

Buchanan County EMS Association

The Buchanan County EMS Association is asking you to vote yes to support your local EMS volunteers and Ambulance service.

Buchanan Co. currently has 3 ambulance services:

Fairbank which covers approximately 7% in the NW corner.

Jesup covers approximately 17% in the SW and West Central portion of the county.

Independence, who contracts with AMR ambulance service who covers the remainder of the area supporting the communities of Independence, Stanley, Aurora, Lamont, Winthrop, Quasqueton, Brandon, Rowley and Hazleton.

The AMR ambulance service in Independence employs paid staff and is currently funded by Buchanan County, the City of Independence, and BCHC Hospital. A significant portion of this funding comes from ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funds, which are set to expire in 2025.

Jesup and Fairbank have crews that volunteer 100% of their time to staff their ambulances.

Both cities' ambulances are staffed with EMTs (emergency medical technicians), AEMTs (advanced emergency medical technicians), paramedics, and nurses (who provide paramedic-level care). Both services are funded by their city government.

All other communities in Buchanan County rely on first responders to respond to 911 calls. Since these communities do not have an ambulance service within their city, these responders act as the initial medical care providers, offering crucial aid until ambulance services arrive on scene. These first responders are trained primarily as EMR (emergency medical responders) and EMTs (emergency medical technicians). These volunteers respond to the scene of a wide range of medical and trauma situations. Some of these call types could be lift assists, car accidents, heart attacks and farming accidents. Many times these volunteers in rural communities will be on scene for 15-25 minutes stabilizing the patient and providing medical care prior to the ambulance arriving.

Four years ago, the ambulance service in Independence operated at no cost to the communities, as the expenses were entirely covered by 911 calls (insurance reimbursements) and Buchanan County Hospital transfers. Today, however, the annual cost has risen to \$500,000. The gap between insurance reimbursement and operation costs are becoming greater.

Recently, we have observed a decline in our EMS volunteer numbers.

These dedicated individuals commit to:

- Being on call 24/7, 365 days a year
- Commit to obtaining their EMT / AEMT / Paramedic Certification and maintain this certification. To maintain this certification, EMS personnel need between 20-60 hours of continuing education every 2 years.
- Attend monthly training. Also, throughout the year, EMS personnel perform skill maintenance; this includes performance competencies.
- First Responders and Volunteer personnel use their personal vehicles and sometimes resources to respond to 911 calls, using their own gas and vehicle.
- As it stands, some EMS personnel frequently cover expenses out of pocket for essential training and certifications aimed at renewing their certification or enhancing their proficiency.

Buchanan County EMS and Ambulance services respond to over 1,500 emergency 911 calls annually. As the costs to operate and maintain equipment continue to escalate, and volunteers become increasingly harder to find, it has become imperative to secure funding for EMS services in Buchanan County. This funding will ensure that all citizens have access to trained EMS providers equipped to respond promptly and effectively. We are proposing a tax levy of \$0.75 per \$1,000 of assessed property value, which is expected to generate \$975,000 in revenue.

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Buchanan County EMS Plan for

Independence – Rowley – Quasqueton – Winthrop – Lamont – Aurora- Stanley – Brandon – Hazleton
(Budget - \$740,000)

Given that Independence is the largest metropolitan area in Buchanan County and home to the Buchanan County Hospital, it is logical to house the ambulance service on site, at the hospital. This arrangement fosters a necessary partnership between both entities, ensuring a close working relationship between BCHC and the ambulance service. Additionally, it minimizes the time and travel required for the 450-plus patient transfers from BCHC to other facilities each year.

1. \$500K per year will be needed to support the Ambulance Service, this service would consist of 2 crews and 2 ambulances ready to go at all times.
2. 30K per year is needed to for tuition, books and supplies, this will cover the cost of 10 new EMTs per year, the goal is for each town to have a minimum of 3 EMTs within 3 years
3. 50K per year will be needed to supply active EMTs with jump bags that they can carry with them daily allowing them to respond directly to the scene saving valuable minutes
4. 32K per year will be need to supply monthly training for all EMS responders
5. 60K per year is needed to help offset the cost of Volunteer First Responders responding to 911 calls (800 calls per year x 3 EMS attending per call x \$25 per person =56K)
6. 68K per year will be used for larger capital items like monitors, AEDs etc.

\$500,000	Independence Ambulance Service Annual Budget
\$30,000	Tuition, Books, Supplies
\$50,000	Jump Bags, First Responder equipment
\$32,000	Monthly Training
\$60,000	Stipends for First Responders
\$68,000	Capital Items Examples: Monitors, AED Machines
\$740,000	Total

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**Buchanan County EMS Plan for Jesup Ambulance Service
(Budget - \$169,000)**

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Buchanan County EMS Plan for Fairbank Ambulance Service

(Budget - \$66,000)