

EMS: ESSENTIAL SERVICES

IDA COUNTY - 2023

CORRECTIONVILLE

HOLSTEIN
AMB/WASHTA FR

HOLSTEIN
AMB/GALVA FR

CUSHING

HOLSTEIN

SCHALLER

BATTLE
CREEK

IDA GROVE

IDA GROVE
AMB/ARTHUR FR

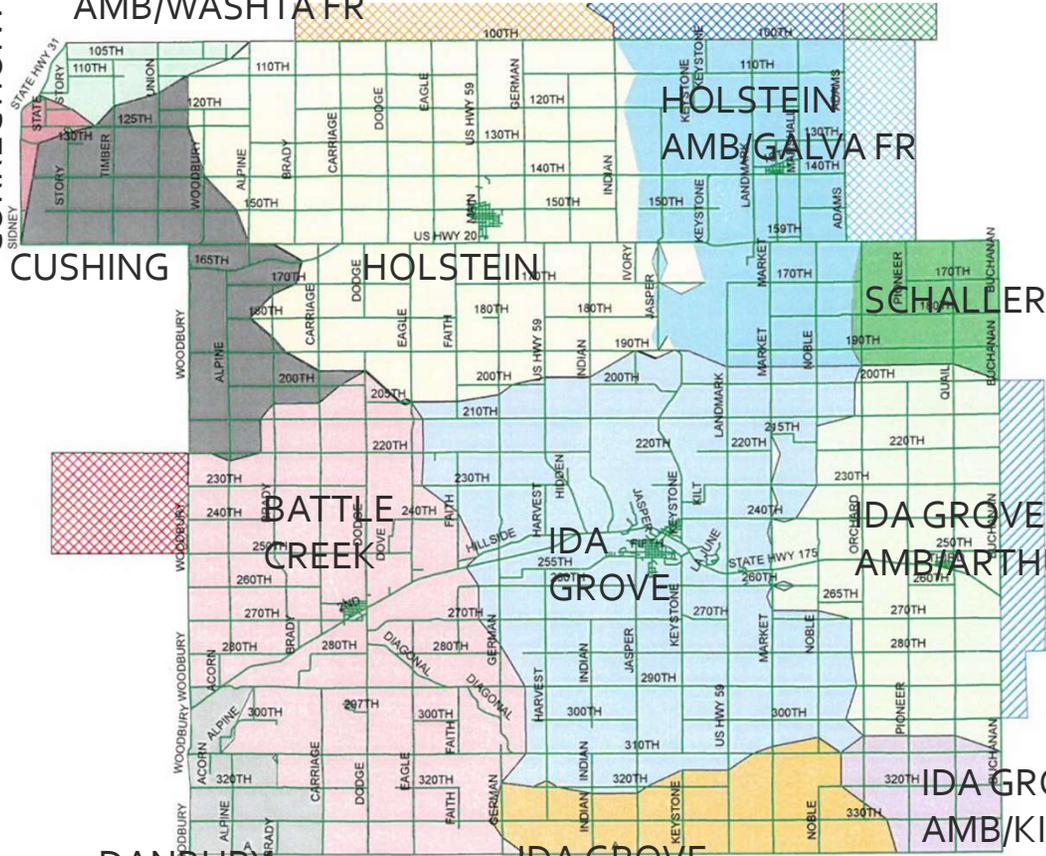
DANBURY

IDA GROVE
AMB/SCHLESWIG FR

IDA GROVE
AMB/KIRON FR

CURRENT IDA COUNTY EMS SYSTEM

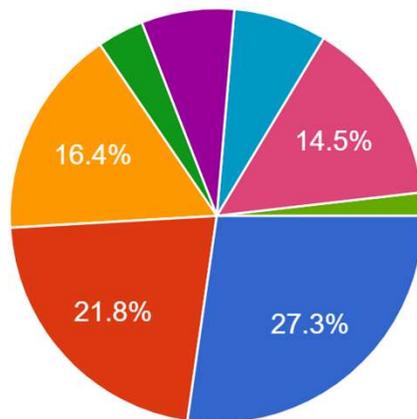
IDA COUNTY EMS ALSO RESPONDS MONDAY-FRIDAY 8a-5p COUNTYWIDE



