



**STATE OF TENNESSEE  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

ANDREW JOHNSON TOWER, 5<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR  
710 JAMES ROBERTSON PARKWAY  
NASHVILLE, TN 37243

**BILL LEE**  
GOVERNOR

**RALPH ALVARADO, MD, FACP**  
COMMISSIONER

November 7, 2023

Mr. Alan Levine  
Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer  
Ballad Health  
303 Med Tech Parkway, Suite 300  
Johnson City, TN 37604

**RE: Ballad Health's ("Ballad") Proposal to Modify the Rural Health Plan to include certain funding for an additional ambulance in Carter County, Tennessee**

Mr. Levine,

This letter is in response to your request to the Tennessee Department of Health ("TDH") under Section 3.06(c) of the now Fourth Amended and Restated Terms of Certification, dated July 1, 2023 ("TOC") to modify the current Rural Health Plan.

The plan modification requests inclusion of \$327,926 in support to the Carter County Emergency and Rescue Squad to purchase an additional ambulance to serve the residents of Carter County, Tennessee. Your proposal states that Ballad has been committed to providing financial support to emergency medical service agencies, and that Carter County Emergency and Rescue Squad and the leadership of Carter County have requested the additional ambulance due to the widespread and rugged terrain within the county and the focus of county leadership on economic development through outdoor tourism activities.

I have reviewed your request and consulted with members of the community in Carter County and find the need for the ambulance. Therefore, **the modification request is approved, and the Rural Health Plan shall be amended as of Tuesday, October 3, 2023 to include the requested funding of up to \$327,926 for support to the Carter County Emergency and Rescue Squad for the purchase of an additional ambulance.** The validation of actual expenditure and final cost creditable to the Rural Health Plan will be made by the COPA Monitor in the annual Rural Health Plan expenditure reconciliation.

Thank you for your continuing efforts to serve the needs of your community and patients. TDH is confident that granting this request will provide benefits to the community as contemplated in Section 3.02(c) of the TOC. We appreciate this important project as well as your efforts to comply with the plan modification process.

Mr. Alan Levine, President & Chief Executive Officer  
Ballad Health  
November 7, 2023  
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Please let my staff know if you have any additional questions or need further clarification.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Alvarado', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Ralph Alvarado, MD, FACP  
Commissioner

cc: Julie Bennett, Chief Legal Officer  
Ballad Health

Marvin Eichorn, EVP, Chief Administrative Officer  
Ballad Health

Karen Seiden, COPA Compliance Officer  
Ballad Health

Karen Shelton, MD, Commissioner  
Virginia Department of Health

Joe Hilbert, Deputy Commissioner for Governmental and regulatory Affairs  
Virginia Department of Health

Erik Bodin, Office of Licensure and Certification  
Virginia Department of Health

Kevin Meyer  
COPA Analyst, Virginia Department of Health

Allyson Tysinger  
Virginia Senior Assistant Attorney General

Kevin M. Kreutz, Deputy Attorney General  
State of Tennessee

Jim Mathis, COPA Director  
Tennessee Department of Health

Judi Knecht, COPA Assistant Director  
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Claire C. Haltom  
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