

Commissioners Vote to Buy Land for EMS Base

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Coming out of a closed session yesterday morning, the Watauga County Board of Commissioners voted unanimously to purchase land near the intersection of US 321 and 421 in Vilas, land to be used to build an ambulance station in hopes to decrease the response time to emergencies in western Watauga. The 13 acres will be bought for \$102,000. A small tract of the property right on the road would be used for the new ambulance station, putting crews within faster reach of the western corridors of the county. The average EMS response time for the fire districts like Beaver Dam, Zionville, Cove Creek and Shawneehaw, is the slowest in the county, with some calls taking up to 30 minutes. With only a small part of the tract needed, the county will look at other uses for the land or sell off the rest. The due diligence period on the property expires in 90 days, and the county is allowed to back out of the purchase during that time.