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CITY OF AMESBURY, MA

CITY OF AMESBURY
IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-TWO

SPONSORED BY: *Kassandra Gove* **BILL No. 2022-025**
Kassandra Gove, Mayor

An Order to accept the Transfer of Vehicle Ownership between the Merrimack Valley Regional Transit Authority a subdivision of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the City of Amesbury for use by the Amesbury Council on Aging (COA) a community program.

Summary: The Merrimack Valley Regional Transit (MVRTA) Authority is proposing the transfer of ownership of their surplus E-2 350 Ford van, VIN # 1FDEE3FL7FDA34685, valued at \$4,998.00 for use by the City of Amesbury, Council on Aging. The City of Amesbury would acquire sole ownership of the vehicle at the cost of zero dollars; \$0.00. Per M.G.L. Ch. 44, Sec 53 A1/2:

“A city council, with the mayor's approval if the charter so provides, or a board of selectmen, or prudential committee or town council may, in its sole discretion and authority, accept gifts of tangible personal property on behalf of the city, town or district from the federal government, a charitable foundation, private corporation, individual, or from the commonwealth or any political subdivision thereof, and may, in its sole discretion and authority, use said gifts, without specific appropriation thereof, for the purpose of such a gift or, if no restrictions are attached to the gift, for such other purposes as it deems advisable.”

Be it Ordered by the City Council of the City of Amesbury assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

The City Council hereby accepts the transfer of vehicle ownership from the Merrimack Valley Regional Transit Authority (MVRTA), valued at \$4,998.00, for use by the City of Amesbury, per M.G.L. Ch. 44, Sec 53 A1/2.



Council on Aging Van Service Plan

January 2022

SUMMARY

The Merrimack Valley Regional Transit Authority (MVRTA) has generously offered to gift the Amesbury Council on Aging (COA) with a retired van. This van will be used primarily for Amesbury residents who are 60 years of age and older, or under 60 disabled adults. It will supplement the existing transportation options available and close the gaps in service, offering affordability and convenience. It is intended to ease the process of finding rides to important medical appointments and recreational events that help to prevent isolation and increase socialization. The van service will be managed by the COA team.

MISSION AND HISTORY

The mission of the Amesbury Council on Aging is to advocate for older adults: to identify their needs; to meet their health, economic, social and cultural needs; and to encourage maximum independence to improve their quality of life.

The Amesbury Council on Aging (ACOA) serves over 4000 Amesbury seniors and their families as well as those in surrounding communities through regular activities, case management and the Elder Mental Health Outreach Team (EMHOT).

The ACOA, Veteran's, and Youth Recreation departments moved into the Nicholas J. Transportation Center, a 9000 square foot building, almost 10 years ago. The Center allowed for the sharing of resources for intergenerational and client sharing case management services.

Pre-pandemic, the ACOA offered health clinics, educational programs, fitness classes, support groups, nutrition including lunches, homebound delivery with the local food market, social events, transportation, outreach support including referrals, application assistance, intakes/assessments, case management, crisis intervention, home visits and tele-check-in calls. Although the ACOA is still offering many fun, engaging programs with more clinical and case management than ever before, we plan to build back the activities we offered two years ago.

It is the intention of the COA, to meet the unmet need for convenient, reliable, affordable, scheduled transportation for seniors and disabled adults, who remain isolated at home. The many limitations and

1

Doreen Arnfield, Director

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inconveniences of existing services cause stress and anxiety. This gap in needed transportation service for a significant portion of the senior and disabled local community has been a longstanding challenge.

TRANSPORTATION OPTIONS AND GAPS

Merrimack Valley Regional Transit Authority (MVRTA), Northern Essex Elder Transport (NEET) and Taxi services are all good means of transportation for some older adults, but no one form is a perfect fit for everyone. The addition of a COA van will enhance transportation options for older adults and under 60 disabled adults in Amesbury.

SERVICE AREA

Most trips will remain in Amesbury. Some elders may be picked up from their neighboring towns if they are participating in COA programs. All efforts will be made to encourage those out-of-town to look for alternative transportation first, before requesting a ride from the COA van.

Destinations would include the Amesbury Council on Aging located at the Nicholas J. Costello Transportation Center, Vermette's and Stop and Shop, the Amesbury Health Center, the monthly Veterans' Luncheon at the Hungry Traveler in Salisbury, the Amesbury Public Library, Amesbury beauty salons, barber shops, doctors' and dentists' offices, and to the polls on election days. Those with low vision, early onset Dementia and more serious physical challenges will benefit most from the COA van service.

The Van Service Plan would be regularly evaluated and adjusted as necessary based on usage and experience, once it is operational.

