



2026 Iowa Certificate of Need (CON) Application

Instructions: 1. Complete all the sections below. 2. Provide concise, evidence-based responses, with supporting documentation or data as needed. 3. Reference Iowa Code 10A.714, as needed, to complete the application. 4. Upload additional documentation, as needed.

Primary Contact

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Kossuth Regional Health Center

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Facility Name

Kossuth Regional Health Center

Facility Address

1515 S Phillips Street, Algona, Iowa 50511

Project Title

Kossuth Regional Health Center da Vinci 5 Single Console Surgical Robot System Acquisition

Project Type

New Equipment

Would you like to request a summary review?

Yes

1. Applicant and Facility Overview

a. Project Purpose and Objectives:

Kossuth Regional Health Center ("Kossuth Regional" or "Hospital") is located in Algona, Kossuth County, Iowa. Kossuth Regional is a rural hospital that offers 24-hour emergency and medical care service. Kossuth Regional seeks approval to acquire and install a da Vinci 5 Single Console System with Firefly Fluorescence Imaging to enhance patient access and outcomes by expanding minimally invasive surgical options. This advanced robotic surgical platform supports faster recovery, fewer complications, and reduced need for referrals to outside facilities. By adding this technology, patients will be able to receive the current standard of care close to home rather than traveling to distant facilities for procedures that require minimally invasive surgical capabilities.

Robotic surgery is increasingly becoming the standard of care. In recent years, robotic surgery has surpassed traditional laparoscopy as the dominant form of surgical approach, with the main uses being general surgery, gynecology, and urology. In robotic-assisted procedures, the surgeon operates from a console in the operating room controlling the robotic platform, while robotic arms perform the surgery at the patient's side. The da Vinci 5 offers several advantages over other robotic surgery systems, including enhanced, magnified visualization of the abdominal cavity; instrument controls that mimic the natural

movement of the wrist for precise dissection and suturing; technology to filter out hand tremors and to scale motion for greater accuracy; and an ergonomic, seated position that supports surgeon comfort and performance, potentially extending career longevity.

The da Vinci 5 system will also improve Kossuth Regional's ability to recruit and retain high-quality surgeons, strengthening the surgical program and contributing to the long-term financial sustainability of the Hospital. New providers are now being trained on robotic surgical systems, making these systems even more crucial to physician recruitment and retention. The total estimated cost of the project is \$2,498,902.00, with major cost categories including the da Vinci 5 Single Console System, an ultrasonic washer, and a robotic integrated surgical table.

b. Relationship to Long-Range Development Plan:

The project aligns with Kossuth Regional's strategic priorities to strengthen rural access, retain services locally, and ensure that care delivered in the community meets current standards of clinical quality. Robotic-assisted surgery has become a standard of care across general surgery, urology, and gynecology. Without this capability, Kossuth Regional faces ongoing risk of surgical service erosion, workforce instability, and continued outmigration of surgical volume. Installation of the da Vinci 5 system supports long-term service sustainability, provider recruitment and retention, and alignment with modern surgical practice. Additionally, the da Vinci 5 system will improve the Hospital's ability to recruit and retain high-quality surgeons, further strengthening the surgical program.

c. Description of Proposed Service/Program:

The proposed project includes procurement and installation of a da Vinci 5 Single Console System with Firefly Fluorescence Imaging at Kossuth Regional. The system enables surgeons to perform minimally invasive procedures with enhanced precision, visualization, and control, while maintaining full surgeon decision-making authority. The system will support robotic-assisted procedures across general surgery, urology, and gynecology.

The da Vinci 5 Single Console System includes one da Vinci 5 System Console, one da Vinci 5 System Patient Cart, one da Vinci 5 System Tower, one Integrated Intuitive HUB, one Integrated Insufflator, one Integrated E-200 Generator, system software including Integrated Table Motion, a training instrument starter kit, an accessory starter kit, and vision equipment. The system also includes a backup Da Vinci E-200 Generator.

In addition to the da Vinci 5 system, Kossuth Regional will acquire an ultrasonic washer and a robotic integrated surgical table to support the installation and operation of the surgical robot system in the Hospital's operating room. The total estimated cost of the project is \$2,498,902.00, with major cost categories as follows:

Category	Cost
da Vinci 5 Single Console System (Intuitive Surgical)	\$2,350,000.00
Ultrasonic Washer	\$38,902.00
Robotic Integrated Surgical Table	\$110,000.00
Total Cost	\$2,498,902.00

d. Target Population: Specify geographic and demographic areas.