SURVEY RESULTS – EMS PROVIDERS

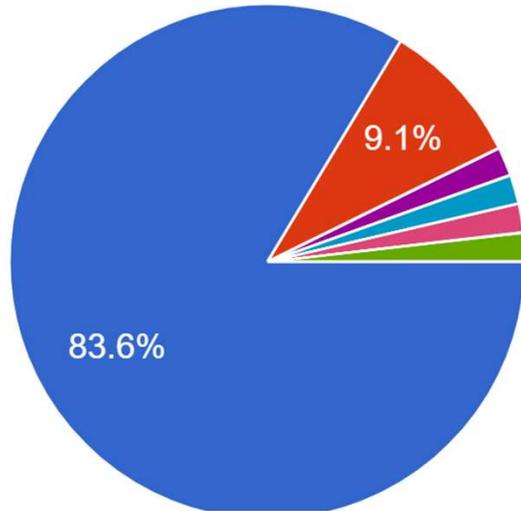
Which agency do you belong to?

55 responses



- Ida Grove Ambulance 15
- Holstein Fire & Ambulance 12
- Battle Creek Ambulance 9
- Galva First Responders 2
- Arthur EMRs 4
- Out of County First Responder Service that provides service in Ida County 4
- Out of County Ambulance Service that provides service in Ida County 8
- ALS transfer RN 1

55 responses

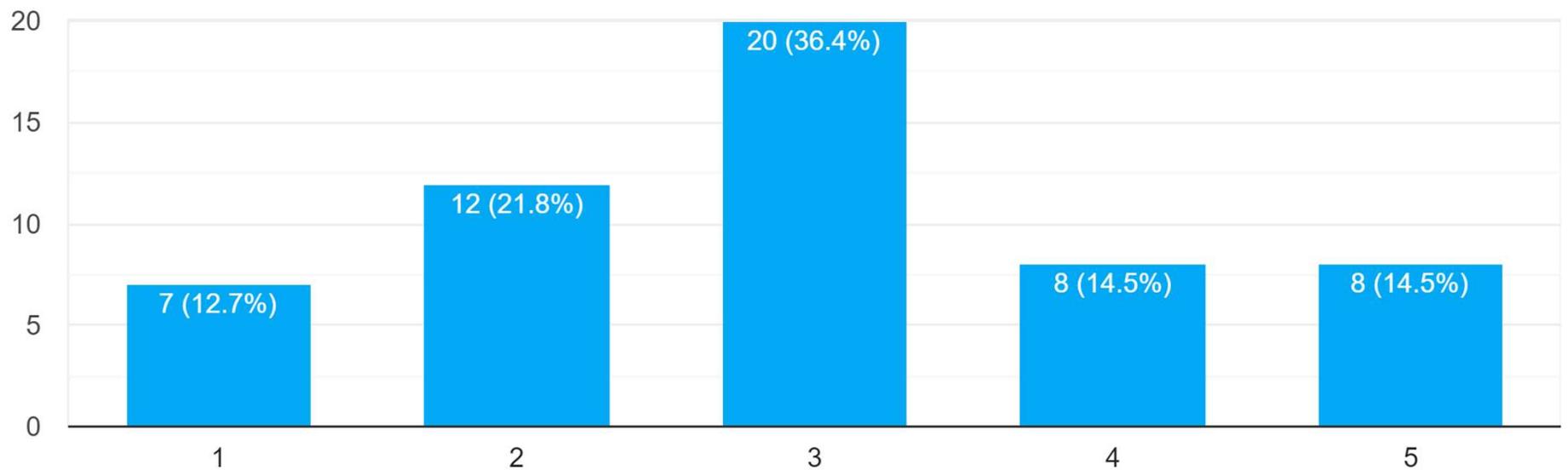


- Lack of volunteers/ staffing shortage and burnout 46
- Major equipment purchases 5 (ambulances/etc)
- Initial EMS Training Expense/Accessi... 0
- EMS Continuing Education Training/A... 0
- General Funding 1
- Getting members to attend meetings a... 1
- Both 1&5 1
- Lack of Volunteers/staffing issues/bur... 1

