

## **Emergency Service Issues in Rolette County**

Rolette County is unique to other counties, in the state, in many ways. EMS issues are no different. There are 4 hospitals, St. Andrews in Bottineau, Heart of America in Rugby, Presentation Medical Center in Rolla, and Quentin Burdick Indian Health Services in Belcourt serving the county. There are 5 ambulance services: Bottineau, Rugby, Rolette, Rolla and Belcourt serving the county.

Rolette County is the only county, in the state, with an Indian Reservation with a Hospital and Emergency Room to my knowledge. Belcourt Ambulance, an state licensed ambulance, which serves the Quentin Burdick Indian Health Services (IHS) Facility has been assigned emergency medical services coverage area in the county for 911 emergencies. This has created a host of issues and problems in the county for medical emergencies, some relating to restrictions of this federal facility serving a population not within the scope of their duties. This has also created problems with the Rolette and Rolla ambulances services. For example, residents in the Rolla district who only have medical coverage thru IHS, do not want to have the Rolla Ambulance respond, because IHS will not pay for services at Presentation Medical Center in Rolla or by Rolla Ambulance, because they did not use the IHS Facility or ambulance and they do not want to pay the bill themselves. Residents in the Belcourt District, who are not native American, do not want to go to IHS, because they do not have service there and will only be stabilized, and need to be transferred. Belcourt Ambulance will not transfer them, so another Ambulance needs to be called in to do the transfer. Currently the only ambulance service doing transfers in the county is Rolla Ambulance. Because of some of these issues, patients are being exchanged on the road between ambulance services, and many residents will not call 911 in a medical emergency.

Rolette County has levied a county mill levy for Emergency Medical Service, according to NDCC 57-15-50 for many years. The dollars generated from the levy have been split between 2 Ambulance services in the county requesting the funds, Rolla and Rolette. The Board of Commissioners have taken coverage areas and call volume into account when appropriating the funds between the districts. Prior to this year, Rolla Ambulance has received 68% and Rolette Ambulance has received 32% of the funds.

This year with the change in NDCC 23-27-04.7, the mill levy is to be divided according to ambulance service districts. The mill levy would now be divided accordingly by percentages:

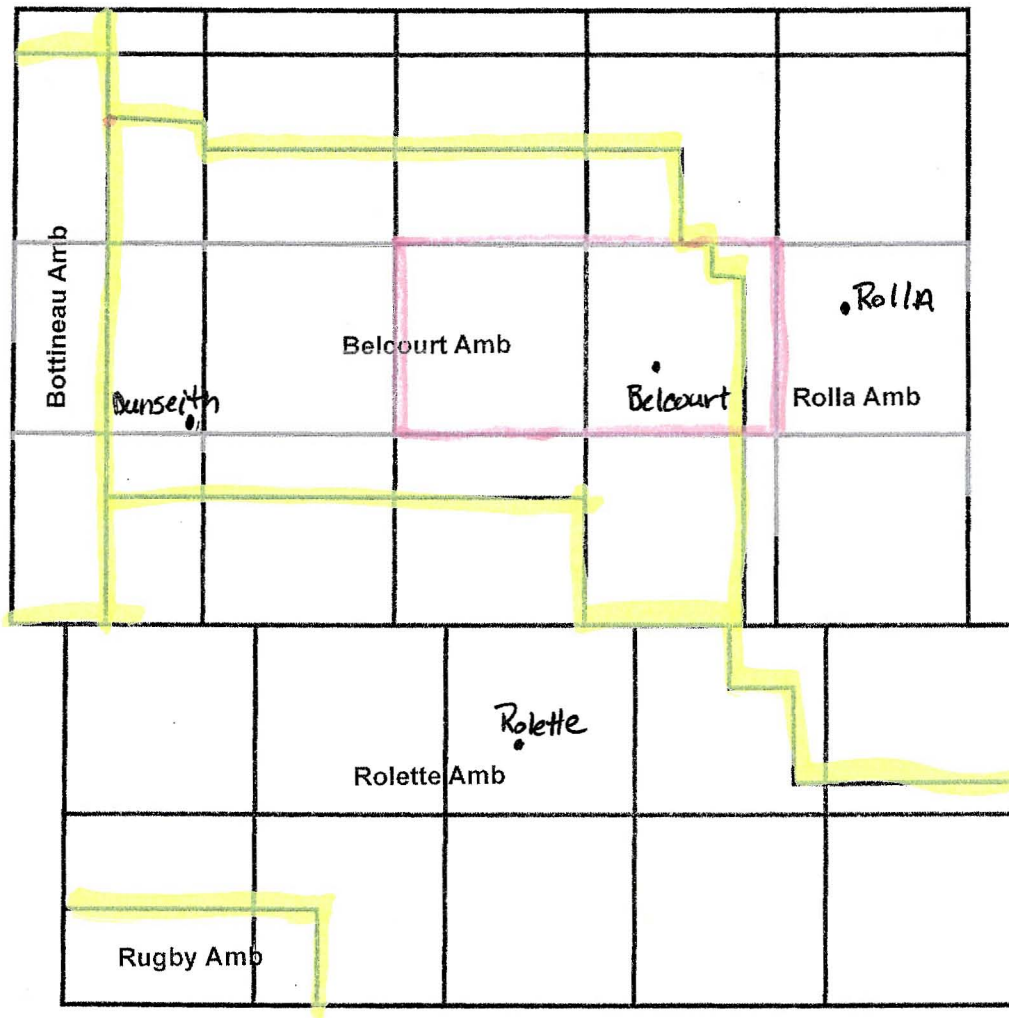
- Rolla - 41%
- Belcourt - 15%
- Bottineau - 5%
- Rolette - 39%

