



North Dakota Legislative Council

Prepared for the Emergency Response Services Committee
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POTENTIAL APPROACHES TO ENCOURAGE VOLUNTEERISM

The following table provides a summary of the feedback received from presenters at the August 20, 2025, meeting of the Emergency Response Services Committee in response to a request for ways to encourage volunteerism in the state.

Presenter	Ways to Encourage Volunteerism
Mr. Mike Sandy, Manager/Paramedic, Oakes Volunteer Ambulance Service	- Review the allocation method for state grants to promote grants to small ambulance services - Review the funding formulas related to how for-profit and nonprofits are funded through existing formulas
Mr. Chris Estes, Sheriff, Dickey County	- Provide health insurance to volunteers - Help volunteers find housing through low-interest rate loan programs - Allow a volunteer who serves for 20 years or more to receive a retirement benefit
Mr. Charles Russell, Director, Division of Emergency Management, Dickey County	- Provide additional ways to recognize volunteers, similar to the existing approach of issuing red license plates to identify volunteers - Provide health insurance to volunteers
Mr. Travis Bateman, Director, Badlands Search and Rescue	- Provide health insurance or discounted insurance to volunteers - Offer property tax incentives to volunteers - Provide mortgage assistance subsidies to help volunteers pay for housing
Mr. Dennis Goebel, Chief Executive Officer, Southwest Healthcare Services	- Allow volunteers to apply hours logged volunteering toward scholarships or advance health care career requirements - Create an atmosphere of comradery and positive culture for volunteers - Compensate volunteers for wages lost from a primary position while absent due to volunteer activities
Ms. Jessica West, Manager, Emergency Medical Services, Southwest Healthcare Services	- Create an informational program for the public to increase the public awareness of the benefits provided by emergency medical services (EMS) volunteers - Increase the availability of EMS-related training offered through career and technical education (CTE) in high schools - Designate EMS as an "essential function" similar to fire or law enforcement services
Mr. Mark Reinert, Board President, McVile Community Ambulance Services	- Increase compensation available to EMS personnel - Provide insurance coverage for EMS volunteers
Mr. Corey Johnson, Assistant Chief, Williston Fire Department	- Raise funds to support public safety through a dedicated sales tax - Offer counseling services to law enforcement, fire, and EMS personnel - Create a permanent interim Emergency Response Services Committee in statute

Presenter	Ways to Encourage Volunteerism
Mr. Brian Paulson, Vice President, North Dakota Fire Chief's Association	• Establish an executive branch committee focused on bolstering EMS services and volunteerism and allow the Governor to appoint relevant stakeholders • Increase insurance reimbursement rates • Educate the public on benefits provided by EMS personnel • Provide affordable emergency medical technician training, including CTE at the high school level • Provide a pension to volunteers based on length of service • Increase the amount available to levy for fire service districts from 5 mills to 7 or 10 mills and increase the maximum mill rate from 13 to 15 mills • Develop leadership materials to help guide fire districts on responsibilities and duties • Compensate fire department leadership personnel and volunteers for the time spent training, responding to calls, and administrative duties