

To the Office of the County Commission  
& Lance Hill, Assistant Fire Chief, CCFR  
Columbia BOCC  
135 NE Hernando Avenue, Suite 203  
Lake City, FL 32055

June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2026

**Re:** AmeriPro Operations of Columbia County Update

Dear BOCC and Chief Hill,

As we approach the end of our grace period, I wanted to update everyone on the status of Columbia County/AmeriPro EMS operations.

**Units:** We have acquired five brand-new 2025 Dodge ProMaster units and are currently awaiting the arrival of a sixth. Additionally, we have purchased a second QRV for the Supervisors, which will be deployed soon. We also have well-maintained backup units available, as well as two IFT units that can replace the first-in-line units should any unforeseen complications arise.

**Stations:** Finding suitable locations for Stations has been challenging, along with staffing issues. Thank you for allowing us to use the two-county station at the Fair Grounds and County Road 18, which have been essential for our crews. We are now staffing a station at SR 100 and SE CR 245 and working on a lease for a location near 47 & Ring Power Ct. Mr. Krause and I will walk through the Quinten St location on Wednesday, the 17th. We aim to have five strategically placed stations for Columbia County residents.

**Staffing:** Though staffing has been a challenge, we are now at full staffing to meet the minimum required unit staffing. As of this week, we have also finished interviews, chosen from our current staff to promote, and hired one external candidate for our supervisor roles to provide a 24-hour on-shift supervisor. This will give us full-time coverage of our 5 current 24-hour units, our 1 12-hour unit, and our 24-hour supervisor.

**Additionally,** As mentioned earlier, we have achieved full staffing at the required minimum level. However, given the concerns raised by the commission, we are taking steps to meet our compliance goals and better serve the citizens of Columbia County. We will be positioning a seventh 12-hour unit to operate from 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM. This unit will be permanently staffed and will initially be covered by an Inter-Facility Transport (IFT) unit or by personnel pulled from our Jacksonville market until we can hire permanent full-time personnel for this position.

Thank you for your time, and please reach out if needed. I am happy to help with any clarifications and/or questions anyone may have.

Sincerely,  
Thomas Stinson, Paramedic  
Columbia County Operations Supervisor  
AmeriPro EMS