GREATEST CHALLENGE

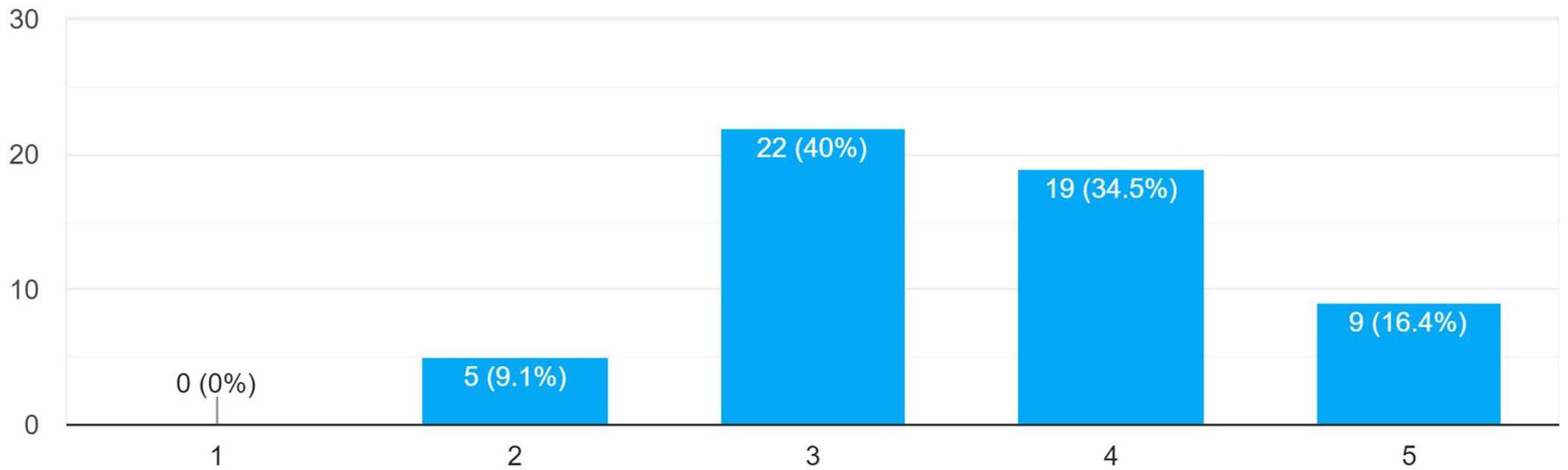
How would you rate local EMS initial training opportunities (example: availability of EMT class?)

