

EMS ESSENTIAL SERVICE LEVY

The EMS levy will provide supporting funds to EMS services in Buchanan County to ensure sustainable, reliable, high-quality emergency medical care.

WHY IS THE ESSENTIAL SERVICE LEVY NEEDED?

The current state of EMS in Buchanan County is NOT sustainable. Rising call volumes, aging volunteers, rising costs of training, continuing education requirements, and rising costs of equipment severely hinder EMS services' ability to adequately respond to your medical emergency.

HOW WILL THE ESSENTIAL SERVICE LEVY MAKE EMS SUSTAINABLE?

This levy would provide funding to assist EMS services by:

- Creating a county-owned ambulance service that will serve the districts currently covered by AMR Ambulance.
- Helping cover EMS certification and continuing education costs
- Helping purchase capital EMS equipment, as well as ambulances/first responder apparatus.
- Helping provide stipends to incentivize citizens to join EMS services and offset costs incurred during a response (i.e. time, fuel, etc)

HOW DOES THIS RELATE TO YOUR PROPERTY?

(TAXABLE VALUATIONS)

- \$100,000 property at \$0.75 per \$1,000 = \$75.00
- \$200,000 property at \$0.75 per \$1,000 = \$150.00
- \$238,000* property at \$0.75 per \$1,000 = \$178.50
- \$250,000 property at \$0.75 per \$1,000 = \$187.50
- \$500,000 property at \$0.75 per \$1,000 = \$375.00

*MEDIAN PROPERTY VALUE IN BUCHANAN COUNTY



WHAT IS THE LEVY RATE?

The Essential Service Levy is a property tax at a rate of \$0.75 per \$1,000 of taxable valuations.

DON'T MY TAXES ALREADY GO TO SUPPORT EMS?

- No, not directly. There are currently no county taxes that go to support EMS agencies. Individual cities supply their agencies with city funding but these funds are not capable of supporting the needs of these agencies.
- A common misconception is that the Buchanan County Health Center tax pays for the ambulance. This is incorrect. The Buchanan County Health Center supports the ambulance by housing the ambulances and staff, but do not directly financially support ambulance operations.
- There are also no state or federal taxes that go to support local EMS agencies. In 2021, the State of Iowa changed Code 422D to allow for this specific tax to be an option for counties to use.

DID YOU KNOW...?

...THERE ARE 3 AMBULANCE SERVICES BASED IN BUCHANAN COUNTY?

- FAIRBANK AMBULANCE SERVES THE CITY OF FAIRBANK ALONG WITH THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF BUCHANAN COUNTY.
- JESUP AMBULANCE SERVES THE CITY OF JESUP ALONG WITH THE WEST CENTRAL AND SOUTHWEST PORTIONS OF BUCHANAN COUNTY,
- AMR AMBULANCE CONTRACTS WITH THE CITY OF INDEPENDENCE WHILE ALSO SERVING THE COMMUNITIES OF AURORA, BRANDON, HAZLETON, LAMONT, QUASQUETON, ROWLEY, STANLEY, AND WINTHROP.

...JESUP AND FAIRBANK ARE STAFFED 100% BY VOLUNTEERS?

- IN 2024, JESUP RESPONDED TO 302 MEDICAL CALLS AND FAIRBANK RESPONDED TO 99 MEDICAL CALLS. ON AVERAGE, EACH MEDICAL CALL TAKES 2 HOURS. THAT MEANS THESE CAREGIVERS SPENT 802 HOURS HELPING THEIR COMMUNITIES WITH NO COMPENSATION OF THEIR TIME, FUEL, ETC. ADDITIONALLY, THAT DOES NOT ACCOUNT FOR THE HOURS THEY SPEND TRAINING EACH MONTH OR THE COMMUNITY EVENTS THEY STANDBY FOR.

...THE COSTS OF CERTIFICATION COURSES ARE RISING?

ON AVERAGE, EMS CERTIFICATION COURSES COST:

- EMR = \$1,000 PER PERSON
- EMT = \$2,000 PER PERSON
- AEMT = \$2,750 PER PERSON
- PARAMEDIC = \$15,000 PER PERSON

...THE COSTS OF EMS EQUIPMENT IS RISING?

- EMS JUMP BAG = \$1,000 EACH (JUST BAG, NO SUPPLIES)
- AEDS = \$2,000 EACH
- COT/STRETCHER = \$37,000
- POWERLOAD SYSTEM = \$32,000
- HEART MONITOR = \$40,000
- VENTILATOR = \$30,000
- AMBULANCE = \$300,000 (BASE PRICE: NO EQUIPMENT, COT, OR POWERLOAD

...EMS PROVIDERS NEED CONTINUING EDUCATION?

EVERY TWO YEARS EMS PROVIDERS HAVE TO RENEW THEIR CERTIFICATION WITH THE IOWA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND OBTAIN THE MINIMUM NUMBER OF CONTINUING EDUCATION HOURS FOR THEIR CERTIFICATION LEVEL.

- EMR = 8 HOURS
- EMT = 20 HOURS
- AEMT = 25 HOURS
- PARAMEDIC = 30 HOURS

WANT TO LEARN MORE?

SPEAK WITH MEMBERS OF YOUR LOCAL
EMS SERVICE AND ASK THEM HOW THIS
LEVY WILL HELP YOUR COMMUNITY
AND

USE THE QR CODE TO VISIT OUR FACEBOOK PAGE TO:

- FIND MEETING DATES TO DISCUSS THE ESSENTIAL SERVICE LEVY
- LEARN INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT LOCAL EMS SERVICES
- STAY UP-TO-DATE WITH EMS IN BUCHANAN COUNTY
- AND MUCH MORE!