Kossuth Regional serves patients from Kossuth County and surrounding communities in north-central Iowa. The target population includes rural residents who currently must travel significant distances to larger facilities for robotic-assisted surgery. This population includes elderly patients, lower-income households, individuals with limited transportation, and those with caregiving responsibilities. Following implementation, the geographic service area will remain largely the same, but functional access to advanced surgical services will expand substantially.

e. Relation to Existing Provider Network: Summarize relationship with other health care providers/services in the region.

The da Vinci 5 system will be integrated within Kossuth Regional's existing surgical and clinical programs, enabling the Hospital to provide robotic-assisted surgical services locally rather than referring patients to distant facilities. Training and mentorship will be supported through vendor-provided education from Intuitive Surgical.

f. Funding Sources and Financial Resources: Identify and document sources of funding and financial viability.

The total estimated cost of the project is \$2,498,902.00, inclusive of the da Vinci 5 Single Console System, ultrasonic washer, and robotic integrated surgical table. The total amount will be paid by Kossuth Regional Health Center with cash from internal operating funds.

Current # of Beds (if changing)

Current bed type (if changing)

Requested # of Beds (if changing)

Requested bed type (if changing)

Document Upload

2. Community Need and Service Gaps

a. Description of Need:

Robotic-assisted surgery is increasingly the standard of care across general surgery, urology, and gynecology, yet this capability is currently unavailable at Kossuth Regional. This service gap disproportionately affects rural patients and reflects broader rural disparities in access to, quality of, and availability of specialty surgical care within rural hospital settings. Patients who require robotic surgery must currently travel to larger facilities, creating access barriers and disrupting continuity of care.

The addition of a da Vinci 5 robotic surgical system at Kossuth Regional will help to address the unmet health needs of patients in Kossuth County and surrounding communities by allowing patients to receive care closer to home. A da Vinci 5 system at Kossuth Regional will also help to recruit additional specialists to the region. Patients and surgeons increasingly prefer robotic surgery over traditional laparoscopic surgery because it offers meaningful advantages in precision, outcomes, and experience.

b. Assessment of Existing Services and Gaps:

Currently, robotic-assisted surgical services are not available at Kossuth Regional. Patients must travel to facilities in larger communities to receive care that is widely considered standard practice in many surgical specialties. This creates access barriers, disrupts continuity of care, and shifts surgical volume out of the local community. The proposed project directly addresses this gap by enabling Kossuth Regional to provide services that are already clinically appropriate and in demand within the service area.

c. Alternatives Analysis:

Alternatives considered include continued referral of robotic-eligible cases to larger hospitals and reliance on traditional open or laparoscopic surgery. These alternatives are less effective in addressing access barriers, patient travel burden, and workforce recruitment challenges. Robotic-assisted surgery offers measurable improvements in outcomes and recovery while allowing care to be delivered locally. As a one-time capital investment with broad application, the selected approach represents the most effective and sustainable solution.

d. Accessibility Considerations:

Without this project, rural patients must continue to travel significant distances for robotic-assisted surgery.

This poses challenges related to transportation, time off work, caregiving responsibilities, and post-operative recovery. Local availability of robotic-assisted surgery improves convenience, reduces travel-related barriers, and ensures timely access to care for populations outside metropolitan areas. Services will be available for patients regardless of the patient's ability to pay.

e. Community Input/Support:

The community has shown broad support for the hospital's investment in a da Vinci robotic surgical system, with patients, families, and care providers alike highlighting the importance of preserving access to high-quality, advanced surgical services within a rural healthcare setting.

Document Upload (if needed)

f. Non-discriminatory Access:

Kossuth Regional will provide access without discrimination, consistent with its obligations as a rural hospital serving diverse populations, and inclusive of allopathic and osteopathic practices. Services will be offered without discrimination and will be available to all clinically appropriate patients regardless of payer source. Care will be provided consistent with standard credentialing, privileging, and medical staff bylaws.

3. Impact on Existing Providers

a. Impact Assessment:

The project is not expected to result in unnecessary duplication of services, as robotic-assisted surgery is currently unavailable at Kossuth Regional. Instead, the project reduces service outmigration and strengthens the rural care continuum. By retaining services locally, the project supports access, continuity, and stability without negatively impacting other regional providers. This right-sized addition in a rural setting is designed to minimize unnecessary duplication by meeting demonstrated demand within Kossuth Regional's established patient base.

b. Community and Economic Impact: Broader system effect and value-added to the community.

