

Resolution 2015-10

WHEREAS, the Clay County Central Point Coordinator and Veteran Affairs Director have made recommendations in relation to the Clay County General Relief Ordinance, No. 1.4-Section 5 Level of Benefits- # 7 Burial Amendment, and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors has considered the proposed amendments and has held public hearing thereon the 17th day of February, 2015 and the 3rd day of March, 2015; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors elect to waive the requirement for three successive reading and votes pursuant to Iowa Code Chapter 331.302(5); and

WHEREAS, the Clay County Board of Supervisors supports the adoption of the proposed amendment;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Clay County Board of Supervisors amends the Clay County General Relief Ordinance, No. 1.4-Section 5 Level of Benefits- # 7 Burial Amendment.

Proposed Clay County General Relief Ordinance, No. 1.4 Section 5 Level of Benefits- # 7 Burial Amendment

7. Burial- Clay County may provide burial benefits for a deceased Clay County legal resident. An application for county assistance with the Clay County Community Services office/Veterans' Affairs office must be made at the time of death and prior to the burial when possible and no later than five (5) days after the date of death to determine income and resource eligibility. The deceased person's income must not exceed the current year's 100% (Veterans' 110%) Federal Poverty Guideline and their estate must not have resources over \$500 for eligibility for Clay County General Assistance, according to resource guidelines. The ability of the deceased's family and other interested parties to assist with the funding of the funeral/burial arrangements or at the time of application for county assistance by the Clay County Community Services or Clay County Veterans' Affairs office.

Should the income of the deceased exceed the 100% (Veterans 110%) Federal Poverty Guideline or resources of the deceased and/or the deceased's spouse or guardian/conservator be over \$500 but not to exceed \$1,800 any of these resources can be applied in conjunction with the Clay County's maximum rate of reimbursement of \$1,800 for a county-assisted burial as approved by the Clay County Community Services' office, the Clay County Veterans' Affairs office, and the mortuary. These income eligibility exceptions to policy and payment arrangements must be reviewed and approved by the Clay County Board of Supervisors or the Clay County Veterans' Affairs Commission.

If the deceased is deemed eligible for county burial and has burial benefits, such as money derived from life insurance or a death benefits, which may include but not be limited to those from Railroad, and Veteran's etc. as well as cash from the sale of vehicles, real estate or any another asset shall be paid to Clay County up to the maximum amount of assistance or \$1,800. If these burial benefits are present, they will be identified in a signed repayment agreement with the balance owed for the amount of county assistance remaining. The Social Security Administration's standard death benefit may be applied for with two (2) years of death. When received, this benefit amount is applied to discretionary burial expenses listed below.

Failure to sign the repayment agreement at the time of application will result in lack of county assistance. If the deceased's estate and/or assets revert to another family member and/or interested party, a lien will be placed on these assets/resources to assure reimbursement of the party so the amount owed returns to Clay County at a future time.

Burial benefits of \$1,800 include cremation services which will be paid by Clay County to the mortuary. County assisted burial includes: 1) limited professional services of Funeral Director and Staff; 2) transportation of the deceased's remains from the place of death to the funeral home within a 25 mile radius. 3) sanitary care of an unembalmed body; and 4) alternative cardboard cremation container. The mortuary will bill the county for the Medical Examiner's permit for a county funded burial.

The deceased's family and/or other interested parties may provide up to an additional \$500 (Veterans \$800) to the mortuary for discretionary expenses such as clergyman, music, flowers, guest register, transportation costs for distances exceeding the 25 mile radius of the funeral home at a rate of \$1.20 per mile (\$200 maximum), and an urn or permanent container for the deceased's remains. Any other amenities or charges for the burial/ funeral, etc. will be offered at the discretion of the mortuary and will not be subject to billing to Clay County, the deceased's family and/or other interested parties when the deceased is deemed eligible for a county-assisted burial.

This ordinance will be reviewed for usage and costs by the Clay County Board of Supervisors, the Clay County Community Services office, the Clay County Veteran's Affairs Commission and Clay County Veterans' Affairs office and the mortuaries providing services to Clay County legal residents every other calendar year to adjust rates as needed.

The above and foregoing resolution was adopted by the Board of Supervisors of Clay County, Iowa, this 3rd day of March, 2015 and the vote thereon being as follows: Ayes: Anderson, Brockshus, Matthews, Skow and Swanson. Nays: None. Abstentions: None.

The above and foregoing resolution was adopted by the Board of Supervisors of Clay County, Iowa, this 3rd day of March, 2015 and the vote thereon being as follows: Ayes: Anderson, Brockshus, Matthews, Skow and Swanson. Nays: None. Abstentions: None.

/s/Linda K. Swanson, Chairperson
ATTEST: /s/Marjorie A. Pitts, County Auditor