



Date: 4/8/2026
To: City Commission
From: Kalla Langston-Weiss, City Clerk
Subject: Discussion of Dial-A-Ride Millage Renewal, Agreement Extension, and Potential Rate Reduction

Overview

At its last meeting, the City Commission postponed action on the attached resolution to allow additional discussion with the Niles Dial-A-Ride Transportation System (DART) regarding a possible extension of the service agreement and the potential for a reduced millage rate. These discussions are intended to determine whether revised terms can be presented before asking voters to consider renewal of the millage supporting public transportation services for Buchanan residents.

Background

The City of Buchanan has historically levied a millage to fund public transportation services, ensuring residents have access to essential mobility options, including medical appointments, employment, and daily activities. This service is currently provided through the Niles Dial-A-Ride system.

Proposal Details

- Agreement Extension: Staff worked with DART regarding a possible extension of the service agreement for continued public transportation services.
- Millage Rate Review: Staff also discussed whether a reduced millage rate may be feasible.
- Revised Proposal options are attached.

Ballot Language

If the proposed millage rate or agreement terms change, the ballot language and estimated revenue figures will need to be updated before final Commission consideration.

The proposed Dial-A-Ride millage renewal of **1.0 mill** is projected to generate approximately **\$120,048 annually**, compared to the current estimated annual service cost of approximately **\$90,000**.

Projected annual revenues at alternative millage rates are as follows:

- **1.00 mil** → ~\$120,049
- **0.90 mil** → ~\$108,044
- **0.85 mil** → ~\$102,041

- **0.80 mil** → ~\$96,039
- **0.75 mil** → ~\$90,036 (approximately break-even)
- **0.70 mil** → ~\$84,034 (below current cost)

Ballot Proposal Language

**CITY OF BUCHANAN
DIAL-A-RIDE MILLAGE RENEWAL**

Shall the City of Buchanan be authorized to renew and levy a total of ## mill on the taxable value of all taxable property in the City of Buchanan, which is equal to \$#.## per each \$1,000 of taxable value, for the purpose of providing public transportation including the operation of the “Dial-A-Ride” Bus System, currently operated by Niles Dial-A-Ride, more commonly known as “DART,” and more properly known as the “Dial-A-Ride Transportation System,” for a period of four (4) consecutive years, to be levied in 2027, 2028, 2029, and 2030?

The amount of revenue generated in the first year of the levy (2027) will be approximately \$#####. The proposed millage is a renewal of a previously authorized millage.

Recommendation

This item is presented for continued Commission discussion for possible millage reduction and to consider approving Resolution 2026.04/04 with the millage rate and estimated tax value.

Attachments

- Resolution 2026.04/04