



WHAT IS ESSENTIALSERVICE?

Essential services are basic services that are critical to the health, safety, and well-being of a community. These services are necessary for daily life and societal functioning. Since EMS is currently not classified as an essential service, responses to EMS requests cannot be guaranteed.

TYPES OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES:

- **Advanced Life Support (ALS)** - typically delivered by paramedics and advanced providers trained to perform complex interventions including cardiac care, airway management, establish IVs, medication administration, trauma care, etc.
- **Basic Life Support (BLS)**- provide essential, non-invasive prehospital care for medical or trauma emergencies. Delivered by EMTs or first responders, BLS focuses on stabilizing patients and ensuring safe transport to healthcare facilities.
- **First Responders:** - Quickly evaluate hazards and ensure the and safety concerns, provide immediate care to sustain life, such as CPR, airway management, and bleeding control, relay critical information to dispatch centers and other emergency personnel.



WEBSTER CO. HAS INCREASED NEEDS

WHAT WE WERE

(AS RECENT AS 5 YEARS AGO)

- **4 BLS Services:**
 - Clare, Vincent, Dayton, Gowrie
- **1 ALS Service:**
 - Trinity greater Fort Dodge
- **Less than 4,000 calls per year in Webster County**

WHAT WE ARE NOW

- **2 BLS Services:**
 - Dayton, Gowrie
 - SW Webster EMS (BLS): Serves Southwest Webster County
 - Dayton EMS (BLS): Serves Southeast Webster County
- **1 ALS Service: Fort Dodge**
 - Fort Dodge Fire Rescue (ALS): Staffed by EMS and Fire/EMS Personnel
 - Covers North Webster County
- **More than 5,000 calls per year in Webster County**

FIRST RESPONDING COMMUNITIES:

Barnum | Lehigh | Duncombe | Otho | Clare | Badger
Callender | Vincent | Harcourt | Moorland

WHY CHANGE IS NEEDED

- Emergency care demand is increasing with the number of calls and level of care required
- Aim: Ensure highest-level care transport within 20 minutes for all residents and 1st responders in each community
- FDFD and current EMS departments are overburdened. We have lost 2 transport services and calls often go unanswered by the primary agency, only to be covered by others out of district

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Annual Support for First Responders:
 - \$10,000 for each of 10 departments (for facilities, equipment, staff, training).
- EMS Coordinator Support:
 - Recruitment, retention, billing, credentialing, and insurance reimbursement assistance.
- Remainder of Tax Revenue:
 - Support training, staffing, and equipment for transport services
 - Approximately 78% of tax revenue would stay in northern Webster County
 - of that, 36% of tax revenue would come from Fort Dodge and stay in Fort Dodge
 - Approximately 12% would come from Southwest Webster (Gowrie) EMS service area and would stay with that service
 - Approximately 10% would come from Dayton EMS service area and would stay with that service

EXPECTED IMPACTS

- Faster response times with consistent coverage and staffing for each transport service
- West-Side FDFD location to improve city and county ALS support
- Revenue source for EMS agencies and accountability for response
- Guaranteed Response to EMS calls

FUNDING RECOMMENDED

- Total: \$1,658,000 estimated annually
- Proposed Property Tax: \$0.75 per \$1,000 of taxable property value (\$75 a year or \$6.25 a month for a property with a taxable value of \$100,000)

ACCOUNTABILITY

- Annual evaluation by the Advisory Council to ensure goals are met.

DECISION DATE: MARCH 4TH, 2025

SHOULD WEBSTER COUNTY MAKE EMS ESSENTIAL?