

More than 50 years ago, a small group of residents dedicated their time, energy, and resources to start the Arlington Rescue Squad (ARS). ARS is a non-profit organization which provides 24/7 365 days-a-year emergency medical services to your town. The organization now employs a small staff to provide daytime coverage, seven days a week, but we continue to rely on volunteers to provide nighttime coverage. We are the only agency in the county who still relies on this "hybrid" model of paid staff and volunteers; we are sincerely grateful to all of our highly trained and dedicated providers who respond to 911 emergencies with up to Paramedic level capabilities. Our staff and volunteers engage in continuing education and training in order to maintain a high level of proficiency at their individual license level. While we usually respond to nearly 500 calls annually, our call volume continues to increase. We respond to medical emergencies and automobile accidents; we also assist the Arlington Fire Department with stand-by assistance for structure and brush fires. We respond to many calls in which we do not transport a patient; however, we incur the same expense for those calls. Unfortunately, most non-transport calls are not billable to insurance companies.

In order to cover higher costs of operations—including costs out-of-our-control such as fuel and insurance--we are seeking an increase in appropriations to \$9,700 from the town of Sandgate. This represents an increase from \$18 per resident to \$25, which is well under the area average of \$45.

We would like to sincerely thank the residents of Arlington, Sunderland, Sandgate and N. Shaftsbury for their continued financial support through the generous Town appropriations. The financial support of these towns helps ARS remain financially solvent in order to respond to emergencies with a dedicated team. We are especially thankful to the members of the Arlington Fire department. They are there for us when we need extra help, whether it is driving an ambulance, assisting with a lift assist, or providing CPR support during a critical call. Thank you!

We were very happy to meet and get-to-know many in our community during several community events including Norman's Attic, Trunk-or-Treat at Arlington Memorial High School, the Lighted Tractor Parade, and several sporting events. In early November, ARS members participated in a Mass Casualty Incident (MCI) training. This large-scale training was held in the area of Wilcox Flats on Route 7. ARS participated and collaborated in this training with Northshire Rescue Squad, and the Arlington and Manchester Fire Departments. This was an excellent training that provided our members the opportunity to hone their skills and work with other agencies in the area. Future large-scale trainings are in the planning phase, which will only serve to develop the collaboration with other agencies in our neighboring towns and assure that our members are trained and ready to respond when needed.

As we look to the future, we will be exploring the costs associated with replacing one of our two ambulances; we will continue to have a presence in the community; we will offer training to those who would like to become involved; and we will continue to provide exceptional medical care to those in our community. It is also our goal to recruit volunteers who might be interested in becoming involved with ARS. There is nothing more satisfying than helping those in your own community. If you would like to learn more about ARS, please give us a call. Our non-emergency number is (802) 375-6589. We would love to hear from you!

Finally, please remember to post your house number clearly so we can find you in an emergency. We would like to thank you again for your continued support. We could not do the work we do without you.

Respectfully submitted,
Arlington Rescue Squad Board of Directors