirus symptoms needing immediate care, as per the scope of work, for the period beginning June 1, 2026 12:00 am and continuing through June 21, 2026 11:59 pm, at a daily cost of \$7,000 per 24-hour period inclusive of all costs for an amount not-to-exceed \$147,000, to be paid upon invoices submitted at conclusion of the period; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that this Agreement is subject to County Appropriations; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that this Agreement is also subject to further financial analysis of the impact of any New York State Budget (the "State Budget") proposed and adopted during the term of this Agreement. The County shall retain the right, upon the occurrence of any release by the Governor of a proposed State Budget and/or the adoption of a State Budget or any amendments thereto, and for a reasonable period of time after such release(s) or adoption(s), to conduct an analysis of the impacts of any such State Budget on County finances. After such analysis, the County shall retain the right to either terminate this Agreement or to renegotiate the amounts and rates approved herein. If the County subsequently offers to pay a reduced amount to the Contractor, then the Contractor shall have the right to terminate this Agreement upon reasonable prior written notice; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the County Executive or his duly authorized designee be and hereby is authorized and empowered to execute all appropriate contracts or documents necessary to effectuate the purposes of this resolution in the manner prescribed by law.

Original Agreement \$
 First Amendment \$
This Amendment \$
 TOTAL \$ _____

Account to be Charged/Credited			Major Program, Program & Phase or Unit	Subunit	Object/ Sub-Object	Trust Account	Dollars
	Fund	Dept					
	101	27	0010	5650	4380		\$147,000

Budget Funding Year(s)
 (must match resolution)

2026 Start Date June 1, 2026 End Date June 21, 2026

Funding Source	Tax Dollars	<u>\$94,080.00</u>
	State Aid	<u>\$52,920.00</u>
\$147,000	Federal Aid	_____
(must match resolution)	Other	_____

Schedule "A"

PAYMENT

WCDH will pay to the Contractor:

- **\$7,000* for each 24 hour period, not to exceed \$147,000** for the 21 days of remaining quarantine.

*That price is all-inclusive: crew, ambulance, PPE, on call, and any necessary transport or treatment in place.

Agency will accept the fees paid by the County under contract and cannot bill the patient or their insurance carrier.

No additional costs other than the rates above related to the patient transportation will be the responsibility of or paid for by the County.