

Draft Proposal for EMS Services/ in Guthrie County

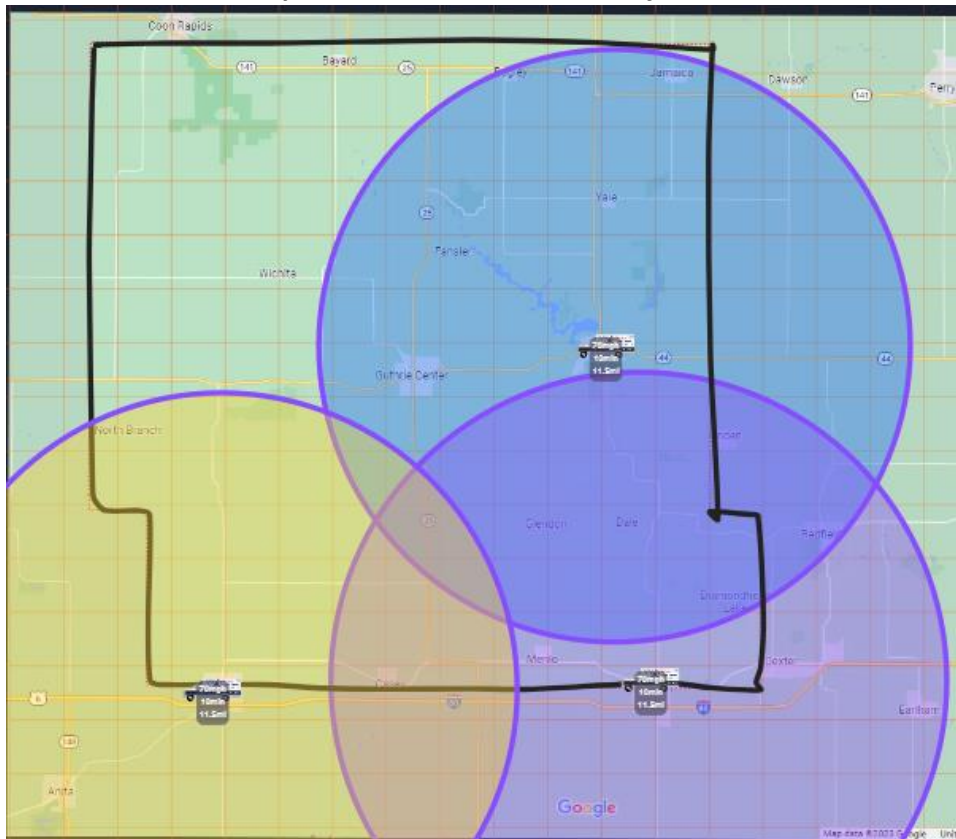
Purpose:

To provide the best coverage of EMS Services for all residents in Guthrie County, move the financial liability that is currently with cities to the county level, and to develop and reinforce an EMS model that is sustainable long-term to best support and protect all residents in Guthrie County as it grows and changes.

Current Challenges

- Large area of uncovered territory in the western part of Guthrie County.
 - o No obligation (except through 28Es) by the cities to cover this territory and protect these citizens.
- Long response times for uncovered area and while ambulances are transporting patients out of county leading to worse patient outcomes.
- Financially unsustainable burdens on cities causing stress on city budgets.
 - o Potential financial loss to cities (even when minimally reimbursed) to provide coverage out of their primary service area.
- Lack of in-county EMS personnel and first responder groups.
- Lack of consistent protocols and equipment.

Current Ambulance response area within 10 minutes from stations



Proposed EMS Services timeline for Guthrie County Residents

Year 0-3 (Calendar year 2024 to 2028)

- Establish and approve a county wide EMS tax.
- Develop and define and ongoing EMS “board” to oversee the EMS system, including distribution of resources and funds.
- Hire EMS coordinator for the County.
- Initiate 28E agreement with existing ambulance services for county subsidization of operational expenses (transporting services will still bill for services) and to facilitate adding additional on duty crews and roster depth.
- Develop and initiate 28E agreements with neighboring counties/districts/services to specify response zones and mutual aid interactions.
- Develop and initiate a 28E agreement with Guthrie County Hospital to specify expectations for transports and (if) any personnel assistance in the hospital.
- Align Medical Direction under single Countywide Medical Director.
- Align all ambulance services protocols and equipment.
- Initiate a county wide training program.
- Develop, grow, and/or support EMS first responders within fire departments in every town, township, or fire district and tie them back to county services to alleviate administrative strain at the fire department level.

Year 4 and 5 (2029 and 2030)

- Align billing and all administrative functions under county service.
- Develop long term 28E agreements with cities and associated entities to keep ambulances in place and pay for use of facilities/equipment along with hiring all EMS staff under new countywide service.

Year 5-10 continued taxes for countywide service (2031 and beyond)

- Replace, purchase, and upgrade equipment to county equipment.
- Reassess number of on-duty ambulances and crews, and placement thereof, to best support county needs.