

PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
Uniform Cover and Calendar Sheet

22

1. REPORT DATE: April 22, 1996	2. BUREAU AGENDA NO.: MAY-96-TS-MC-109*
3. BUREAU: Transportation & Safety	
4. SECTION(S): Application Review	5. PUBLIC MEETING DATE: May 9, 1996
6. APPROVED BY: Director: Nicely 3-3846 Supervisor: Marzolf 3-5945	
7. PERSONS IN CHARGE: Travitz 7-5513	DOCKETED MAY 16 1996
8. DOCKET NO.: A-00112751	

9. (a) CAPTION (abbreviate if more than 4 lines)
(b) Short summary of history & facts, documents & briefs
(c) Recommendation

(a) Application of Western Berks Ambulance Association, West Lawn, Berks County, for the right to begin to transport, as a common carrier by motor vehicle, persons, in paratransit service, between points in the county of Berks, and from points in said county, to points in Pennsylvania, and return; limited to the transportation of ambulatory and non-ambulatory passengers using specially equipped vehicles with side-opening doors, ramps, lifts or other facilities to accommodate the infirmed or disabled.

(b) Applicant seeks to initiate common carrier paratransit service and the application was unopposed. The application is supported by five (5) parties demonstrating a need for the service. The applicant has demonstrated that approval of the application will be an accommodation and convenience to the public.

(c) The Bureau of Transportation and Safety recommends that the Commission adopt the proposed order approving the application.

10. MOTION BY: Commissioner Chm. Quain
SECONDED: Commissioner Crutchfield

Commissioner Hanger - Yes
Commissioner Rolka - Yes
Commissioner Bloom - Yes

CONTENT OF MOTION: Staff recommendation adopted.

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FOLDER



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
P.O. BOX 3265, HARRISBURG, PA 17105-3265

MAY 13, 1996

IN REPLY PLEASE
REFER TO OUR FILE

A-00112751

WOLF BALDWIN & ASSOC
ATTORNEYS AT LAW
PO BOX 444
POTTSTOWN PA 19609

DOCUMENT
FOLDER

DOCKETED
JUN 25 1996

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APPLICATION OF WESTERN BERKS AMBULANCE ASSOCIATION

Enclosed is the compliance order issued by the Commission in this proceeding.

The Certificate of Public Convenience evidencing the Commission's approval of the right to operate will not be issued until the applicant has complied with the following insurance and tariff requirements:

- I. Arrange through an insurance agent to have an insurance company file with the Commission a FORM E as evidence of minimum public liability and property damage insurance coverage as shown on the back of this sheet.
- II. Prepare and file a tariff according to the enclosed instructions except applicants for transfer of authority must file a tariff adoption supplement which will be forwarded by separate cover at a later date.

PERSONS

Minimum Limits for PA Public Utility Commission Authorized Service

PASSENGER CARRIERS:

15 passengers or less:

\$35,000 to cover liability for bodily injury, death or property damage incurred in an accident.

\$25,000 first party medical benefits, \$10,000 first party wage loss benefits and shall conform to 75 Pa. C.S. §§1701-1798 (relating to Motor Vehicle Financial Responsibility Law).

First party coverage of the driver of certificated vehicle shall meet the requirements of 75 Pa. C.S. §1171 (relating to required benefits).

16 to 28 passengers:

\$1,000,000 to cover liability for bodily injury, death or property damage.

29 passengers or more:

\$5,000,000 to cover liability bodily injury, death or property damage.

PROPERTY CARRIERS:

Bodily Injury:

\$300,000 per accident per vehicle to cover liability because of bodily injury, death or property damage.

Insurance coverage of motor carriers of property shall meet the requirements of 75 Pa. C.S. §1701-1798 (relating to Motor Vehicle Financial Responsibility Law).

Cargo:

\$5,000 for loss or damage to cargo carried on a motor vehicle.