55 responses



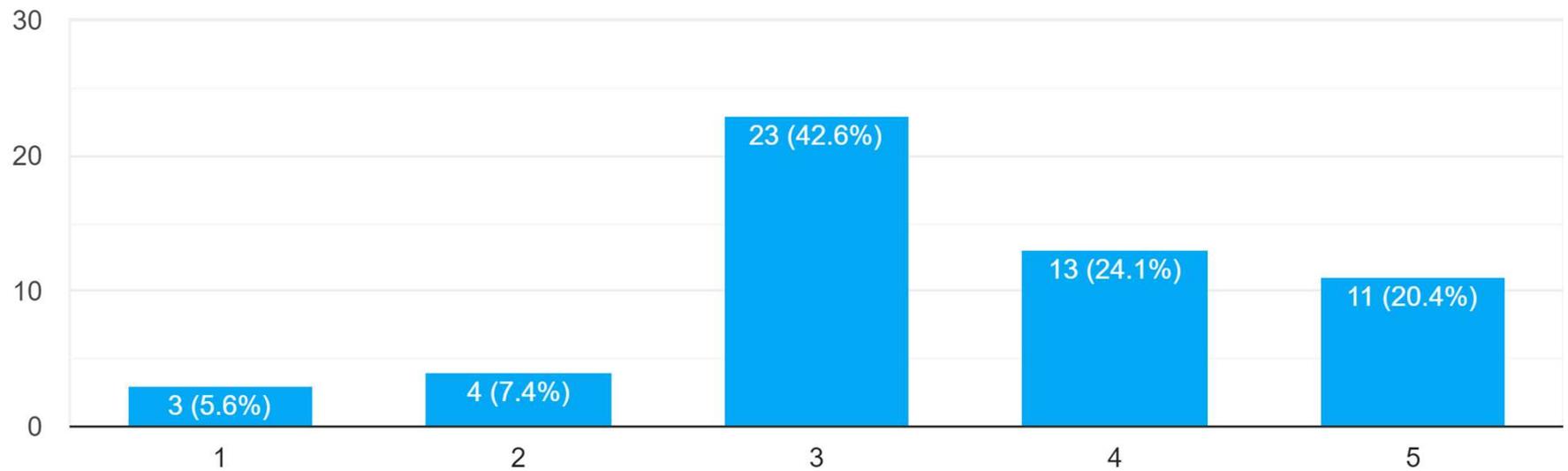
How would you rate local EMS continuing education opportunities?

55 responses



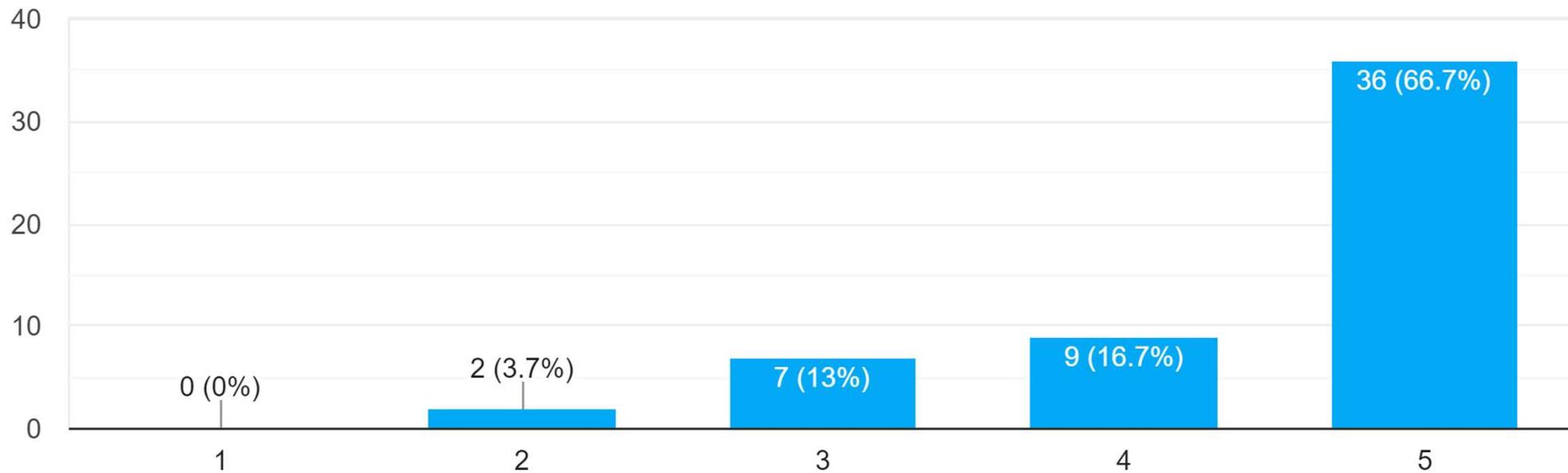
In your opinion, is your EMS agency financially secure and able to support long term operations?

