Minutes for Guthrie County EMS Advisory Council

Chairman Mark Laughery; Vice Chairman Tim McDermott; Secretary Jotham Arber

March 27, 2023 EMS meeting

**COUNCIL MEMBERS – X by name was present at the meeting**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Matt Richter, Adair EMS | YES | Alexi Olsen, Panora EMS | YES | Sean Bovinett, Stuart Rescue |  |
| Amanda Waltz, GC Hospital | YES | Jeremy Cooper, GC EMA | YES | Mike Dickson, Supervisor | YES |
| JD Kuster, Supervisor | YES | Jotham Arber, GC Public Health | YES | Tim McDermott NE Region | YES |
| Don Schwartz, NW Region | YES | Tammy Bireline, SW Region | YES | Mark Laughery, Central Reg | YES |
| Stacy Richter, SE Region |  | Julie Neilsen, Bayard EMS |  |  |  |

**Guests** – Pat Parker, Jo Rasmussen, Levi Johnson,

**Call to Order -**  Mark Laughery, Chairman opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

**Roll Call of Council members via sign in sheet**

**Approve Agenda** – Motion by Kuster seconded by McDermott to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

**Ask for public opinion** – none at this time

**Approve March 27, 2023 minutes**

* Motion by McDermott seconded by Schwartz to approve minutes. Motion carried.

**Review EMS Coverage Goals**

1. Ambulance Services
2. Decrease response time
3. First Responders

**Presentation from the Sub-Committee meetings**

* The subcommittee presented a five-year plan for County Wide EMS. The first portion of the plan would be to hire an EMS Coordinator and work on getting the strike vehicles in place. This plan would allow the current EMS services in Adair, Panora and Stuart to maintain their EMS services. The county would be responsible for EMS coordinator, Strike Team costs and operational expenses.
* The model is not to take away from any services but to increase service coverage and response time.
* Partnership with the Guthrie County Hospital to include them with possible of purchasing power, assist with coverage in medical supplies and medicines. Sharing training cost with the hospital.
* 1st phase would be in the investment stage – would be to hire the EMS coordinator, purchase vehicles and policies. This position would work with providers and cities. Standardize services with procedures done in the first couple of years.
* Dates and meetings will probably need to be worked out with county attorney’s, dates for the elections, and medical providers. Negotiate with the cities to supply their ambulance.
* Long term goals would be to develop something sustainable then the transition would be a county wide services.

**Discussion**

* Where would the strike vehicles be placed if 2 vehicles were purchased.
  + Bayard area would be a good place to put a strike vehicle.
  + Another idea of Adair area or central location.
  + A suggestion would be to put a “spare” ambulance in the Bayard instead of a strike vehicle. This would allow billing to be done on behalf of the County wide EMS. Doing this would help with the start-up costs.
  + There is a difference in the cost of insurance between the ambulance and strike vehicles.
* Concerns about the Orange Township
* Difference between
  + 24/7 has staff we have to provide a station with sleeping quarters, kitchens, a building
  + 12/7 shifts we don’t need to have sleeping quarters, kitchens.
  + If you have people on call do you pay them to be on call pay?
* Strike vehicle could be staffed by someone at their own residents and then pay on call. Especially in the western part of the county.
* 16 townships would fall into the EMS services.

**Funding and Taxing suggestions**

* Arber gave an estimate of $704,726 would if property taxes are chosen. This would be if a 75 cent levy would be applied.
* Suggestion on billing for lift assist would be bring revenue. Suggestion for $100.00 per assist.
* Medicare and Medicaid provider – EMS can’t bill above what they pay.
* How to sell it to the public to vote on the consolidation
* There is some grant funding for possible EMS pilot project for the state
* Is there federal funding or state for system development for EMS county wide.
* Rural services would serve 60% of the funding of taxes.

**Discuss/Action/Questions**

* March before seeing any funding – year one would be over
* 2nd year would have your initial phase – sprint car, director
* 3rd year look at the transitions
* 5th year it would up and running
* BOS would vote in July to put it in November, 2023. Concern about the timeline being too fast. No fixed CEO at the hospital currently.
* Still haven’t heard from Stuart city council, Panora city council and Adair County. We want to make sure the city know they are not losing their EMS.
* Are we ready? We need to take time to do this correct.
* Arber will start working on resources to shore up services and get this project started.
* Set target date for election by the public for November 2024 – and take it to BOS in July 2024.
* Motion by McDermott and seconded by Cooper to get the vote on the 2024 ballet. Motion carried.
* Subcommittee could still work on the research for funding.

**Discuss/Action**

* Date/Time of next meeting – May 22, 2023 7 pm
* Next meeting how the funding would be broken in the Stuart area for the 75 cents area.
* How to get neighboring counties to help cover Stuart, Adair.
* Financial summary and where the strike vehicles would be placed to show next meeting. Job description for the coordinator.

Meeting closed at 8:35 p.m. Schwartz motion seconded McDermott to adjourn. Motion carried.