



## Lombard Fire Department Memorandum

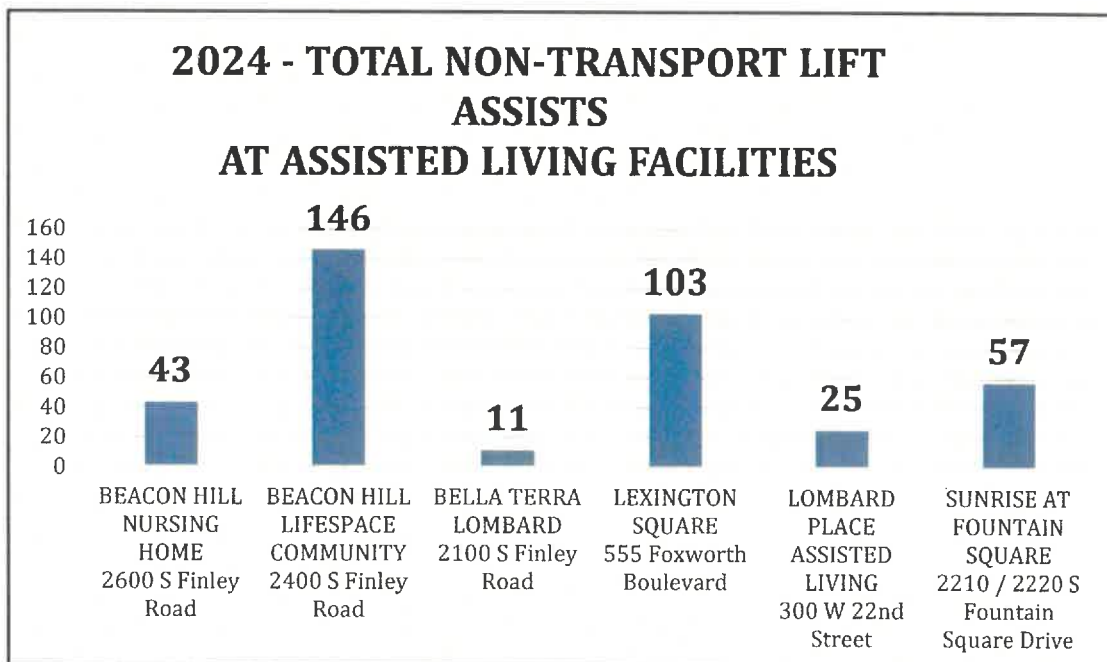
**To:** Scott Niehaus, Village Manager  
**From:** Rick Sander, Fire Chief  
**Date:** October 31, 2025  
**Subject:** Lift Assist Legislation and Proposed Ordinance

### Background

On August 1, 2025, Governor Pritzker signed House Bill 2336 into law. This bill allows non-home rule municipalities and fire protection districts to charge and collect reasonable fees for lift assists at congregate care facilities. These fees must be reasonable and may not exceed actual personnel and equipment costs associated with the call and may only be charged after the sixth lift assist performed in a calendar year. In order to begin assessing fees for this service, the Village must pass an ordinance adding a new section to the Village Code regarding reimbursement for lift assist services provided by the Fire Department.

The Fire Department currently responds to over 500 lift assists a year. These lift assists are intended for individuals who may have mobility issues and slide to the floor without injury yet cannot get up unassisted. These calls are not emergencies, nor do they require a special set of medical skills. When crews respond, they will conduct a medical assessment as is procedure. These cases do not require transport to the hospital.

The majority of our lift assist calls come from assisted living facilities and nursing homes. These facilities are different than single family residences where the patient may live alone. In years past, nursing homes and assisted living facilities would utilize their staff to provide lift assist services to residents. Unfortunately, this practice has changed. They now call 911 and request a lift assist from the Fire Department. This practice shifts the risk and liability away from the facility and puts it on the Fire Department. More importantly, responding to these lift assists diverts emergency personnel from other life-threatening and critical emergencies. These calls also increase the department's risk for employee injury. In 2024, the Fire Department responded to 385 lift assist calls at congregate care facilities.





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HB 2336 would affect the six congregate care facilities and nursing homes in Lombard (Beacon Hill Nursing Home, Beacon Hill Life Space Community, Bella Terra, Lexington Square, Lombard Place Assisted Living, and Sunrise and Fountain Square). Staff has met in person with each of the congregate care facilities to make them aware of the upcoming changes and has learned that two do not meet the criteria currently established under the bill<sup>1</sup>. The intention of this ordinance is to reduce the number of lift assist calls, not to increase revenue.

Staff has conducted research on what other communities currently charge or plan to charge for this service. The results of this research can be found below:

- Agencies that charge for lift assists:
  - \$100: Wheaton
  - \$250: Batavia, Bourbonnais, Northlake, Woodale
  - \$750: Crestwood
  - \$800: Peoria, Park Forest
  - \$925: Bensenville (proposed)
  - 50% of GEMT: Bloomingdale (proposed)
- Agencies that do not plan on charging for lift assists:
  - Lisle-Woodridge, Itasca, Roselle, Villa Park, Addison, Carol Stream, Glenside, Warrenville, Pleasantview, Hinsdale
- Agencies that are considering establishing fees, but have not done so yet:
  - Downers Grove, Westmont, Naperville, Oak Brook, Oak Brook Terrace, Winfield, York Center

Based on the limited available data, the Fire Department recommends charging \$750 per call and revisiting the program's effectiveness after twelve months.

*Attachment: Draft Ordinance*

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<sup>1</sup> The Beacon Hill Lifespace Community at 2400 S Finley Road and The Sunrise at Fountain Square building at 2210 S Fountain Square Drive are not considered assisted living facilities, per their licensure with the State of Illinois. Therefore, this legislation will not apply to them.