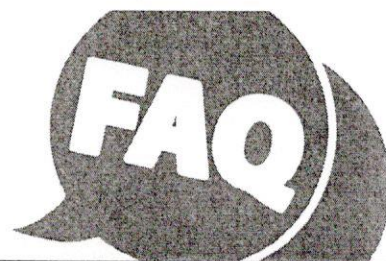


MOFFAT COUNTY EMS HEALTH SERVICE DISTRICT

- HEALTH AND SAFETY
- LOCAL CONTROL
- EFFICIENCY



The Moffat County Health Service District is a local solution to a local problem. The District will provide the needed resources for coordinated and timely emergency response services to all Moffat County residents.

WHAT IS A HEALTH SERVICE DISTRICT?

A health service district is a special tax district — like a school, fire or water district — that is created by voters to serve the health needs of a community. It is a local entity governed by a locally elected board. An example in Moffat County is the Craig Fire District.

WHY DOES MOFFAT COUNTY NEED A HEALTH SERVICE DISTRICT?

On March 25, 2021, Memorial Regional Health Board of Trustees announced that they could no longer absorb the cost of providing EMS services for Moffat County without increased financial support. The EMS services were running at a financial loss to MRH of more than \$600,000 per year, which strains vital hospital services and responsibilities. Without a health service district and much needed financial support, MRH would be forced to reduce EMS services, or stop them at some point in time.

The Moffat County Health Service District is a local solution to a local problem. The District will provide the needed resources for coordinated and timely emergency response services to all Moffat County residents.

Moffat County now has an opportunity ahead of us to take control of our EMS services and provide long term stability and certainty for our communities. If Moffat County had to cut back or stop providing EMS service, it would be disastrous. A health service district will give us the ease of knowing that our safety isn't in financial jeopardy.

HOW WILL A HEALTH SERVICE DISTRICT HELP MOFFAT COUNTY?

A health service district that funds Moffat County EMS services will keep our community safe, give residents local control over our resources, and provide much needed stability and efficiency to our emergency response systems. Our community cannot go without the first responders who save lives during emergencies. A health service district will ensure we have the resources to keep our community safe regardless of the changing dynamics of Moffat County.

Specifically, the health service district will:

1. Provide the funding necessary to create an independent, focused EMS service and resume emergency response services without a financial loss;
2. Expand timely services and provide much needed funding to remote and rural areas of the County, like Dinosaur;
3. Equip every ambulance with the necessary tools to respond to any emergency;
4. Keep our families, loved ones, and visitors safe;
5. Fix the patchwork of fragmented services Moffat County currently relies on without consuming multiple funding streams; and
6. Provide long term stability and local control over Moffat County EMS services.

WILL THE HEALTH SERVICE DISTRICT HELP THE ENTIRE COUNTY?

Yes, every resident of Moffat County will benefit from the health service district. It will maintain EMS services in higher populated areas of the County, provide ambulances with all of the needed equipment to respond to any emergency, and expand timely emergency responses to remote and rural areas of Moffat County, like Dinosaur and Maybell. Residents of Dinosaur, for example, will no longer rely on ambulances responding from out of state or from Rangely when they call 911. An ambulance will be housed and dispatched from the town of Dinosaur, greatly reducing response times and improving patient outcomes.

WILL THIS DISMANTLE MAYBELL'S VOLUNTEER EMERGENCY RESPONSE PROGRAM?

No, residents of Maybell will continue to see their current, well-trained volunteers arrive when they call 911. The health service district will ensure that the Maybell Volunteer Ambulance will have steady funding, not subject to the health of the county budget. This funding will also support the purchase of any needed equipment and pay for enhanced training. This would be new, dedicated funding specifically for the Maybell Volunteer Ambulance.

WHAT IF IT DOESN'T PASS?

