

KOSSUTH COUNTY EMS

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WHAT IS AN ESSENTIAL SERVICE?

Rural communities across Iowa have depended on a combination of employed personnel and volunteers to provide public safety services.

Being an **essential service** means that a portion of the county's taxes may be directed towards the cost of providing this care in our area. The services classified as essential are as follows:

- The Fire Department is an essential service.
- The Police Department is an essential service.
- Emergency Medical Service is not yet an essential service.

EMS QUICK FACTS



AMBULANCE CALLS

- 2021: 1,340
- 2020: 1,150
- 2019: 1,100
- 2018: 1,050



TRANSFERS

- 2021: 316
- 2020: 329
- 2019: 265
- 2018: 247



PERSONNEL

100 current certified/trained staff and volunteers



WHEN YOU CALL 911, WHO WILL ANSWER?

When you call the ambulance, minutes can make a difference. When locally-provided emergency care is not available, the response time grows. The farther a crew has to travel, the longer the wait. For many patients, that time can have a negative impact on care and long-term recovery.

7 of the 12 communities in Kossuth County do not typically have an emergency responders available in town during the day.

BECOMING AN ESSENTIAL SERVICE



County-wide service created

In order to improve effectiveness and overall coverage of emergency care throughout the county, Kossuth County EMS was formed in July of 2020. All services within Kossuth County now share one set of protocols and policies, training plans and director.



Resolution drafted and approved

A resolution about EMS was drafted and adopted by the Kossuth County Board of Supervisors.



EMS Advisory Council established

A Kossuth EMS Advisory Council was formed to assist in researching and assessing the service needs and guiding implementation of the service. This council shall recommend to the Board an amount of funding to be specified on the ballot and if one or more of the taxes are approved at election, shall annually assess, and review the EMS needs of the county, and shall include the results in an annual report filed with the board of supervisors. Annual reports shall be publicly available, and the supervisors shall receive public comment regarding report.



Tax plan proposed for a vote

The question of imposing a tax or combination of taxes shall be provided by publication at least 60 days before the time of election and shall identify the tax or combination of taxes and the rate or rates as applicable. This would require 60% of those voting to pass it.



Next steps

If this vote is included in the November 2022 election, EMS could begin to receive tax dollars in the fiscal year beginning July 2024.



To learn more

To learn more about the process of EMS becoming an essential service, contact Kossuth County EMS at 515-395-3180 or palbers@kossuthcounty.iowa.gov.



EMS ADVISORY COUNCIL

The Kossuth County EMS Advisory Council Mission statement is:

To ensure that all citizens and visitors of Kossuth County have access to all emergency medical services meeting the minimum standards set forth by the state of Iowa and/or Kossuth County ordinance.

Requirements of the council are:

- Research the needs of Kossuth County
- Guide implementation of services in the county within a council structure
- Develop a working budget and present to the board of supervisors
- Annually shall assess and review the emergency medical service system within the county
- Provide an annual report to the board of supervisors

This team includes:

- David Penton, Algona
- Roger Tjarks, Titonka
- Travis Larson, P.A.-c, Algona
- Jody Bierstedt, Whittemore
- Sandee Vaske, Burt
- Jacob Tjaden, Algona
- Phil Albers, Swea City