54 responses



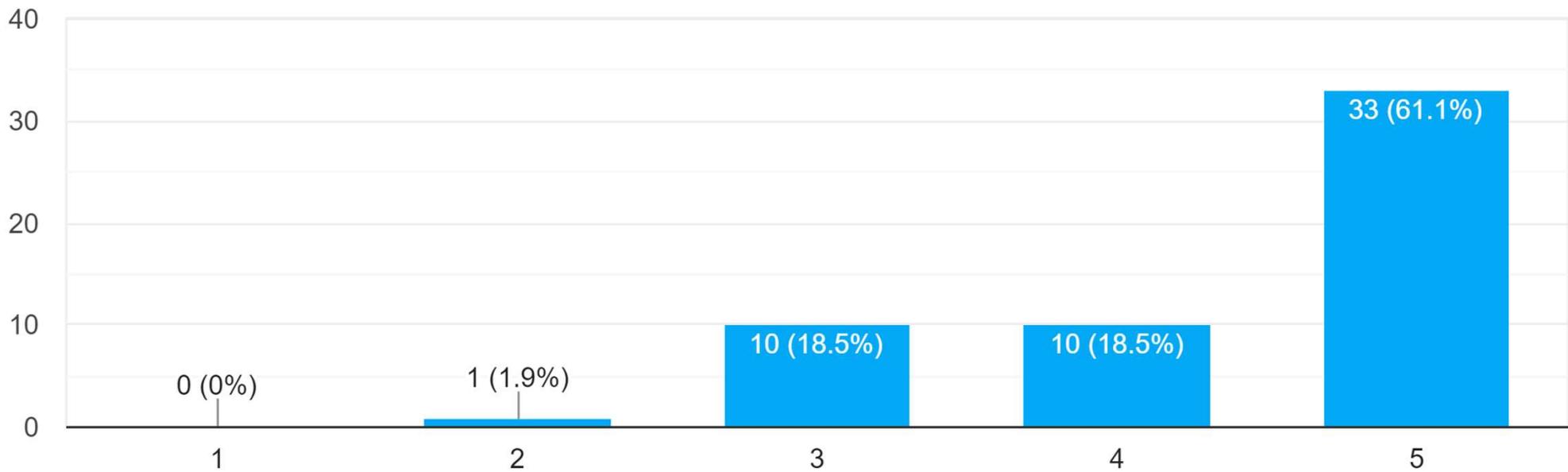
Ida County CURRENTLY has an ALS level responder on Monday-Friday 8am-5pm. Does this service help your agency respond effectively to emergencies?

54 responses



Would having a county Paramedic or AEMT on duty 24/7 (instead of just Monday-Friday 8-5) be a benefit to your agency?

54 responses



DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENTS REGARDING THE ESSENTIAL SERVICE LEVY?

- EMS should be an essential service just like fire departments and be funded by the state or county.
- EMS needs to be essential and funded. I am burnt out. We run a skeleton crew most of the time. We need help.
- Would like more clarity
- While staffing shortages are an issue mostly during the day, they also begin in the middle of the night when EMTs and drivers won't respond because they need to work in the morning. If the levy can allow the EMS service to run 24/7, the entire county wins.
- How much is it gonna cost in taxes per year
- I don't think you should count out Emt basic
- 24/7 Paramedics/AEMT would be an amazing benefit to Ida County!
- They need to do it!!
- Do it now
- Never heard of it

DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENTS ON THE CURRENT IDA COUNTY EMS SERVICE?

- Would be awesome to have a whole ambulance!
- Great people who do everything they possibly can to ensure services continue.
- The service is nice and very helpful but emergencies happen 24/7 not just during the day.
- We have used the service once (heading to Ida Grove with a patient who became unstable). The paramedic was amazing. It is a good service to offer.
- The current ALS 8-5 county wide EMS is an awesome asset to our small community!
- Everyone is working hard but with everyone having jobs and family it's hard to staff volunteer positions.
- If going to this all level should have a chance at a job with the AEMT or Paramedic
- True blessing!! It's helped our department out immensely! Even if we have enough volunteers many of them work outside of ida county and are unavailable for many of our calls.
- I greatly appreciate this service and hope it continues and expands.
- Great 🙌
- They are outstanding
- We need a 24/7 County EMS service
- It works very well
- Need better training on documentations, and how to use equipment ie: zoll/ lifepack

DO YOU HAVE ANY AREAS OF CONCERN AND/OR COMMENTS THAT WERE NOT ADDRESSED IN THIS SURVEY?

