

Q. How was the decision to split the tax dollars between districts made?

A. The Board of Supervisors looked at call volume and population for each township and city within the current service districts.

Q. What is the percentage breakdown of valuation, call volume and population for each service area?

A.

Valuation	Population	Call Volume	Service Provider
77%	71%	70%	Panora EMS
15%	22%	23%	Stuart Rescue
8%	7%	7%	Adair Fire & Rescue
100%	100%	100%	TOTAL

Q. What is the role of the Advisory Council?

A. Iowa code dictates the Advisory Council will make recommendations to the board of supervisors on the reimbursements that need to be paid based on the expenses received from each service.

Q. What happens if this doesn't pass?

A1. As a procedure question, the Board of Supervisors would have to determine what the next steps would be. We would basically go back to the drawing board to formulate a new plan or process.

A2. From an EMS provider's funding perspective – it would be up to the providers to determine how they would move forward without the supplemental dollars for their services. That might look different for all three EMS providers.

Q. Why was it decided to place an ambulance in Guthrie Center?

A. When deciding where to put the additional fully staffed ambulance, the Board of Supervisors - along with the EMS Committee - took into consideration call volume and population. Right now, call volume and population are heavily concentrated in the triangle area between Guthrie Center, Panora and Stuart. If we put an ambulance outside of Guthrie Center, that ambulance would be traveling to the Guthrie Center area for 911 calls more than it will travel to other parts of the county. So, it made the most sense to keep it in Guthrie Center. Also, we wanted the ambulance in the city of Guthrie so that when there are calls up north to the Bayard / Bagley area and out west to Union or Bear Grove Township, response times will be reduced, and an ambulance can get there faster than having to come from Panora. That, and right now there is no place to keep an ambulance and crew for multiple shifts outside of Guthrie Center. Building something would cost a significant amount of money.

Q. What can the tax money be used for?

A. The funds collected from this tax can only be used for EMS related needs. They can be used in a variety of ways like helping offset personnel expenses such as wages, overtime and benefits, or be used for training or other EMS-related educational opportunities for EMS staff or volunteers or be used for large or small equipment needs.

It's important to remember that these funds are reimbursements and that the Advisory Council is an additional layer of oversight before anything comes to the Board of Supervisors for final approval.

Q. How will this proposal ensure that response times are reasonable and there are responders available?

A. The funding will help ensure our EMS providers can recruit and retain EMS employees or provide other benefits to the EMS providers if they are an all-volunteer service. Placing an additional ambulance in Guthrie Center will not only offer an additional, fully staffed ambulance in the county to help with response times should one of the existing ambulances be on a call or out of service, but the proximity of that ambulance to the western portions of the county will also help reduce response times to those outlying areas.