

**ORDINANCE NO. O-2014-51**

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE QUORUM COURT OF THE COUNTY OF BENTON, STATE OF ARKANSAS, AN ORDINANCE TO BE ENTITLED:**

**AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING AN AMBULANCE SERVICE IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT CO-EXTENSIVE WITH THE BOUNDARIES OF BENTON COUNTY, ESTABLISHING IN THE QUORUM COURT THE AUTHORITY TO LEVY UP TO TWO-TENTHS (0.2) MILLS TO FUND SUCH DISTRICT'S OPERATIONS, REFERRING THE MATTER TO THE ELECTORS OF THE DISTRICT AT THE NOVEMBER 4, 2014 GENERAL ELECTION, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

WHEREAS, the Quorum Court has on its own motion determined that an Ambulance Service Improvement District should be established for the Benton County;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED BY THE QUORUM COURT OF BENTON COUNTY, ARKANSAS:**

ARTICLE 1. An Ambulance Service Improvement District is hereby established for Benton County.

ARTICLE 2. The area to be served by the District is designated as the entirety of Benton County, including incorporated areas.

ARTICLE 3. The following will be provided for through the establishment of the District:

The primary purpose of the District and the ad valorem tax revenues to be collected hereunder shall be for Benton County to provide for the availability of emergency medical services for the citizens of and visitors to Benton County in the unincorporated area of Benton County, not including that portion of the County which is included in the Northeast Benton County Emergency Medical Service District as established by Ordinance No. 85-15, as amended, including specifically:

- a) Availability of one-way transportation by ambulance to an emergency medical facility.
- b) Availability of emergency care while en route to the emergency medical facility by qualified medical personnel.

To the extent appropriated by the Quorum Court, the ad valorem tax revenues to be collected hereunder may be used by Benton County to provide for the availability of emergency medical services, or the equipment, materials, or personnel to provide such services, anywhere in Benton County.

ARTICLE 4. The availability of services and services to be provided under this ordinance shall be financed as follows:

- a) The Quorum Court shall be authorized to levy annually a millage of up to two-tenths (0.2) mills on the real and personal property situated within the District (Benton County).
- b) As a tax levy, this millage will be included on ad valorem tax notices of each person owning taxable real and personal property and collected by the County Collector at the time of collecting other real and personal property taxes. The Collector shall not accept payment of any ad valorem taxes unless the taxpayer at the same time pays the millage established by this ordinance. As a tax levy, this millage shall be subject to the various exemptions otherwise allowed by law, including specifically but not limited to the homestead exemption.
- c) All funds derived from the tax levy described herein shall be administered by the County as an enterprise fund, and shall be used only for the purposes for which levied as provided herein.
- d) A provider of services serving Benton County shall also be entitled to charge for the provision of emergency medical services described above (including all costs of labor, materials, and overhead) on a per unit of service basis when such services are provided, and collect same, to the extent such provider is not prohibited from making such charges in any agreement with the County to provide such services.

ARTICLE 5. ELECTION AND EFFECTIVE DATE. This ordinance shall be referred to the electors at the November 4, 2014 General Election, which date is not less than sixty (60) days and not more than ninety (90) days after the final passage of the ordinance, and before any taxes are levied, assessed, or collected. This ordinance shall become effective if approved by the voters upon certification thereof by the Benton County Election Commission.

APPROVED:

/s/ Robert D. Clinard

ROBERT D. CLINARD, COUNTY JUDGE

DATE SIGNED: July 25, 2014

ATTEST:

/s/ Tena O'Brien

TENA O'BRIEN, COUNTY CLERK

DATE ADOPTED: July 24, 2014

SPONSOR: JP Michelle Chiocco

Votes For: 9 Votes Against: 4

Abstain:        Present:        Absent: 2