

# ***EMS Is Essential: VOTE YES – For EMS***

## **Background:**

For the past decade EMS leaders across the state, including Wright County, have been discussing the need for EMS System improvements. Ambulance services have seen declining volunteerism, decreased reimbursements and increased operational costs while at the same time attempting to provide residents and visitors with efficient and effective ambulance services.

Ambulance services in Wright County average approximately 1200 calls for service each year including about 850 9-1-1 calls.

## **An Essential Service:**

In August 2017 the Wright County Board of Supervisors declared EMS an *Essential Service* in Wright County and resolved to exercise the necessary power and functions appropriate to preserve the health, safety and welfare of Wright County residents and provide for an effective and efficient Wright County EMS System that allows for quality prehospital care for persons living, working or traveling in Wright County.

The Board of Supervisors directed the formation of the Wright County EMS System Advisory Council; a multi-discipline group that was tasked to provide guidance, research and direction for the formation of a county-wide EMS System.

## **Mission:**

It is the Mission of the Wright County EMS System to provide timely, consistent and effective care needed for life-threatening injuries and illnesses for persons living, working or traveling in Wright County.

## **Wright County EMS System:**

Wright County is serviced by five transporting ambulance services based in Belmond, Clarion, Eagle Grove, Renwick and Williams. Currently the City of Dows has an agreement for Franklin General Hospital, Hampton to respond to calls for service within the City of Dows.

The Board of Supervisors established agreements with these services to ensure ambulance service to all residents in Wright County.

In addition, the Wright County EMS System Advisory Council utilized the 2017 Iowa EMS System Standards: “What every Iowan can expect from Emergency Medical Services” document as a guideline in developing their proposed new Wright County EMS System.

The new Wright County EMS System will allow the current ambulance services to maintain their identity while at the same time encourage consistent system development and improvement across the county.

The EMS System will include a County EMS Coordinator, County EMS Medical Director, EMS Medical Director Liaison and county-wide EMS protocols.

The Wright County Board of Supervisors support the proposed Wright County EMS System and will offer for voter approval in a Special Election a county-wide special levy to provide the funding necessary to allow for the vehicles, equipment and operational costs necessary to provide consistent, efficient and effective Emergency Medical Services for persons living, working and traveling in Wright County.

## ***Special Election – List Date Here***

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## ***Talking Points For EMS Providers***

- **\$586,652 Taxpayer Funding into the County EMS System**
  - Response Area per square mile payment
  - Vehicle Replacement fund contribution each year
  - Per Rural Call reimbursement payment
  - Increased Funding for training
  - Increased Funding for Equipment needs
  - Increased Funding for Staffing
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- **Services Remain Independent**
  - County-wide EMS System Standards
  - County-wide EMS Medical Direction
  - County-wide EMS Protocols
  - Additional Training – Encouraged to Provide Funds for Staff Retention
  - Paramedic Tier Response available from ISH-Clarion
  - Increased Efficiency – New funds alleviate financial loss services are experiencing
  - Increased Communications
  - Promotes Collaboration & Unity between EMS Services
  - Service Submit Quarterly Reports
  - Staffing Assistance Availability
  - Plan Supported by City / Hospital Administration
- **Public Benefits**
  - Improved Care
  - Improved EMS Response
  - Consistent EMS Staffing
  - Continued EMS Presence at Local Events
  - Accountability of Tax Dollars

***Special Election – List Date Here***