



**CLAY COUNTY  
FLORIDA**

**Public Safety Department**

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**Memorandum**

TO: Clay County Board of County Commissioners

FROM: David E. Motes, Acting Fire Chief

DATE: August 25, 2025

SUBJECT: **Clay County Fire Rescue Review of the RG Ambulance Service, Inc, d/b/a Century Ambulance Service, Inc., Renewal Application for Class B, C and D Certificates of Public Convenience and Necessity for Emergency Medical Care and/or Transportation within Clay County**

**Issue:** Pursuant to Chapter 401, Florida Statutes, counties are responsible for the provision of emergency medical services to their citizens. Clay County has done so by promulgating Chapter 7.3 of the Clay County Ordinance Code by which it establishes standards for issuing certificates of public convenience and necessity (COPCNs) for emergency and nonemergency non-transport and transport prehospital services, advanced life support services (ALS), basic life support services (BLS), emergency inter-facility medical transport services, and nonemergency inter-facility medical transport.

On July 15, 2025, the Fire Rescue Department received a renewal application from RG Ambulance Service, Inc., d/b/a Century Ambulance Service, Inc., requesting the renewal of Class B, C and D Certificates for emergency medical care and/or transportation, or nonemergency transportation within Clay County. The Class certificates applied for are consistent with the other private providers currently operating in Clay County and coverage of services are as follows:

*Class B:* certificates for private or municipal providers of ambulances to conduct emergency or nonemergency interfacility medical transport or transport services at the ALS or BLS level.

*Class C:* certificates for private or municipal providers of ambulances to conduct emergency or nonemergency interfacility medical transport or transport services requiring on-board clinical capabilities which may exceed those of a conventionally equipped and staffed ALS ambulance which services originate within the county pursuant to a physician's order.

*Class D:* certificates for private or municipal providers of ambulances to conduct emergency or nonemergency interfacility medical transport or transport services, interfacility neonatal transport and emergency or nonemergency organ/blood transport, including the transport of transplant teams or other emergency or nonemergency interfacility medical transport services at the ALS or BLS level between two (2) establishments licensed as hospitals pursuant to Chapter 395, Florida Statutes.

**Background:** Under Chapter 7.3 of the Clay County Ordinance Code, the Board specifically charges Clay County Fire Rescue with the responsibility of providing emergency and nonemergency prehospital advanced life support and

basic life support non-transport and transport services within the County. It does so by managing the operation and locations of its 14 Rescue Units, not in a purely geographical centric model, but by insuring appropriate coverage through move ups and dynamic positioning of units to meet peak demands.

The applicant is requesting a renewal of the COPCN that they currently hold with Clay County. Approval of the renewed COPCN will allow continued coverage and continuity of care for patients and health care facilities the health care facilities served within Clay County.

**Finding:**

Application Review: The Ordinance requires that when an application requesting the issuance of a COPCN is received, the Fire Chief is to conduct an investigation of the application in order to determine 1.) The public need for the proposed service in the geographical area requested, and 2.) Other pertinent facts which the Clay County Fire Rescue Department may deem relevant in determining the fitness of the applicant to receive a certificate.

This analysis is to be assisted by the County's Medical Director and the County's Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Director. The County's Medical Director is to review the applicant's standard operating policies and procedures and medical treatment protocols as well as equipment list to insure their full compatibility with Clay County Fire Rescue's existing response operation. Similarly, the County's OMB Director is charged with providing an analysis of the financial implications to the County if the COPCN application is approved, including what modifications would be necessary to the current County EMS operation. (Their reports, along with their respective endorsements or articulated concerns are attached for individual review and consideration.)

Subsequent to the referenced review of the RG Ambulance Service, Inc., d/b/a Century Ambulance Service, Inc., application by the Fire Chief, it is found that it is complete and in order.

**Recommendation:**

RG Ambulance Service, Inc., d/b/a Century Ambulance Service, Inc., is considered to be fully competent and proficient, and as such is judged to be financially, administratively and operationally capable of continuing the required services to Clay County if the COPCN renewal request is granted. Further, the applicant understands their position of acting as a force multiplier for the County's emergent needs thereby allowing the Department's emergency response program more resiliency.

Accordingly, it is my recommendation that it is in the best interest of the County for the Board to grant the requested COPCN.

**Action:**

The Board is charged, based upon competent, substantial evidence presented at the public hearing, as well as consideration of all of the factors and information provided in the application, as required by Section 7.3-5 of the Ordinance, with finding whether the residents of the County would best be served by granting or denying this application. The Board therefore shall recommend one of the following:

- 1) that a certificate is necessary to protect health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of the County and it shall be issued; or
- 2) that a certificate is not necessary to protect health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of the County and the request for a certificate be denied.

cc: Howard Wanamaker, County Manager (w/o attachments)