

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS PROPOSED DAVISON & HANSON AMBULANCE DISTRICT:

How many ambulance calls have you done outside of the city of Mitchell?

Year 2023 193 total calls. Davison County 111 Hanson County. 82

Year 2024 208 total. Davison 125. Hanson - 83

How is the ambulance paid for right now?

- Currently the ambulance is fully funded by the City of Mitchell tax dollars. Hanson County also pays \$5,000 every year to this service.

We pay our ambulance bill - how are they short money?

-When you are billed for an ambulance service, it is turned into your insurance company, medicare or medicaid. The ambulance service is contracted with Medicare and Medicaid so it does not get full payment. For example, an ambulance could cost \$1800. Through Medicare we will get paid 38% and Medicaid we get paid 26%. As an average on all calls, we receive 38% of the bill back to us. It is not a money making service.

Why do we need to pay for ambulance service now?

- The call volume has increased over the years to be more and more medical calls with the ambulance going out of town every other day to answer calls. The City of Mitchell is not having coverage because of the out of town call volume. **The City of Mitchell said effective January 1, 2026 they will stop coming out of city limits unless there is way to fund 6 more employees to help cover.**

How much money do they want and what for?

-\$700,000 is the total amount which will pay for 6 employees. This covers their payroll, benefits, gear, and training.

Will the city of Mitchell need more than the \$700,000?

-The city of Mitchell is not asking for funding for ambulances, overhead, or other items. It is strictly for hiring additional 6 employees to help cover out of town calls.

Will you find enough employees to fill this position

-YES - we currently have a wait list of people waiting to come work for us.

Is there a date we have to know by?

-THERE IS A PUBLIC VOTE **APIRL 22nd** that is a YES or NO to create an ambulance district. YES would give you ambulance protection and a tax levy to pay for the \$700,000. No vote would give EVERYONE in Davison and Hanson county NO AMBULANCE.

ABSENTEE VOTING HAS STARTED MARCH 10TH - GO VOTE NOW.

Can you really not come to us for ambulance service?

-As hard as it is to believe...yes. Ambulance is not an essential service. (Police and fire are). We are not required by state law to give ambulance service. You literally will have NO AMBULANCE

Who is affected by proposed district?

-All of Davison County (except those that live in City of Mitchell city limits) and all of Hanson County except a few sections on the south side by New Elm Colony (They are already in the Parkston Ambulance District)

What is our other option?

-The most feasible way is to create an ambulance district. It is the hard truth that you either VOTE YES to create a tax levy to pay for the additional employees which continues ambulance coverage outside of Mitchell city limits OR Vote No and literally have no ambulance service in those two counties. Options to create your own ambulance system would be over 4x this amount and the work of managing the system.

What can Mitchell Ambulance give us vs creating our own ambulance?

-Mitchell ambulance has 4 ambulances ready to go at the station with employees there waiting for your call. They are an Advanced Life Support service which means they can do almost anything in the back of the ambulance that they can do the first 15 minutes in the ER. If you create your own ambulance, you may have Basic Life Support service (limited abilities) with people having a delay in response time because they have the time to get to the ambulance station.

How do we fund this?

-The way to fund this is by creating an ambulance district for Davison and Hanson county. This would create an ambulance board that would determine what the tax levy would be. State Statute 34-11A-19 says that it has to be done by a general tax levy against all taxable real property located within the district.

Why can't our local department just take us to the hospital?

-Local fire departments can not transfer. They are not licensed or insured as a transport service and it is literally illegal for them to transport. They can help you get out of a fire, but once it becomes a medical issue they can NOT transport.

How much will this cost me?

The formula is this:

$$\underline{\text{TAXABLE VALUATION} \times \text{LEVY (per \$1,000)} = \text{ANNUAL TAX YOU PAY}}$$

EXAMPLE: \$100,000 x .00040 = \$40.00 per year

**NOTE: The levy amount will be set by the newly created ambulance board.*

WHEN is the vote and WHO can vote?

-The vote is APRIL 22ND and the registered voters in Davison and Hanson county can vote. Voters in the City of Mitchell can NOT vote on this.

Where do I vote?

-Hanson County votes at the County Courthouse. Davison county votes at your polling place in either Davison 4H Building, Mount Vernon or Ethan.

What can I do to help????

We need your help to get the word out. Talk to your neighbors, talk to your church, coffee people. Help us spread the word to get people informed.

YES VOTE - YES AMBULANCE NO VOTE - NO AMBULANCE

HELP US HELP YOU!