### **Problems this has created:**

Bottineau has never requested the mill levy funds, do they need to receive a proportionate share anyway? Belcourt is a federally-funded facility and also has never requested county tax dollars for ambulance, can they even receive the county tax levy?

Rolla Ambulance has actually received a decrease in tax revenue from \$59,840 to \$36,176. Although call volume in Rolla Ambulance district was 474 in 2008 and increased to 640 in 2009. In 2009, this compares to Belcourt with 1622 calls and Rolette with 107.

## Rolette County Ambulance Districts



<b>Rolla Ambulance</b>	<b>Taxable Valuation</b>	<b>% of Levy</b>	<b>88,000</b>
Baxter	327,468	0.03	\$2,735
Ellsworth	378,894	0.04	\$3,164
Fairview	463,806	0.04	\$3,873
Holmes	254,883	0.02	\$2,128
Hutchinson	286,506	0.03	\$2,392
Mt Pleasant	458,994	0.04	\$3,833
Oxford	379,372	0.04	\$3,168
City of Rolla	1,632,624	0.15	\$13,633
City of St John	149,684	0.01	\$1,250
	4,332,231	0.41	\$36,176
<b>Belcourt Ambulance</b>			
Couture	345,949	0.03	\$2,889
Hillside	129,692	0.01	\$1,083
Ingebretson	90,253	0.01	\$754
Maryville	345,369	0.03	\$2,884
Gilbert	256,782	0.02	\$2,144
City of Dunseith	378,972	0.04	\$3,165
	1,547,017	0.15	\$12,918
<b>Bottineau Ambulance</b>			
Currie	313,563	0.03	\$2,618
Willow Lake	242,729	0.02	\$2,027
	556,292	0.05	\$4,645
<b>Rolette Ambulance</b>			
Finnegan	326,484	0.03	\$2,726
Island Lake	298,974	0.03	\$2,497
Kohlmeier	331,759	0.03	\$2,770
Leonard	358,790	0.03	\$2,996
Pleasant Valley	393,357	0.04	\$3,285
Rice	291,587	0.03	\$2,435
Russell	308,652	0.03	\$2,577
Shell Valley	294,237	0.03	\$2,457
South Valley	341,389	0.03	\$2,851
Union	350,471	0.03	\$2,927
Wolf Creek	312,459	0.03	\$2,609
City of Mylo	20,273	0.00	\$169
City of Rolette	474,360	0.05	\$3,961
	4,102,792	0.39	\$34,260
<b>TOTAL TAXABLE Valuation</b>	<b>10,538,332</b>	<b>1.00</b>	<b>\$88,000</b>