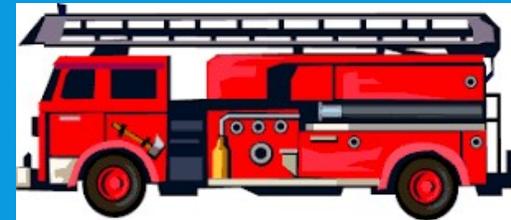
- Why does Ida Grove ambulance have 2 ambulances, but does not staff it? Better to sell it and put money in to paying staff or training/equipment.
- No
- The amount of calls we have in a year
- The lack of respect & bullying from upper management to some volunteers on our services, and they carelessness in running the county service.

NOTE THAT THIS WAS AN OUT OF COUNTY RESPONSE THAT ANSWERED QUESTION #2: Lack of Volunteers/staffing issues/burnout & carelessness by upper management in our agency (outside of Ida County.)

- No additional concerns, but staffing needs to be the main priority in my opinion. We cannot continue to function with the staff we have available.
- No.
- none

LAW ENFORCEMENT AND FIRE PROTECTION

- Municipal fire protection required - Iowa Code 346.12
- Fire Districts – Iowa Code 357B



- Municipal police protection required – Iowa Code 368, Iowa Supreme Court Decision State ex rel. Johnson v. Allen

- County Sheriff Required – Iowa Code 331.322



WHAT ABOUT EMS?

- NO CURRENT requirement to provide these services
- NEW LAW :Chapter 422D
 - Not intended to replace other revenue – townships and cities that voluntarily contribute to EMS should continue to do so



HOW DOES IT WORK?

- TWO OPTIONS or a combination of both:
 - 1- Local option income surtax (up to 1%)
 - 2-Property tax 0.75/1,000 of valuation <- **recommended option**
- (1) Resolution declaring EMS to be essential requires two votes/meetings of the Board. Notice of the first meeting must be published at least 60 days before the first meeting
- (2) Establish a county EMS advisory council
- (3) PUBLIC VOTE: Must pass with 60%.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

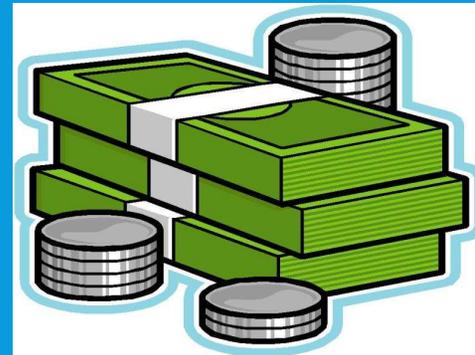
- At this time, this would generate approximately \$535,000 per year in Ida County – taxing at 0.75

COSTS TO TAXPAYERS

Property Type	Assessed Value	Rollback	Taxable Value	Levy Rate	Tax Amount
Residential	100,000	0.546501	54650.1	0.00075	\$40.99
Residential	200,000	0.546501	109300.2	0.00075	\$81.98
Agricultural	100,000	0.91643	91643	0.00075	\$68.73
Agricultural	200,000	0.91643	183,286	0.00075	\$137.46

HOW WOULD THE ESSENTIAL SERVICE LEVY HELP?

