

AMBULANCE:

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the purchase of a new ambulance.

Effective July 1, 2022, Jacobson Memorial Hospital Care Center (JMHC) became one of only 10 critical access hospitals in the nation selected to participate in a federal demonstration project, the Frontier Community Health Integration Project (FCHIP), allowing it to receive cost-based reimbursement to operate an ambulance.

The project allowed JMHC to sign a management agreement with the ambulance service to lease the ambulances and equipment and provide the physical service, including all the labor.

That funding does not cover the entire cost of operating an ambulance, however, and the FCHIP program expires in 2027.

“We have to look at the future and how we are going to maintain our services,” JMHC EMS Director Cary Kehr said.

The ambulance service retains the license to operate, contracts with the hospital to utilize the FCHIP funding and the Western Grant Ambulance District collects the tax and grant funding to support the operations of the ambulance service. A QRU then operates under the ambulance service license and budget, Payne described.

A mill levy does not support any services

of JMHC, but will be used for the Western Grant Ambulance District to fund the ambulance service.

While the service receives revenue from various payers and programs, such as FCHIP, a massive deficit remains. Even with current supplemental payments, the service faces a revenue shortfall of \$566,909. Without future supplemental programs, that deficit could grow to over \$893,000. Currently, the existing 2 mill levy in the Western Grant Ambulance District generates an estimated \$24,562 for FY27, which is insufficient to cover rising costs.

“Right now, the hospital is footing the bill. They are picking up the tab for the shortfall,” Payne said.

Fairness through annexation

A key component of the proposal is the annexation of the full service area. Currently, there is a discrepancy between the area the ambulance serves and the area that provides tax support. By annexing the entire service area, the district ensures taxes are fairly spread across all property owners who receive ambulance protection. This alignment will better position the Western Grant Ambulance District to provide reliable funding for the ambulance service into the future, a news release from the district

stated.

The annexation question includes a sliver in eastern Grant County and small portions of townships in Hettinger County and Adams County, which are currently in the ambulance’s service area, but aren’t in the taxation district.

“The service area will be the same as the taxation district and that’s the reason why we’re doing it, so that everybody who is getting the service will be paying the same across the board,” Payne said.

Impact on taxpayers

The proposed 15 mill levy, which is the maximum the district can request, and annexation is estimated to generate \$248,876 in annual revenue to help bridge the funding gap. For the average property owner, the daily cost of securing this life-saving service is:

- Residential (\$150,000 value): Approximately 31 cents per day (\$112.50 annually).
- Commercial (\$225,000 value): Approximately 46 cents per day (\$168.75 annually).
- Agricultural (\$50,000 value): Approximately 10 cents per day (\$37.50 annually).

Legislative limitations

Due to the 3% mill levy cap enacted during the 2025 legislative session, the Western Grant Ambulance District will be restricted in its ability to increase property tax levies. Starting next year, the district may raise its total levy by no more than 3% over the prior year’s dollar amount, regardless of rising operational costs or new service demands. If the district maintains its current levy of \$24,562, it

would be permitted to increase the next year’s levy by only \$737. This limited growth makes it challenging to keep pace with inflation, increasing expenses and the growing need for essential emergency services, the district’s news release stated.

To ensure the long-term financial stability of the district and continue providing reliable ambulance service to the community, the board has decided to levy the maximum allowable amount for the ambulance service and annex the entire service area into the taxation area. This proactive

step is necessary to help offset rising costs for personnel, equipment, training and operations, without which critical services could be jeopardized. The district remains dedicated to transparency and fiscal responsibility.



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Grand Electric Cooperative, Inc.
ANNUAL MEETING
WRCTC Warehouse
801 Coleman Ave. Bison, SD 57620
Please Join Us!
June 4, 2026

EVENTS:
Registration: 5 PM - 6 PM
Roast Beef Sandwich Supper: 5 PM - 6 PM
Business Meeting: 6 PM

- Childcare is available during the business meeting: Bingo for Cash Prizes & Building Box Forts!

GRAND PRIZES:

- Bingo for a chance to win one of five \$100 Cash Prizes!
- Kids Register to Win an Electric Scooter!
- \$500 Luck-of-the-Draw Scholarship for one 2027 High School Senior!
- A chance to win one of many door prizes!

• Members must be present to register for the Annual Meeting.
• Registration closes at 6:00 PM.
• Each registered member will receive a \$20 Bill Credit & one Bingo Card.
• 2027 Senior Member Dependent MUST attend with Membership Holder to be eligible for the \$500 scholarship.

NORTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES PUBLIC NOTICE OF PRELIMINARY FINDING AND OPPORTUNITY TO PROVIDE COMMENT ON THE NAVIGABILITY OF THE FOLLOWING NORTH DAKOTA WATERS:

BOIS DE SIOUX RIVER, MISSOURI RIVER, MOUSE RIVER, RED RIVER, UPPER DES LACS LAKE, AND YELLOWSTONE RIVER

The North Dakota Department of Water Resources (Department) hereby provides notice that pursuant to North Dakota Century Code (N.D.C.C.) § 61-33-05.1(2) it is soliciting public comment on the preliminary navigability findings (made under N.D.C.C. § 61-33-05.1(1)) of the following North Dakota waters (Waters):

- Bois De Sioux River
- Missouri River
- Mouse River
- Red River of the North
- Upper Des Lacs Lake
- Yellowstone River

1. Mailing and E-Mail addresses where public comments may be sent
North Dakota Department of Water Resources
C/O Regulatory Division
1200 Memorial Highway
Bismarck, ND 58504
sovereignlands@nd.gov

2. Body of Water(s) for Finding of Navigability
The Department solicited a study of the Waters for their potential for being used for commerce, or susceptible for being used for commerce, in their condition at the time North Dakota became a state (1889). Below is a summary of the preliminary navigability findings.

Bois De Sioux River
All portions of the Bois De Sioux River within the state of North Dakota.

Missouri River
All portions of the Missouri River within the state of North Dakota.

Mouse River
All portions of the Mouse River within the state of North Dakota.

Red River of the North
All portions of the Red River of the North within the state of North Dakota.

Upper Des Lacs Lake
All portions of Upper Des Lacs Lake within the state of North Dakota.

Yellowstone River
All portions of the Yellowstone River within the state of North Dakota.

3. Public Hearing
The Department will conduct a public hearing at 9 AM on July 14, 2026, at the Lewis & Clark Room No. 238 at the Bank of North Dakota (1200 Memorial Highway, Bismarck, ND 58504). A virtual option will also be available at www.dwr.nd.gov. Each of the Waters will get at least 15 minutes and up to an hour of public comment, with a break from 12 PM to 1 PM central for lunch. Each waterbody will have a hearing open and closed in the order presented in this notice. If no members of the public in-person or virtual provide comment within a 15-minute period, the hearing for that particular waterbody will be closed and the next waterbody comment hearing will be opened.

4. Public Hearing Purpose
The purpose of the public hearing is to provide the public with an opportunity to provide comment to the Department on the draft determinations of navigability prior to making a final determination of navigability. The Department welcomes all comments that will aid in the Department’s final determination of navigability on all segments of the Waters under consideration. If a waterbody is determined to be navigable, the area within the ordinary high water mark of the navigable water body is held in trust by the State of North Dakota for the people of North Dakota.

5. Availability of Preliminary Finding Documentation
The Department’s preliminary finding of navigability for the Waters are available on the Department’s website at www.dwr.nd.gov. Dated the 11th of May, 2026
North Dakota Department of Water Resources
Reice Haase, Director

HELP WANTED

Grand Electric Cooperative, Inc. has an opening for a Lineman at their outpost in Buffalo, SD. Preference will be given to a Journeyman Lineman. Applicants should have a high school diploma and have completed power line training. Position requires a valid South Dakota CDL and includes outside work in all types of weather, with irregular hours and overtime. Send or email resume, along with a Letter of Application by June 1, 2026, to Mike Stadler, Manager Electric Operations, Grand Electric Cooperative, Inc., P.O. Box 39, Bison, SD 57620. Email to mstadler@wrctc.coop. Grand Electric Cooperative is an equal opportunity employer.
5/21, 5/28

NOTICE OF EQUALIZATION MEETING ADAMS COUNTY, NORTH DAKOTA

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Board of County Commissioners of Adams County will meet as a Board of Equalization for the 2026 assessments on Thursday, June 4, 2026 at 8:00 a.m. in the Community Room of the Adams County Courthouse. Each taxpayer has the right to appear before the Board of Equalization and petition for correction of the taxpayer’s assessment. Persons needing special accommodations in order to attend should call the Adams County Auditor at 701-567-4363 at least 24 hours prior to the meeting.

Katie Roseland
Adams County
Director of Tax Equalization
5/14, 5/21