SERVICE and ELIGIBILITY

The purpose of the COA van is to provide an additional option to accommodate the gaps in service for those with disabilities and/or facing challenges related to aging.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, Amesbury's estimated disability rate of 14% is 2 % higher than the state. An estimated 38% of people 65 and over are disabled compared to that of the state (33%).

Initially, the van service will be offered Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9 am to 3 pm. It will serve adults 60 years of age and over, and under 60 disabled (and 18 years of age), who are capable of scheduling rides and can enter and exit the van safely.



Long term plan - The COA van would be in service up to 5 days per week between 8:30 am and 3:30 pm, serving adults aged 60 and older and disabled adults under 60 (18 years or older), who are unable to use other forms of public transportation.

PROGRAM MANAGEMENT

Initially one driver would be hired for 16 hours per week for the remainder of FY22. Three hours per week will be added in FY23, if approved, and a second driver may be hired in FY24, if the need warrants. Drivers will be trained and equipped to not only transport residents to their chosen locations, but also to have eyes on, assess the need for further support of any rider, and to refer those identified as needing other support to the COA staff. They are expected to alert the COA staff if something seems “off”. When drivers are not transporting residents, they will be assisting the COA staff with other tasks.

The COA Outreach Coordinator will manage the COA van transportation service including the driver, scheduling rides and payment structure if and when needed. The COA Administrative Assistant will work with the Director and the Outreach Coordinator to fulfill monthly statistical requirements requested by the MVRTA and any other administrative duties.

Currently the rides will be at no cost, but in the future, they may require a \$2 nominal fee each way. Fees would be waived under special circumstances for those who qualify. COA staff will screen for eligibility.

Doreen Arnfield, Director

Amesbury Council on Aging

[Doreen Arnfield, Director](#)

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Expense Projections		FY22 (6 months)	FY22 Funding Source	Notes
Expenses				
Salaries	\$ 7,488.00	Earmark Grant	Driver - \$18/hr*16hrs/wk* 26	
Insurance	\$ 620.00	Earmark Grant	\$1000 deductible	
Maintenance	\$ 5,000.00	Earmark Grant	Preventative	
			Aver. 100 miles/wk = 7 gal/wk at 3.20/gal =22.40 x 26 = \$582 (extra trips 160 miles = \$34)	
Fuel	\$ 616.00	Earmark Grant		
Wrapping	\$ 3,500.00	Earmark Grant		
Total	\$ 17,224.00			

Expense Projections		FY23 Annual	FY23 Funding Source	Notes
Expenses				
Salaries	\$ 17,784.00	COA City Budget	Driver - \$18/hr*19hrs/wk* 52	
Insurance	\$ 1,240.00	COA City Budget	\$1000 deductible	
Maintenance	\$ 2,000.00	COA Revolving Acct.		
			Aver. 100 miles/wk = 7 gal/wk at 3.20/gal =22.40 x 26 = \$582 (extra trips 160 miles = \$34)	
Fuel	\$ 1,232.00	COA Revolving Acct.		
Wrapping	\$ -			
Total	\$ 22,256.00			



Merrimack Valley Regional Transit Authority

Vehicle Transfer Agreement

Transfer of Vehicle Ownership made this _____ between the Merrimack Valley Regional Transit Authority a subdivision of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the City of Amesbury for use by the Amesbury Council on Aging (COA) a community program.

Agreement

The transit authority transfers ownership of the surplus E-2 350 Ford van, VIN # 1FDEE3FL7FDA34685 for use by the City of Amesbury and its Council on Aging program. MVRTA requires the vehicle to remain in transit use, including providing rides for persons who are part of the Amesbury Council on Aging program.

MVRTA further requests that the ridership data be reported to the Special Transportation Services program of the MVRTA monthly. The reporting form is attached to the agreement. Please email the form by the 15th of the month.

Payment

The City of Amesbury acquires sole ownership of the vehicle at the cost of zero dollars; \$0.00

Signatures:

Merrimack Valley Regional Transit Authority

City of Amesbury

By: _____

By: _____

Noah S. Berger, Administrator

Kassandra Gove, Mayor

Attachment

MVRTA Monthly Reporting Form



Transportation Data Vehicle Monthly Report

Agency Name _____ Agency Code _____

Month/ Year Reporting _____

Program Vehicle(s) Amesbury Council on Aging

1FDEE3FL7FDA34685	

Operational Information

Number of hours vehicle(s) used this month total	
Number of miles vehicle(s) driven this month total	
Number of one-way trips; (unlinked passenger trips)	

- Email form to Amy Jenkins, MVRTA -STS at ajenkins@mvrta.com