- (1) Service Support Allocation: Money allocated each year to individual volunteer EMS agencies to use for major equipment expenses. **\$100,000**
- (2) Education : Money allocated each year to pay for initial and ongoing training for volunteer EMS personnel. This would enable us to guarantee an EMT class in the County every year. **\$35,000**
- (3) Staffing: Enhance the current County EMS program by providing 24/7 ALS response across the County (Currently only Monday-Friday 8a-5p) **\$342,800**
- (4) County Equipment/Training Center Fund **\$57,200**



1: SERVICE SUPPORT ALLOCATION

- \$100,000 per year total
- \$17,500 per physical ambulance (2- Ida Grove, 2- Holstein, 1- Battle Creek)
- \$6,250 per EMR response vehicle (1- Galva, 1- Arthur)
- Deposited into an account with control held by the County and reserved for major equipment expenses (defibrillator, vehicles, stretchers, LUCAS device, etc).



\$25,000

\$40,000 refurbished



\$15,000



\$250,000



\$25,000



2: EDUCATION

- \$35,000 per year
- Host an EMT class every fall, paid for by the essential service levy.
- Ida County EMS agencies AND agencies that provide service in Ida County eligible to send students at no direct cost to their agency
 - This is a benefit to agencies that are based OUTSIDE of Ida County but provide service WITHIN Ida County (Kiron, Danbury, Schaller, Schleswig, Washta, Correctionville, Cushing)
- Guarantees a class – eliminates many serious obstacles we currently face to having local EMT courses
 - Minimum number of students
 - Commitment to a class that may or may not happen depending on students
 - Unpredictable schedule that is unavailable until after the course starts
- Unspent funds rolled over from year to year to pay for specialty courses as they are requested (EMR, AEMT, CPR Instructor, etc)

3: STAFFING

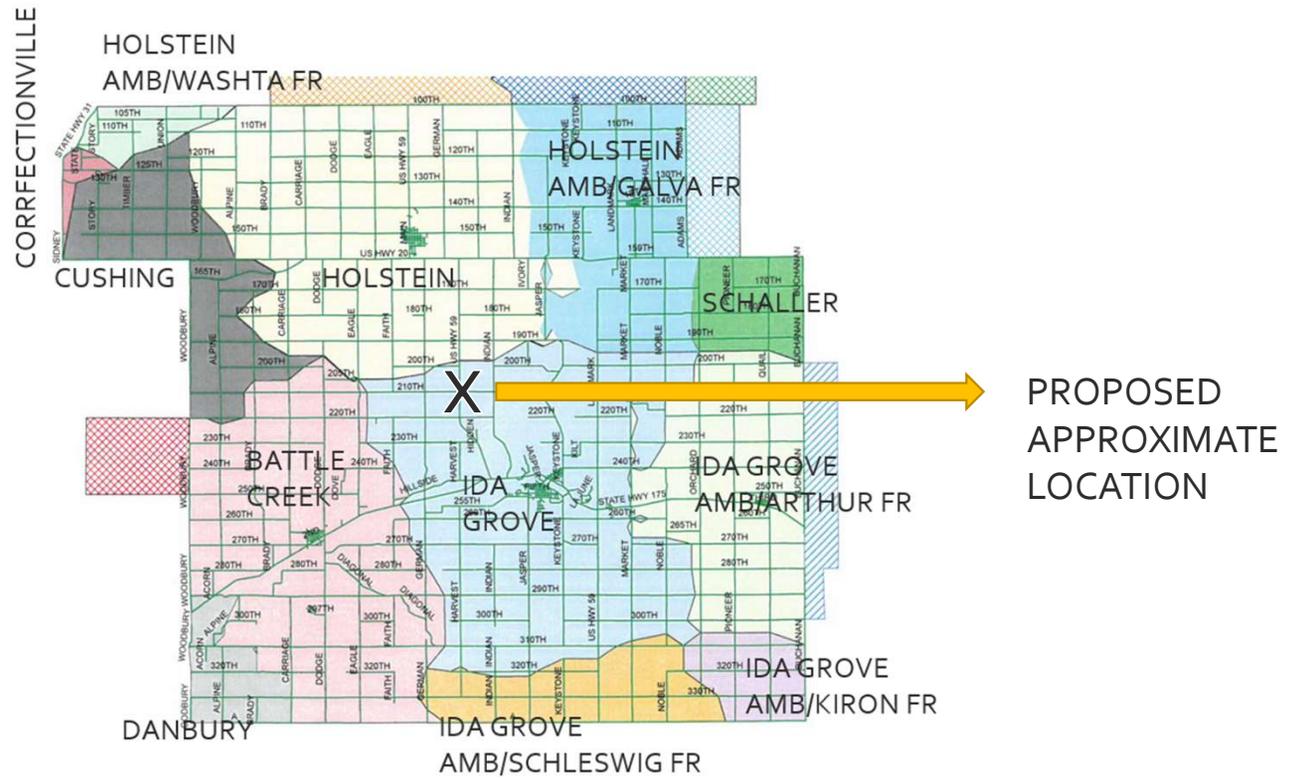
- Current EMS Ida County EMS program was designed to augment volunteer EMS coverage by providing a sharable ALS level responder during high call volume/low volunteer availability times (Monday-Friday 8a-5p)
- Enhance the current Ida County EMS program by providing 24/7 ALS coverage that can be shared throughout the County
- \$342,800/year (estimate)
 - Based on \$30.00 per hour, \$20,000 per employee for benefits
 - Hourly pay is estimated high due to current inflationary environment and staffing recruitment challenges



