

**The Wisconsin Association of Fairs** awarded several awards at the 2026 WAF Annual Convention at the Chula Vista Resort in Wisconsin Dells, January 11-15. One of many awards presented includes the following:

**Volunteer Group Appreciation Award;** Awarded to a true volunteer group that receives no monetary compensation for the volunteer service. Only one overall winner is selected unlike the other categories where one per district is awarded.

Awarded the Volunteer Group Appreciation Award from District 2 is the **Jackson County Emergency Medical Services Association**

For decades, the Jackson County Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Association has provided a first-aid tent and services throughout the fair. The Jackson County EMS Association is made up of the First Responder Departments from County Line, Hixton, Melrose, Taylor, and the Black River Falls Ambulance Service.

Every day of the fair, First Responder volunteers sit outside of the fair office in a pop-up tent, ready at any minute to respond to a medical emergency. The Members have responded to everything from bee stings, heat related issues, to even life-threatening cardiac issues. The Jackson County EMS members also make it a priority to be visible throughout the fair. You will see First Responder volunteers walking the fairgrounds making their presence known. Many fairgoers have stated that they sincerely appreciate having medical staff on site. In May at the Fair Kick-off Fundraiser this group again, can be found supporting the fair.

The Jackson County Fair is so grateful for these volunteers who give of their time, their medical expertise and training. When issues occur (and they do) the response time is within seconds instead of several minutes.

Congratulations to the Jackson County EMS Association as they receive the Volunteer Group Appreciation Award!



*Photo courtesy of Katie Hunt Photography*