No motor carrier shall operate or engage in any transportation until compliance with all of the above requirements and a certificate of public convenience has been issued authorizing actual operations. You are advised that any equipment to be used in rendering the service authorized under the certificate must be registered with the Bureau of Motor Vehicles, Department of Transportation, as a bus or taxi. Motor carriers operating without complying with the above requirements will be subject to the penalty provisions of the Public Utility Code.

Commission regulations require compliance with all of the requirements within sixty (60) days of this letter. Failure to comply within the sixty (60) day period will cause the Commission to rescind the action of May 9, 1996 and dismiss the application without further proceedings.

If you foresee problems in meeting these requirements, please direct your questions to the following contact persons:

INSURANCE FILINGS: Insurance Unit
(717) 783-5933

TARIFF FILINGS: Tariff Unit
(717) 787-5945

Very truly yours,

John G. Alford, Secretary

encls.

Cert. Mail

receipt request

WESTERN BERKS AMBULANCE ASSOC

2506 BELMONT AVENUE

WEST LAWN PA 19609

PENNSYLVANIA
PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
Harrisburg, PA 17105-3265

Public Meeting held May 9, 1996

Commissioners Present:

John M. Quain, Chairman
Lisa Crutchfield, Vice-Chairman
John Hanger
David W. Rolka
Robert K. Bloom

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Application of Western Berks Ambulance Association, for the right to begin to transport, as a common carrier by motor vehicle, persons, in paratransit service, between points in the county of Berks, and from points in said county, to points in Pennsylvania, and return; limited to the transportation of ambulatory and non-ambulatory passengers using specially equipped vehicles with side-opening doors, ramps, lifts or other facilities to accommodate the infirmed or disabled.

A-00112751

DOCKETED
JUN 25 1996

Wolf, Baldwin and Assoc. for the applicant.

O R D E R

BY THE COMMISSION:

This matter comes before the Commission on an application filed December 28, 1995. Public notice of the application was given in the Pennsylvania Bulletin of January 23, 1996. No protests were filed and no hearings were held. The unprotested application is certified to the Commission for its decision without oral hearing. The record consists of verified statements entered by the applicant and five supporting parties.

Kevin P. Hinkle, director of corporate development for Western Berks Ambulance Association (applicant or Western Berks)

is domiciled at 2506 Belmont Avenue, West Lawn, Berks County, is authorized to present this verified statement on behalf of the applicant. Western Berks will conduct operations from 2506 Belmont Avenue, West Lawn, Berks County. At this location, applicant has a two-story, three-bay station situated in a residential area with appropriate approved local zoning for the operation. Communications will be maintained via eight (8) dedicated telephone lines with automated answering. All vehicles are equipped with multi-channel public safety radios (VHF) that can communicate directly with the County of Berks 911 Dispatch Center and for local use frequency, located at the main address. Each vehicle is equipped with cellular telephones and each driver carries a portable radio and alpha-numeric pager and the main office is equipped with three (3) dedicated fax/modem lines.

The equipment which is owned by the applicant, includes a 1988 Dodge van with raised roof and ADA compliant lift and equipment and a 1996 Ford-Goshen wheelchair bus with raised roof and ADA compliant lift and equipment. The vehicles will be housed at the primary address at 2506 Belmont Avenue, West Lawn, Berks County. All vehicles have a mandatory preventative maintenance rotation program and work is performed through a local vendor. All drivers employed by Western Berks are required to complete a Pennsylvania Department of Health approved Emergency Vehicle Operator's course and all personnel providing paratransit service have completed in-house training on vehicle operations, wheelchair operations, proper use of restraints and lift/ramp operations. All personnel are Pennsylvania certified Emergency Medical Technicians capable of intervening with most medical emergencies.

The address of 2506 Belmont Avenue, West Lawn, Berks County, also serves as a response location for its emergency and non-emergency ambulance service. No clients will wait for or be

transported from the main facility location. West Berks currently only provides medically necessary wheelchair service, primarily from skilled healthcare facilities or residences to other healthcare providers. Applicant does not accept recreational or therapeutic transports.