Retention of surgical services locally strengthens Kossuth Regional's financial stability, supports local employment, and reduces patient and family travel costs. The project improves health equity by ensuring rural patients receive care comparable in quality to that available in urban settings. Adding the da Vinci 5 at Kossuth Regional would allow for the continuation and expansion of specialty services for the region and a strengthened ability to recruit physicians. Enhanced access to advanced technology also positions Kossuth Regional as a more attractive place to work for higher-caliber physicians who prefer to practice in facilities equipped with the tools necessary to deliver high-quality care.

c. Efficiency in Use of Resources: Shared/cooperative arrangements to maximize efficiency.

The project leverages existing surgical infrastructure and staffing resources to maximize efficiency and minimize duplication. Kossuth Regional will integrate the da Vinci 5 system within its existing surgical service lines to maximize efficiency and resource utilization.

4. Financial and Operational Feasibility

a. Financial Projections and Feasibility:

Kossuth Regional estimates the total project cost at \$2,498,902.00, inclusive of the da Vinci 5 Single Console System (\$2,350,000.00), an ultrasonic washer (\$38,902.00), and a robotic integrated surgical table (\$110,000.00). The total amount will be funded by Kossuth Regional Health Center with cash from internal operating funds.

Document Upload (3-year budget projections)

b. Staffing and Operations:

Kossuth Regional has demonstrated capacity to manage major capital projects and advanced medical

equipment installations. Procurement and implementation of the da Vinci 5 system will be managed through established capital planning, facilities, and supply chain infrastructure. Operating room staff training will be provided through vendor-supported training from Intuitive Surgical. Clinical staff will complete required training and competency validation prior to utilization of the system.

The da Vinci 5 purchase quote includes a service plan (dvComplete Care), with the first 12 months of service included at no additional cost, followed by an annual service fee of \$195,000.00 for months 13 through 60. The quote also includes a My Intuitive+ digital subscription, with the first 13 months included at no additional cost, followed by a recurring annual fee of \$70,000.00.

c. Short and Long-term Viability:

The project supports long-term viability by retaining surgical volume, improving operating room utilization, and supporting recruitment and retention of surgeons trained in modern practice. Ongoing operating costs will be supported through hospital operating budgets. Viability is further supported by the Hospital's financial capacity to complete the project using internal operating funds, ensuring no reliance on external grant funding.

5. Community and Economic Impact

a. Community Engagement:

Kossuth Regional maintains ongoing engagement with the community it serves through its role as a rural hospital serving Kossuth County and surrounding populations. The proposed project directly responds to identified needs by expanding local access to minimally invasive surgical services that are currently unavailable at the Hospital. By offering robotic-assisted surgical services locally, the project improves equity by reducing geographic, financial, and logistical barriers that disproportionately impact rural populations. The project reflects responsiveness to community priorities by enabling patients to receive advanced care closer to home, improving continuity of care and recovery outcomes.

b. Resource Availability:

The vendor, Intuitive Surgical, Inc., will provide comprehensive support including system installation, on-site clinical education, and training resources. The purchase quote includes a training instrument starter kit and accessory starter kit to support initial implementation. Alternative uses of resources were considered, including continued referral of robotic-eligible cases to larger facilities or reliance on traditional surgical approaches. These alternatives would not adequately address access barriers or service outmigration and would limit the Hospital's ability to meet current standards of surgical care. The proposed project represents the most efficient and appropriate use of available resources by maximizing existing infrastructure and clinical expertise to deliver care locally.

c. Organizational Relationships:

The proposed project is integrated with Kossuth Regional's existing ancillary and support services, including surgical, emergency, and clinical programs. Installation of the da Vinci 5 system will enhance the Hospital's surgical capabilities, reducing the need for patient referrals to outside facilities and facilitating coordinated care locally.

6. Project Planning

a. Project Timeline:

- Board Review / CON Approval: Robotic system and all ancillary equipment was approved at the April Board Meeting.
- Equipment Procurement: Equipment will be ordered in May 2026.
- Installation: Delivery and installation are anticipated in early fall 2026.
- Staff Training: Training will occur from May 2026 through installation, ending prior to service initiation.

