



## DOUGLAS COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

1100 Massachusetts Street  
Lawrence, KS 66044-3064  
(785) 832-5268 Fax (785) 832-5148  
[www.douglascountyks.org](http://www.douglascountyks.org)

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March 14, 2019

Mayor Lisa Larsen  
Lawrence City Commission  
6 E. 6<sup>th</sup> Street  
Lawrence, KS 66044

Dear Mayor Larsen and the Lawrence City Commission:

The Board of County Commissioners, on behalf of the people of Douglas County, respectfully request the Interim County Administrator be included in the process of selecting finalists for public presentation for the Lawrence-Douglas County Fire and Medical Chief. As partners in the "Cooperation Agreement Concerning the Provision of Emergency Medical Services in Douglas County," this aptly named agreement recognizes that by working together, we can better serve the people of Lawrence and Douglas County.

It was stated in the City Manager's report memo dated March 5, 2019 that he would "be proceeding with the process as outlined, and the County may participate through our scheduled public process." It has since been brought to our attention that the process is being refined and we would appreciate being included.

According to the Cooperation Agreement, while the Director (Chief) shall be responsible to, and supervised by, the City Manager, the Director is also a liaison official to Douglas County and shall be directly available to the County Commission and the County Administrator. Quite frankly, an inclusive selection process, agreed upon by stakeholder representatives sends a positive message to potential candidates and certainly creates a collaborative environment for Lawrence-Douglas County Fire and Medical. Our current negotiations on the Agreement should serve as an attraction to potential candidates, not a message of caution.

Cooperation, coordination, communication are outlined in several places throughout the Cooperation Agreement and the amendments. In the agreement entered into by the City of Lawrence and Douglas County in 1996, the recitals state that the County and the City are desirous of cooperating in the efficient and effective provision of emergency medical services to all portions and residents of Douglas County. The spirit of cooperation and joint partnership is further outlined in Section 3. D. where employee agreements are discussed, saying "It is the intent of the County and the City to ensure the fullest measure of cooperation between the County and the City in the determination of personnel compensation for the department, and to cooperate to the fullest extent possible in the decision-making processes during any meet and confer proceedings with the employee groups which might affect the financial responsibilities for the department.

Section 5 on the financial obligations of both parties outlines in subsection c. the Joint County and City Obligations, stating that "It shall be the obligation of the County and the City to jointly determine the level of emergency medical services provided pursuant to this Agreement." Later in the section, it states "The parties agree that in the determination of the level of emergency medical services the parties shall endeavor to provide adequate emergency medical services to all portions of Douglas County and all residents of Douglas County."

The 2000 Amendment, Section 2. B. states "The Director shall serve as a liaison official to Douglas County, and shall be directly available to the County Commissioners and the County Administrator to respond to such concerns or issues as may be raised from time to time, concerning the operation of the Department, specifically including the provision of emergency medical services in areas outside the City of Lawrence." Each of these sections outline the intent of this agreement to be cooperative and to involve the County in decisions related to emergency medical services.

Those we represent have high expectations for us to work cooperatively and to ensure the future public safety of our community. We should do just that.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michelle Derusseau". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "M" and "D".

Michelle Derusseau  
Chair, Board of County Commissioners  
Douglas County, Kansas