It is the intent of Western Berks to provide paratransit service to area healthcare facilities, providers and residents. Applicant wishes to primarily serve those individuals who are disabled, infirmed, or ill and require specialized transportation services with vehicles that can accommodate these needs. Western Berks recognizes that there is a segment of the general public that is disabled and may require transportation to destinations other than healthcare facilities. Individuals who reside in personal care, group homes or home care situations may benefit from recreational/social/therapeutic transports to local activities, such as those sponsored by agencies on aging, etc. Applicant understands that these may be regulated functions and wishes to provide this service to a full range of transportation options to its subscribers and facilities that may contact it. Applicant is not affiliated with any other carrier. No duplicating or dual operations will result from the grant of this application.

The audited balance sheet of the applicant as of December 31, 1995 shows total current assets of \$186,809, total assets of \$792,179, total current liabilities of \$69,998 and long-term debt of \$227,029. The statements of unrestricted revenue and collected and expenses paid and changes in unrestricted net assets are as follows. Total unrestricted revenues and gains of \$1,392,840 less total expenses and losses of \$1,445,230, resulted in a (decrease) in unrestricted net assets of \$(52,390). The net assets - end of year total \$495,152.

Kathryn Weachock, administrator of Leader Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, is authorized to present this statement in support of the applicant. Leader Nursing and Rehabilitation Center is a skilled healthcare facility requiring transportation of patients to other than medical facilities for recreational, therapeutic or social functions. These patients may need transportation via adaptive vehicles. It is anticipated that transportation would be required three to four times a year from the supporting party's facilities located at 3000 Windmill Road, Sinking Springs, Berks County to such destinations as Friendly's Ice Cream, West Lawn; Christmas Village, Berndale; Berkshire Mall, Wyomissing and Reading Museum, Reading; with return trips involved.

Linda Vignati, N.H.A., administrator of Leader Nursing and Rehabilitation Center located at 2125 Elizabeth Avenue, Laureldale, Pennsylvania is authorized to present this verified statement in support of the application. Leader Nursing and Rehabilitation Center is a skilled healthcare facility requiring transportation of patients to other than medical facilities for recreational, therapeutic or social functions. These patients may need transportation via adaptive vehicles. It is anticipated the supporting party requires service four trips per year or one trip per quarter transporting approximately 25 residents from Leader Nursing Center located at 2125 Elizabeth Avenue, Laureldale to such points Grings Mill, Tulpehocken Road, Reading, Berne Township, Berks County; Fairgrounds Square Mall, Fifth Street Highway, Reading, Muhlenberg Township, Berks County; City of Reading Tour "view Christmas lights" Reading, Berks County and Muhlenberg High School, Sharp Avenue and Francis Avenue, Laureldale, Muhlenberg Township, Berks County.

Carl R. McAloose, N.H.A., administrator of Leader Nursing and Rehabilitation Center located at 425 Buttonwood Street, West Reading, Berks County, is authorized to present this

verified statement on behalf of the supporting shipper. Leader Nursing and Rehabilitation Center is a skilled healthcare facility requiring transportation of patients to points other than medical facilities for recreational, therapeutic or social functions. These patients may require transportation via adaptive vehicles. The volume of intended use is anticipated at one to two trips per month; holiday trips specific.

Transportation would be required from the Leader Nursing Center at 425 Buttonwood Street, West Reading, Berks County to the following destinations as well as return to the center: Schell's Dairy Swirl, 4625 North Fifth Street Highway, Temple; Rajah Theater, 136 North Sixth Street, Reading; Scottish Rite Cathedral, 310 South Seventh Street, West Reading; Reading Museum and Planetarium, 500 Museum Road, Wyomissing; Reading Municipal Stadium, Reading; Red Bridge Recreation Area, in care of Grings Mill Berks County Parks, 2083 Tulpehocken Road, Wyomissing; Berkshire Mall, Route 422 and State Hill Road, Wyomissing; Arner's Restaurant, 1714 State Hill Road, Wyomissing; Fairgrounds Square Mall, 3050 North Fifth Street Highway, Reading and Mid-atlantic Air Museum, R.D. 9, Reading.

