

86-00048
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL



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Honorable Arnold Teks
City Attorney
City of Florence
P. O. Box 1207
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Municipalities - Ambulance
Service - Rescue Squads -
Contracts

City and county may contract
with a private ambulance company
for ambulance service.

Dear Mr. Teks:

The opinion request of the City of Florence has been received in the Office of the Attorney General. Your request presents the following facts:

Metro Shoals Ambulance Company is a privately owned for profit company which, other than local rescue squads, furnishes the only ambulance service in the county. This company is in financial difficulties and has requested the City of Florence and Lauderdale County to enter into a contract with it and thereby obtain necessary finances to continue operation. The City and County have agreed to do so pending resolution of the legality of such a contract.

The question is:

May the City of Florence and Lauderdale County provide consideration in the form of an ambulance contract with a private for profit corporation?

In numerous instances this office has held that both cities and counties may contract with private businesses to provide services for and to those governmental entities. The provision of ambulance service is a legitimate function of both

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cities and counties and contracts to provide such services are specifically authorized by Code of Alabama 1975, § 11-87-3.

Therefore, it is the opinion of this office that both the City of Florence and Lauderdale County may contract with a private for profit corporation in order to provide ambulance service.

If we may be of assistance to you in this or any other matter in the future, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

CHARLES A. GRADDICK
Attorney General

By:



CAROL JEAN SMITH
Assistant Attorney General

CAG/CJS/pd