Gates, Spencerport Consolidate Volunteer Ambulance Services

A lack of volunteers and an increase in costs is sparking a merger between two local ambulance services.

Spencerport Volunteer Ambulance plans to consolidate with the Gates Volunteer Ambulance Service. It would be the first of its kind in Monroe County. Spencerport will fall under the Gates Volunteer Organization but keep its name. The organizations say their merger is needed because they rely more on paid staff and less on volunteers. They say it will also benefit anyone who lives in their districts.

"This is a win win situation. We have negotiated a deal to merge, which is fantastic. On our end, it is all positive. All the employees will transfer over, life members will transfer over. So we don't lose anything what we gain is improved response and improved service to our community and that is what we are really about patient-centric and get care to patient as quick as possible," Spencerport Ambulance president Bruce Jones said.

The organizations hope to have the merger done by June. The deal still needs to be approved by the state.