



Lombard Fire Department Memorandum

To: Trustee Dudek and the Public Safety and Transportation Committee

From: Rick Sander, Fire Chief

Date: July 29, 2025

Subject: Pending Lift Assist Legislation

The Lombard Fire Department currently responds to over 500 lift assists each year. 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.

Currently, 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 assists 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 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.

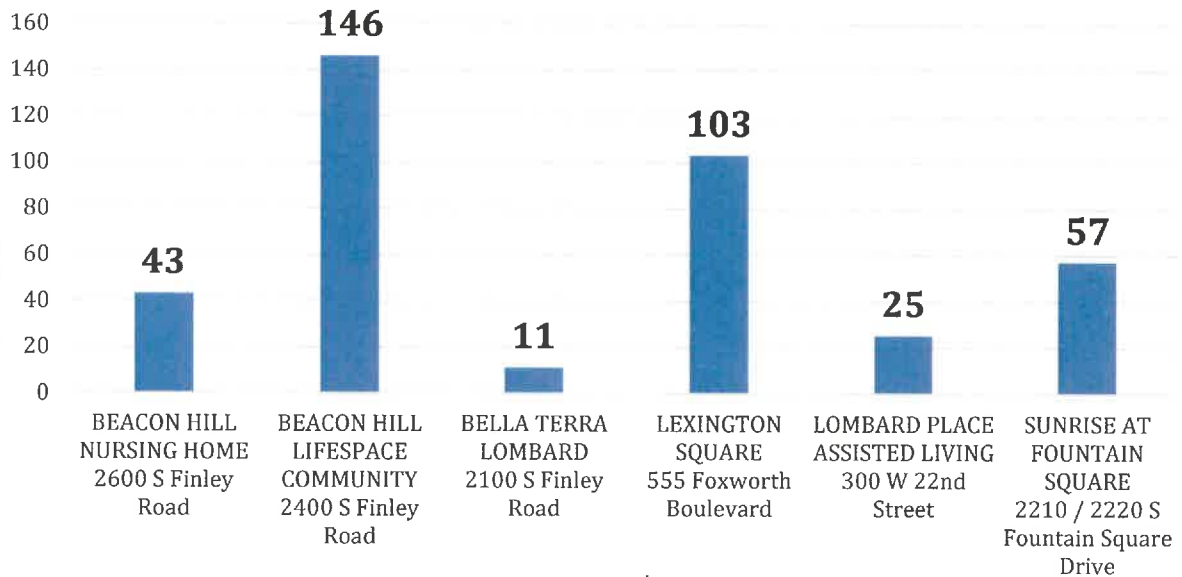
Home rule municipalities have identified this as an ongoing problem and have instituted fees for this service. Until recently, non-home rule communities, such as Lombard, were unable to do so. The Illinois Municipal League (IML) has actively pushed for legislation that would allow municipalities to charge reasonable fees for lift assist services to encourage responsible care practices in congregate care facilities. HB 2336, which is currently awaiting Governor Pritzker's signature, would allow all municipal fire departments and fire protection districts to charge reasonable fees to nursing homes or assisted living facilities for lift assist services after six such calls. This bill would affect the six assisted living facilities and nursing homes facilities in Lombard.

Once enacted into law, staff will work to inform and educate the affected facilities and adopt an ordinance to address associated fees with the intent of reducing lift assist calls at these facilities. This is not intended to serve as a revenue generator for the Village. The ultimate goal is to reduce the number of these non-emergent service calls. Staff will present the final ordinance to the PS&T Committee at a later date for review and recommendation to the Board of Trustees for possible adoption before the end of the year and an anticipated January 1, 2026, start date.



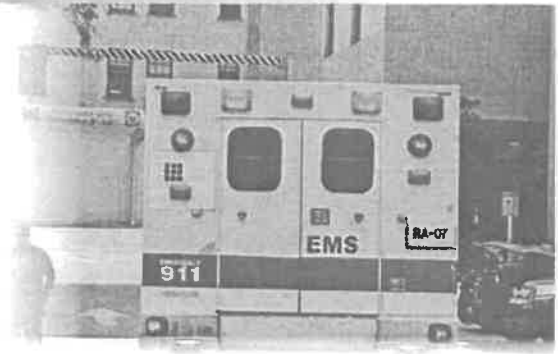
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2024 - TOTAL NON-TRANSPORT LIFT ASSISTS AT ASSISTED LIVING FACILITIES



LIFT ASSIST FEES

Municipalities throughout the state are reporting increased calls for lift assistance (lift assist) at congregate care facilities such as nursing homes and assisted living facilities. This trend increases costs for municipal fire and rescue departments, diverts emergency personnel from other, potentially life-threatening emergencies and increases municipal employer liability for injured municipal personnel.