The residents of Moffat County need and deserve a reliable and efficient emergency response service to keep our community safe and healthy. Our first responders, who put their lives on the line, deserve the resources they need to respond to emergencies. We are putting our community and EMS at risk when they don't have what they need to do their jobs. The Memorial Regional Health Board of Trustees has stated that MRH is unable to sustain the current losses of EMS indefinitely. Without additional financial support, at some point in the future MRH will be forced to either reduce EMS services or eliminate them entirely.

HOW WOULD THIS GIVE LOCAL CONTROL TO MOFFAT COUNTY RESIDENTS AND WHAT IS THE BENEFIT?

A health service district is a local solution to a local problem that provides residents of Moffat County a say and a vote over how our tax dollars are spent. Our EMS services can no longer survive without additional resources and Moffat County has an opportunity to solve this challenge locally, without intervention from outside entities, the State, or organizations that might not have Moffat County's best interests at heart.

WOULD WE BE ABLE TO DECIDE HOW THE TAX DOLLARS ARE SPENT?

The health service district would give Moffat County residents a voice in how our tax dollars are used. Specifically, we would elect members of our community to serve on the Board that will oversee the health service district. The Board will be required to hold public meetings and listen to input from taxpayers. Budget transparency is an integral function of the health service district and allows voters to provide input and see for themselves how their tax dollars are spent. Lastly, if the community is not happy with a Board member, we can elect a new one.

The health service district in Moffat County will ensure that our EMS services will weather any changing dynamics of our community, and stand independent of outside revenue sources and funding mechanisms. We can rest assured that our loved ones will be protected for many years to come.

WHO WOULD OVERSEE THE HEALTH SERVICE DISTRICT?

A locally elected Board would oversee the health service district.

WHO CAN BE ELECTED TO THE HEALTH SERVICE DISTRICT BOARD?

Anybody who owns property and is registered to vote in Moffat County can run for election and serve on the Board. This ensures that every resident has a voice.

HOW DO THE CHANGING DYNAMICS OF MOFFAT COUNTY AFFECT THE HEALTH SERVICES DISTRICT?

Local leaders have spent many hours considering the facility closures and our economic downturn caused by the coronavirus. Thankfully, this health service district was designed with our current and future challenges in mind and will provide the resources necessary to not only keep our EMS services afloat, but maintain quality and efficiency. No tax increases will be needed in the foreseeable future to keep our EMS strong and efficient.

WILL A HEALTH SERVICE DISTRICT IMPROVE OUR EMS SERVICES?

Establishing a Moffat County Health Service District will incorporate all EMS under one umbrella, streamline operations, save taxpayer dollars, create a sustainable and reliable funding source, and create an efficient system of pre-hospital care that residents can be proud of and rely on for years to come.

HOW DOES A HEALTH SERVICE DISTRICT AFFECT OUR SMALL BUSINESSES IN MOFFAT COUNTY AND HOW MUCH WILL THEY PAY?

People from all over the world visit Moffat County to experience our pristine rivers, hunt, and enjoy our beautiful scenery. Tourism supports our local businesses and is vital to our economic well-being. We need dependable EMS services to keep visitors safe and help get our local economy back on track. On more than one occasion, EMS has saved tourists who have come back because of their positive experience.

If you exclude larger businesses (those valued more than \$2.0 million like Walmart and Walgreens) the average commercial business owner would pay an additional \$145.00 annually.

DO WE HAVE TO PAY FOR THE EXISTING EMS EQUIPMENT IF THE HEALTH SERVICE DISTRICT IS FORMED?

No, MRH will gift all of the existing EMS equipment, including vehicles and medic gear, at no cost to the district. This is nearly \$1 million dollars of inventory that the health service district will now own.

WHEN WILL THE HEALTH SERVICE DISTRICT GO INTO EFFECT?

Approved in November, the district would begin functioning on January 1, 2022.

WHAT WILL I PAY?

The average Moffat County resident will pay \$35.00 per year so Moffat County can have long term, reliable EMS services for everyone.