



## **RESOLUTION OF THE CLAY COUNTY COMMISSIONER COURT**

### **SUPPORTING TEXAS LEGISLATIVE FUNDING FOR RURAL AMBULANCE SERVICES**

**WHEREAS** Clay County spans 1,117 square miles with a population of 10,218, resulting in a population density of only 9.38 persons per square mile and

**WHEREAS**, the rural nature of Clay County, like many other Texas counties, presents unique challenges in providing adequate ambulance services due to the extensive geographic area and limited tax revenue base and

**WHEREAS**, ambulances stationed in Henrietta, Texas, located centrally within the county, often face response times of up to 40 minutes to reach emergencies at the county's boundaries, particularly given the 50-mile distance from north to south and 27 miles from east to west; and

**WHEREAS** funding limitations currently allow Clay County to staff two full-time ambulance crews only from 10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., leaving only one crew available overnight, which compromises emergency response availability and may necessitate mutual aid from neighboring counties and

**WHEREAS** Clay County Memorial Hospital (CCMH), one of only five county-owned hospitals in Texas, receives an annual subsidy of \$150,000.00 from the county and must bear the remaining financial burden on ambulance services, diverting funds from hospital maintenance and additional services and

**WHEREAS** the latest financial report indicates that maintaining two full-time ambulance crews requires over \$1,000,000.00 annually, a cost that places a significant strain on the county's limited resources and

**WHEREAS** approximately ten percent of Clay County's ambulance calls involve non-residents traveling on U.S. Highways 287 and 82, as well as State Highways 148 and 79, highlighting the importance of rural ambulance services to Texans statewide and

**WHEREAS** Senate Bill 22 serves as a model for state support by funding rural sheriffs and prosecutors, demonstrating the legislature's commitment to addressing critical rural needs and

**WHEREAS** discussions with Representative James Frank and Senator Charles Perry indicate potential legislative support for a bill to provide funding for rural ambulance services, ensuring equitable access to emergency medical care across Texas.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Clay County Commissioners Court that:

1. The Commissioners Court strongly supports developing and passing legislation similar to Senate Bill 22 to fund rural ambulance services, which would provide essential financial assistance to counties for emergency medical response.
2. The Commissioners Court urges the Texas Legislature to recognize rural ambulance services' critical role in serving residents and travelers and to allocate state funding to ensure their availability and reliability.
3. The Commissioners Court calls on urban counties and municipalities to support rural ambulance funding as a shared responsibility, given the mutual benefits to Texans statewide.
4. Copies of this resolution shall be forwarded to Representative James Frank, Senator Charles Perry, Senator Brent Hagenbuch, and other members of the Texas Legislature to advocate for this vital funding initiative.

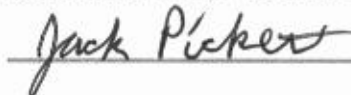
**ADOPTED** by the Clay County Commissioners Court this 27th day of January 2025.



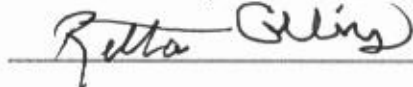
County Judge - Mike Campbell



Commissioner, Precinct 1- Ben Pharris



Commissioner, Precinct 2 – Jack Pickett



Commissioner, Precinct 3 – Betta Collins



Commissioner, Precinct 4 – Chase Broussard