4: COUNTY EQUIPMENT/TRAINING CENTER

- \$57,200 yearly
- Maintaining/replacing county owned equipment (vehicles, monitors, disposable equipment, etc)
- Funding/maintaining an EMS response station/training center for the County
- Remaining funds rolled over from year to year for major equipment expenditures





COUNTY EMS STATION/TRAINING CENTER

WHY THIS SYSTEM?

- None of our communities have the call volume or geographic location to hire their own staff in a way that is beneficial to the county as whole. Ida Grove could POSSIBLY do this but it would require placing their base of operations somewhere more centric – fairgrounds or that vicinity. It would also require 2 paid personnel if that were to happen, as opposed to one – their volunteers couldn't respond timely from jobs, etc to the fairgrounds.
- If each transporting service was to hire their own staff using essential service funds, they would be competing against each other for staffing financially, leading to higher overall costs.
- If we were to tax and divide the revenue, we would have to negotiate a formula for division of this money, and we would be sending tax dollars out of the county to the agencies that provide service in the county but are based in another county.
- This enables our EMS services to continue to function as they currently exist but with additional backup and resources available to them. It also enables flexibility to adapt to potential future needs.

ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

NO RAISE REQUESTED FOR EMS DIRECTOR!

Other than normal, yearly raises

- Would possibly need to withhold the Service Support Allocation for the first 2-4 years to pay for the County EMS station/training center
- EMS Director role would assist with covering open shifts due to vacation, sick leave, high call volume/high acuity calls
- Paramedics are few and far between – minimum level of certification for County EMS employment should be AEMT
- Hospital to Hospital transfers – case by case basis, County EMS employees could assist when necessary if backup 911 coverage is available

COUNTY RELATIONSHIP WITH VOLUNTEER EMS AGENCIES

- Augment and assist
- No authority over the volunteer agencies
- No reasonable request for assistance turned town
 - Continuous Quality Improvement
 - Protocol Development
 - Vehicle Maintenance
 - Supply Outdates
 - Grant writing/assistance
 - Continuing education assistance
- Customer Service oriented – EMS agencies and patients in need of our services are our customers

EMS FUTURE WITHOUT ESSENTIAL SERVICES

- Ida County will continue to function as we have in the past.
- Volunteer numbers dropping – a few current EMTs are the crux our current system relies on
- Aging population will continue to degrade our volunteer base
- No guaranteed EMS response
- Many patients that need ALS level prehospital care will not have access to that service
- Lengthy response times will eventually become the new normal
 - We have had 45+ minute EMS responses in the County – most notably during the day prior to ICEMS beginning service 7/1/2021

CONTACT INFORMATION

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IDA COUNTY
EMERGENCY
SERVICES