FEES FOR LIFT ASSIST

Home rule municipalities may implement regulations and fees to serve as a deterrent for lift assist calls, and to offset expenses. However, no such authority currently exists for non-home rule municipalities. The Illinois Municipal League (IML) is pursuing a legislative fix that would grant non-home rule municipalities the authority to implement such regulations and fees in those communities.

Municipal officials who cannot, or do not wish to, implement a fee for service, may consider filing a Healthcare Facilities Complaint with the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH), if they believe a facility within their community is not maintaining an adequate staffing level to meet the care needs of its residents.

FILING A HEALTHCARE FACILITIES COMPLAINT

IDPH guidelines require facilities to maintain a minimum staff-to-resident ratio, or to staff each facility at a level necessary to meet the care needs of residents. According to IDPH's website ([available via this link](#)), municipal officials may file a Healthcare Facilities Complaint by phone, mail, email or fax. To file a complaint municipal officials should complete a [Healthcare Facilities Complaint Form \(available via this link\)](#).

- **Mail:** Illinois Department of Public Health
Office of Health Care Regulation
Central Complaint Registry
525 W Jefferson St., Ground Floor
Springfield, IL 62761-0001
- **Email:** DPH.CCR@illinois.gov
- **Fax:** (217) 524-8885
- **Phone:** (800) 252-4343
Central Complaint Registry Hotline

Upon receiving a complaint, IDPH will investigate the facility to determine whether a violation has occurred. Complaints are investigated on a priority basis. Depending on the nature, scope and severity of the complaint allegations, the investigation may take from a few days to several months.

IML ADVOCACY CONTINUES

IML will continue to advocate for the ability of non-home rule municipalities to implement lift assist regulations and fees within those communities. Legislation accomplishing this goal currently includes [HB 2336 \(Rep. Kelly, D-Chicago\)](#).



1 AN ACT concerning local government.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The Illinois Municipal Code is amended by
5 adding Section 11-6-12 as follows:

6 (65 ILCS 5/11-6-12 new)

7 Sec. 11-6-12. Reimbursement for lift-assist services.

8 (a) As used in this Section, "lift-assist service" means a
9 response to an assisted living facility or nursing home
10 facility by personnel of a fire department, an emergency
11 response unit, or a unit of another public safety department
12 providing automatic or mutual aid to a municipality, in order
13 to lift a patient or other individual from the individual's
14 current position to a desired position. "Lift-assist service"
15 does not include lifting a patient or other individual during
16 a response to a request for transportation to a health care
17 facility such as a hospital or emergency room.

18 (b) Municipalities may fix, charge, and collect reasonable
19 fees from an assisted living facility or nursing home facility
20 for every lift-assist service after the 6th lift assist
21 service provided to that assisted living facility or nursing
22 home facility that year rendered by a municipal fire
23 department, firefighter, emergency response unit, or public

1 safety employee of a municipal department in connection with
2 providing lift-assist services to a patient or other
3 individual.

4 The fees may not exceed the actual personnel and equipment
5 costs for all services rendered by the municipality in
6 connection with providing lift-assist services to a patient or
7 other individual.

8 Section 10. The Fire Protection District Act is amended by
9 adding Section 11n as follows:

10 (70 ILCS 705/11n new)

11 Sec. 11n. Reimbursement for lift-assist services.

12 (a) As used in this Section, "lift-assist service" means a
13 response to an assisted living facility or nursing home
14 facility by personnel of a fire protection district, in order
15 to lift a patient or other individual from the individual's
16 current position to a desired position. "Lift-assist service"
17 does not include lifting a patient or other individual during
18 a response to a request for transportation to a health care
19 facility such as a hospital or emergency room.

20 (b) A fire protection district may fix, charge, and
21 collect reasonable fees from an assisted living facility or
22 nursing home facility for every lift-assist service after the
23 6th lift assist service provided to that assisted living
24 facility or nursing home facility that year rendered by the

1 fire protection district in connection with providing
2 lift-assist services to a patient or other individual.

3 The fees may not exceed the actual personnel and equipment
4 costs for all services rendered by the fire protection
5 district in connection with providing lift-assist services to
6 a patient or other individual.