

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
**RESOLUTION 24-112**  
**RESOLUTION DECLARING EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES TO BE AN**  
**ESSENTIAL SERVICE**

**WHEREAS**, the Buchanan County Board of Supervisors has the authority under Iowa Code 331.301(1) to “...exercise any power and perform any function it deems appropriate to protect and preserve the rights, privileges, and property of the county or of its residents, and to preserve and improve the peace, safety, health, welfare, comfort, and convenience of its residents”; and

**WHEREAS**, Buchanan County supports EMS to its residents and seeks to provide Emergency Medical Services to all its citizens and visitors; and

**WHEREAS**, ensuring efficient and effective EMS coverage is essential for maintaining the health and welfare of its residents; and

**WHEREAS**, the Buchanan County Board of Supervisors recognizes the importance of maintaining and advancing the level of care, capability, and coverage of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) in Buchanan County; and

**WHEREAS**, on June 9, 2021, Iowa Senate File 615 was signed into law by Governor Reynolds, amending Iowa Code Section 422D.1, giving Iowa Counties the ability to declare EMS an essential service for their respective county, thereby making it possible for counties to propose additional funding sources for EMS to the county’s voters at an election.

**WHEREAS**, Buchanan County Board of Supervisors, on November 25, 2024, directed that notice of the first, second and third public hearings to consider this resolution be made and any other actions be taken as necessary to proceed with the process under Iowa Code Section 422D.1 to declare EMS to be an essential county service.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Buchanan County Board of Supervisors, that: Emergency Medical Services (EMS) is hereby declared an essential service in and for Buchanan County, Iowa, and the Buchanan County Board of Supervisors will exercise the necessary power and functions appropriate to preserve the health, safety, and welfare of Buchanan County residents and provide for an effective and efficient Buchanan County Emergency Medical Services (EMS) System that allows for quality care for the persons living, working or traveling in Buchanan County, Iowa. Exercising said necessary power and function includes, but is not limited to, the establishment of a Buchanan County emergency medical services advisory council and the proposition of a local option income surtax and/or ad valorem property tax to fund EMS to be voted upon by Buchanan County voters.

**NOW, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that adoption of this resolution will allow 1) For an election to be offered for voter approval of an ad valorem property tax not to exceed seventy-five cents per one thousand dollars of assessed value for EMS and 2) The creation of a county emergency medical services system advisory council to assist in researching / assessing the service

needs of the county and guide implementation of the same under Iowa Code Section 422D.1.

**NOW, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, if a proposition to fund EMS through either a local option surtax or ad valorem property tax, or some combination thereof, fails to receive a favorable vote by at least sixty percent of those voting on the question, this resolution shall be deemed null and void.

**NOW, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the Buchanan County Board of Supervisors will hold public hearing regarding declaring EMS as an essential service in Buchanan County will be held December 9, 16 and 23 at 9:20 am.

**HEREBY RESOLVED** by the Board of Supervisors for Buchanan County, Iowa, on this 25<sup>th</sup> day of November 2024.