Mario Hipp, an individual residing at 3040 Octagon Avenue, Sinking Spring, Berks County, seeks personal transportation for an invalid family member. It is anticipated that transportation would be required one to two times per month; service being required between the Leader Nursing Home and Rehabilitation Center located at 2000 Windmill Road, Spring Township, Sinking Spring, Berks County, and 3040 Octagon Avenue, Sinking Spring, Berks County and return. The supporting shipper states that most transfers would be between the nursing home and his residence and there may be opportunities for transportation to other destinations such as recreational facilities, restaurants or other family member's residence or events and shopping areas. Most transportation would be required within a five-mile radius of the primary residence.

Dena Hammel, M.S.S., is a primary social worker for the Pennsylvania Dialysis Clinic of Reading, Inc., and is authorized to present this verified statement on behalf of the supporting shipper. The supporting party is a free standing, non-hospital based outpatient renal dialysis center. Most transports are medically indicated, however, patients may require transportation from their residences to other destinations via vehicles with adaptive devices. It is anticipated that paratransit service would be required one to two times per month per patient. Transport would originate from the patient's primary residence to various points within a ten (10)-mile radius. Since this service is only available on a limited basis with much advance notice required to make arrangements for transports, specific points of origin, destination and return have not been clearly defined.

DISCUSSION AND FINDINGS

Western Berks Ambulance Association seeks to initiate paratransit service and the application was unopposed and no hearings were held. Applicant has been involved in the transportation of patients in emergency situations and between residences and healthcare providers and therefore has the facilities, communications network, experience and vehicles to render the proposed service. The five supporting parties consisting of three Leader Nursing and Rehabilitation Centers at different addresses have indicated a need for the service; one individual indicates a need for service for an invalid family member and a social worker has indicated a need for transportation on behalf of the outpatient renal dialysis center. No specific origins have been indicated other than from the patient's primary residence to various points within a 10-mile radius.

We find:

1. Applicant seeks to initiate common carrier paratransit service and the application was unopposed.

2. Five (5) supporting parties have presented need for the service.

3. The applicant has the fitness, experience, equipment and ability to render the proposed service.

4. Approval of the application is necessary for the accommodation and convenience of the public; THEREFORE,

IT IS ORDERED: That the application be and is hereby approved granting the following right:

To transport, as a common carrier, persons in paratransit service, limited to the transportation of ambulatory and non-ambulatory passengers using specially equipped vehicles with side-opening doors, ramps, lifts or other facilities to accommodate the infirmed or disabled, between points in the county of Berks, and from points in said county, to points in Pennsylvania, and return.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED: That the applicant shall not engage in any transportation in this application until the following is submitted to the Commission:

1. Form E evidence of Bodily Injury and Property Damage Liability Insurance.
2. A tariff establishing just and reasonable rates.

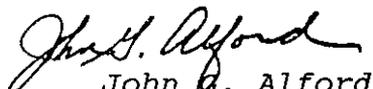
IT IS FURTHER ORDERED: That the authority granted herein to the extent that it duplicates authority now held by or

subsequently granted to the applicant, shall not be construed as conferring more than one operating right.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED: That upon compliance with the requirements hereinbefore set forth, a certificate shall issue evidencing the Commission's approval of the right to operate as above-determined.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED: That in the event said applicant has not, on or before sixty (60) days from the date of the service of this order, complied with the requirements hereinbefore set forth, the application shall be dismissed without further proceedings.

BY THE COMMISSION,


John G. Alford
Secretary

(SEAL)

ORDER ADOPTED: May 9, 1996

ORDER ENTERED: MAY 13 1996