City moves forward on ambulance service
By Jessica Soule / The Citizen
2:03 PM
AUBURN - The Auburn City Council, with two new members - Mayor Michael Quill and Councilor Gilda Brower - agreed to continue the process to gain control over the city's ambulance service.

Even if Auburn gets this certificate from a regional government group, TLC Emergency Medical Services Inc., will continue to operate the service, Fire Chief Mike Hammon clarified during the Thursday meeting.
Private enterprises can do business less expensively than a municipality, TLC Operations Director Lon Fricano said.

Hammon and Fricano explained the process of applying for an ambulance operating certificate for the city, including a future Web broadcasted public hearing.
The men said a series of events in 2005 sparked the city's interest in gaining control over emergency response services. At the time, Rural Metro was the provider.
“Not all calls were answered (timely), ambulances sometimes weren't available.”
The Central New York Regional Emergency Medical Service Council has not rejected other applying municipalities, which Hammon says isn't a guarantee, but gives him hope that Auburn will receive a certificate by the spring.

The current document expires in April. Fricano said there are extensions and other ways it can work around this. Fricano thanked the council for the “gutsy move” to begin the process to obtain control over emergency service, which was the right thing to do to improve residents' safety, he added.

The application process will cost the city $3,000 to pay for advertising, the public hearing and sending letters to area emergency responders, as well as some city staff time.