

## **EMS PLAN OF ACTION – April 11, 2024**

1. Follow the Highland County Emergency Medical Services Ordinance, which was adopted on October 12, 2022, with the exception of revenue recovery, and the Highland County Emergency Medical Services Policy adopted on January 7, 2020. This means that the EMS Chief hired by the County shall establish policies, subject to the EMS Advisory Board input, for the operation of one County system, under the Department license, called the Coordinated Emergency Medical Services System for Highland County (CEMS).
2. Maintain the current building owned by the County as the Highland County Department of Emergency Medical Services primary location.
3. Create the EMS Advisory Board, pursuant to the Ordinance.
4. The current EMS Ordinance shall be changed in “Article 4. Revenue Recovery, Sec. 4-1 Revenue Recovery” so that all revenue recovery obtained by every agency authorized to operate in Highland County shall be deposited in one County-controlled account. The EMS Advisory Board shall recommend the expenditure of funds to the Board of Supervisors after considering the needs of each authorized agency in the County.
5. The Highland County Department of Emergency Medical Services shall be the ONLY Designated Emergency Response Agency (DERA) in Highland County. Bolar Volunteer Rescue Squad shall be a non-DERA agency. The Highland County Volunteer Rescue Squad (HCVRS) is no longer authorized to operate in the County. Any liability protection HCVRS and its members may have had while answering calls as an agency in the County, as an instrumentality of the County, is revoked.
6. The EMS Chief shall work with the Highland County Volunteer Rescue Squad (HCVRS) to properly allocate all revenue recovery funds collected in accordance with the Highland County EMS Ordinance since its adoption on October 12, 2022.
7. Increase the EMS fee to \$350 per year to meet the budget timeline for the FY24-25 budget. The Board of Supervisors shall work with the County Treasurer and County Commissioner of the Revenue, beginning July 1, 2024, to establish a new assessment method for the EMS fee for the second half of 2024 taxes. The EMS fee shall be based on the new assessment method.
8. Create a volunteer incentive program for both EMS and fire personnel. This work will begin July 1, 2024.

9. Establish stability among employees of the Highland County Department of Emergency Medical Services and volunteer agencies authorized to operate in the County.
10. Encourage volunteer support of any kind for the County Department of EMS, as well as among authorized volunteer agencies. Any volunteer with the Department of EMS or Bolar Volunteer Rescue Squad shall be considered an instrumentality of the County for liability purposes.
11. Respect all who are contributing to EMS calls being answered promptly.
12. Work with the Highland County Sheriff's Office to establish appropriate guidelines for the information provided by CEMS to dispatchers on EMS calls.
13. The EMS Plan Review Board will be put on hold for the immediate future.