- Service Initiation: First surgical procedures will occur once installation and training are complete.

b. Innovative Components:

The da Vinci 5 Single Console System represents the fifth generation of Intuitive Surgical's robotic surgical platform. The system includes Firefly Fluorescence Imaging, which provides real-time visualization of blood flow and tissue perfusion during surgery. The system features Integrated Table Motion, which allows the surgical table and robotic system to move together seamlessly during procedures. Additional innovative features include force feedback technology, enhanced high-definition true 3D visualization, and wristed instruments that exceed the range of human hand movement.

c. Regulatory Compliance:

The proposed project will be implemented in full compliance with all applicable federal, state, and local regulatory requirements. Kossuth Regional will obtain all required approvals prior to procurement, installation, and operation of the proposed equipment, including Certificate of Need approval from the Iowa Department of Health and Human Services. Kossuth Regional will comply with applicable licensure requirements for hospital-based surgical services, including standards established by the Iowa Department of Inspections, Appeals, and Licensing, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Conditions of Participation, and accreditation standards as applicable. All clinical services will be delivered consistent with hospital policies, medical staff bylaws, credentialing and privileging requirements, and applicable scope-of-practice regulations. The da Vinci 5 robotic system will be installed and maintained in accordance with manufacturer specifications, safety standards, and infection control requirements. Clinical staff will complete required training and competency validation prior to utilization. Ongoing quality monitoring, utilization review, and patient safety oversight will be conducted through established clinical governance and quality assurance structures.

7. Special Criteria for Specific Services:

a. Alternative Consideration (10A.714(2)(a)):

Multiple alternatives were considered, including continued referral of robotic-eligible cases to larger hospitals, reliance on traditional open or laparoscopic surgical approaches, and shared access to robotic services at non-local facilities. These alternatives were determined to be impractical or insufficient in addressing identified access barriers. Continued referral to larger facilities requires patients to travel significant distances for care, creating financial, logistical, and clinical burdens for rural populations. Reliance solely on traditional surgical approaches does not align with current standards of care for many procedures and limits the ability to offer minimally invasive options that reduce complications and length of stay. Shared use of robotic systems at distant facilities was also considered; however, this approach does not meaningfully improve access, as patients would still need to leave the community for care. Given Kossuth Regional's role as a rural hospital serving the community, on-site installation represents the most practical and effective alternative.

b. Utilization of Similar Facilities (10A.714(2)(b)):

There are no facilities within Kossuth County that currently provide robotic-assisted surgical services. Patients requiring these services must travel to hospitals outside the county, primarily in larger metropolitan areas. Regional facilities providing robotic surgery are already operating at established volumes and serve as referral centers for a broad geographic area. Continued reliance on these facilities for routine robotic-eligible cases contributes to service outmigration and does not represent efficient utilization of local healthcare infrastructure. The proposed project improves system-wide efficiency by enabling appropriate cases to be treated locally, preserving regional capacity for higher-acuity care while maximizing use of Kossuth Regional's existing operating rooms, staff, and support services.

c. Construction/Modernization (10A.714(2)(c)):

The project represents modernization of existing surgical services rather than expansion of physical plant or creation of duplicative infrastructure. The da Vinci 5 system will be installed within existing operating

room space at Kossuth Regional. Modernization through equipment acquisition is the most practical and efficient approach to meeting current standards of care while maintaining fiscal stewardship. The project avoids unnecessary construction and capital duplication by utilizing existing facilities and resources to the maximum extent practicable.

d. Access Concerns (10A.714(2)(d)):

Without the proposed project, residents of Kossuth County will continue to experience limited access to robotic-assisted surgical services, requiring travel to distant facilities for care that is increasingly considered standard practice. This poses a risk of serious access problems, particularly for elderly patients, individuals with limited transportation, and those with work or caregiving responsibilities. Ongoing lack of local robotic capability may also impact Kossuth Regional's ability to recruit and retain surgeons trained in modern surgical techniques, further threatening long-term access to surgical services in the community. The proposed project mitigates these risks by ensuring that appropriate surgical services can be delivered locally, supporting continuity of care, reducing patient burden, and preserving access to essential surgical services in a rural setting.

e. UIHC Special Role (10A.714(3)):

Not applicable.

Signature

Attorney Tara Hall

Additional Supporting Documents Upload

26.05.04 Kossuth Certificate of Need Application.pdf

26.05.04 Kossuth CON Quote.pdf

26.05.04 Financial Projections.pdf