



Letter from **CLES** Board of Directors to Cooper Landing Citizens



To ALL Supporters of **Cooper Landing Emergency Services**,

Normally, each spring we have reached out to you for financial support. This year was a bit different, and those letters did not get sent out. This year the Board of Directors, along with all the staff and volunteers at **CLES**, just want to say Thank you!

As we all know, 2019 and 2020 have been anything but normal. We made it through the Swan Lake Fire last season, and most recently, COVID-19 has impacted or challenged all our lives in some way. **CLES** has certainly not been exempt, but before focusing on those challenges, I would like to share the positive things that have happened at **CLES** in the last year thanks to the continued backing of our community.

Because of all your generous support, **CLES** was able to meet the department match required for the Code Blue grant, enabling **CLES** to, at last, acquire a 2012 F450 ambulance. This acquisition serves to replace the nearly 20-year old unit that has served the department faithfully for many years. In addition, the Senior Center made a generous contribution allowing us to add a power lift stretcher for the new unit to aid in the transport & care of sick or injured patients.

CLES, through the diligent efforts of our new Operations Coordinator, acquired a 1993 Marion Spartan Fire Engine capable of carrying 6 crew members, 1500 feet of hose, all necessary rescue equipment & 1000 gallons of water. This acquisition was made in part due to the generosity of the Riverton Volunteer Fire Department in Connecticut who gave us a fantastic deal on this low miles/low hour in service emergency vehicle. This truck has already responded to two fire calls in the Cooper Landing Community allowing our crew to mount a successful defense and allowing for quick suppression while preventing the fires from spreading to surrounding woodlands or homes. The rig will also serve to more effectively blocking traffic for safety during roadway fires and/or traffic incidents.

Beyond new equipment, **CLES** has brought on board a new administrative team. It welcomed Jessica Jackson as our new Finance and Administrative Coordinator in April 2019. Jessica holds a degree in Accounting with several years' experience in the non-profit setting. Jessica volunteered with us a few years ago as an EMT and has returned to the area after living in the lower 48 for several years. Riley Shurtleff came on board as our new Operations Chief this spring. Riley served most recently as the HR Director for the City of Seward where he also served as a Lieutenant with the Seward Fire Department. As an ETT Instructor, he also assisted Bear Creek in training new volunteers. Riley grew up in New York where he was involved for many years with his local fire departments acting in the role of FF/EMT, Fire Captain & Training Officer. Our most recent addition to the team is Clay Adam. Clay brings years of experience as a paramedic, trauma nurse & flight medic to his new volunteer role with **CLES** as our new Deputy Chief of EMS. Clay currently holds an EMT III certificate with the State of Alaska and responds on nearly all EMS calls received by the station. These three individuals bring a level of experience and energy to our Department that has proven invaluable. At a time when our organization could have easily failed, the leadership they all provide has made our Department grow and become stronger.

With obstacles like the Swan Lake Fire and COVID-19, **CLES** has, as previously mentioned, faced many challenges. In response to COVID-19 we chose to keep our old ambulance in service along with the new, quickly converting it to serve as the primary response unit for any COVID-19 or suspected COVID-19 patient. This decision allows the department to more effectively provide infection control measures for non-COVID-19 patients by allowing for transport in a separate, contamination free vehicle. Although this has added expense due to the additional outfitting requirements, insurance, fuel, and maintenance, we feel it has been well worth the cost in order to provide the community with a higher level of care & safety. COVID-19 has also upped the responsibility the department has for keeping its responders safe while serving the community. We have had to purchase special personal protection equipment and provide enhanced infection control training. We have had to find alternative ways to hold business meetings and conduct training, making Zoom a new way of life.

Along with all the new challenges, our call volume remains steady over last year with most of our responses being on the highway system. Our primary response area is from Summit Lake to the "Y" along the Seward Highway and the Sterling Hwy south to Jim's Landing. However, we are often dispatched to calls beyond serving the Hope community and the Highway Corridor north as far as Ingram Creek. The demand on our EMTs and Firefighters has been greater than ever. **CLES** currently has approximately 10 active and 5 reserve volunteers responding to all calls received by the department. Many of these volunteers are recent graduates from one of two EMT-1 classes hosted by **CLES** & Bear Creek last fall.

It is with great Thanks, that we humbly acknowledge the incredible people at every level who make up **CLES** by sacrificing their personal and family time for training, taking care of our Department and being there should you or your loved ones ever need help.

CLES, as most are aware, is a nonprofit service. We have depended on individual donations from the community and its businesses to keep the department operating over the years. This year, in addition to our local community donations, we have been fortunate to receive significant grant funding through various sources including Code Blue, the Seniors Endowment Fund, the Community Center Revenue Share Program, the Alaska Community Foundation, and Covid Relief programs. These have helped offset several expenditures for essential Fire & EMS equipment. While these grants do not cover the majority of our day to day operating costs, they have significantly benefited our organization. Because we have been so fortunate this year as grant recipients, we opted to NOT send out our annual letter asking for additional financial assistance. Rather, we would just like to take the time to extend a huge heartfelt **THANK YOU** to all our generous Cooper Landing community members, businesses and organizations. While this year has been extraordinarily tough for many, it is our wish that all of you are safe, well, and that your loved ones are close by for comfort & support. If we can help in any way, we are here. Please reach out. We know that all of you will continue to donate and support us when needed and as you are able.

Below are some pictures of our new equipment and Fire/EMS Chiefs.

Thank you in advance for your support, thoughts and prayers!

Sincerely on behalf of the whole CLES team,

Ed Kahles
Cooper Landing Emergency Services, Inc.
Board President



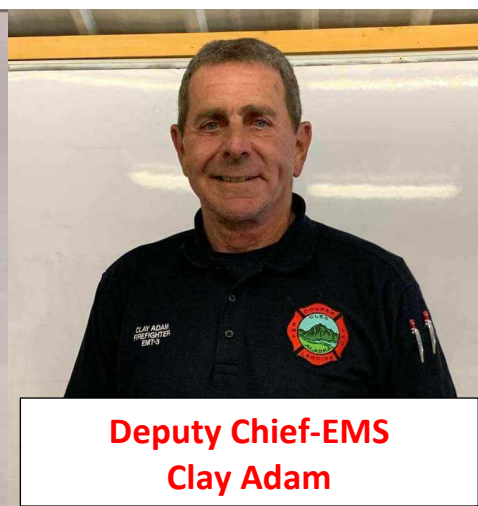
1993 Marion Spartan Fire Engine



2012 Type 1 Ford F450 EMS Unit



**Operations Coordinator/
Fire Chief:
Riley Shurtleff**



**Deputy Chief-EMS
Clay Adam**