

**SALINE COUNTY 911 BOARD
FINAL MINUTES**

January 13, 2022

The Saline County 911 Board met at the OEM Building on Thursday, January 13, 2022 at 10:00 a.m.

3 Board Members Representatives Present:

Benton Mayor Tom Farmer
Saline County OEM/911 Director Brandon Guillot
Benton Police Chief Scotty Hodges

3 Board Members Joined Remotely:

Saline County Sheriff Rodney Wright
Med-Tran Ambulance Director Paul Fowler
Saline County Fire Service Coordinator April Kesterson

2 Board Member Absent:

Saline County Judge Jeff Arey
Benton Fire Chief Russ Evans

Others attending meeting:

Communications Director Kevin Jones, OEM Deputy Director Austen Walls

Director Guillot presented the minutes to the board from last meeting. Motion made to accept the minutes by Benton Mayor Tom Farmer. Minutes accepted.

Communications Director Kevin Jones gave updates to the board:

Reports came out last week on the future on what is going to happen to PSAP's throughout the state. April 1st is the last day to have appeals into the state to be able to remain a PSAP and receive funding. January 1, 2023 everyone has got to have their plans in place and presented to the 911 board. Funding is going to stop on this date to PSAP's that chose not to participate in the consolidation planning process. January 1, 2025 is when everyone should be consolidated. Funding will only be distributed to only 79 PSAP's following that date. We will be waiting on the 911 board to see what the City of Bryant is going to do about receiving 911 calls. If the county receives the 911 calls for Bryant we will need more personnel to handle the call volume.

Saline County Sheriff Rodney Wright spoke about Bryant receiving their 911 calls. He stated from his understanding that the 911 calls will come to the county and be transferred over to Bryant. City of Bryant does have until April of this year to submit a plan or ask for their own PSAP. There is a deadline for about this time next year that the funds will be shut off to anyone who has not been approved for a PSAP. The money at that time would be given to the main PSAP's. Chief Scotty Hodges spoke with CJ Engel about a report that was submitted on Bryant receiving their own 911 calls. CJ was questioning about the legality of the 911 board being able to stop any city from taking 911 calls just because they are not a PSAP center, they would still be a dispatch center. If City of Bryant does not get the funding they

are still considering funding it themselves. County has 9 operating positions but only have 7 per shift right now. If county does dispatch 911 calls for them we will need 1 to 2 additional personnel per shift.

Personal: Currently the communications center is short dispatchers. Jobs are being posted but people are not applying for the positions. We have 4 openings for dispatchers at this time. Two supervisor positions open, but no one qualified at this time has applied and 2 dispatcher openings.

Priority dispatch: Kevin spoke with their guy from Salt Lake about what is the average implementation time from beginning to end. It is depending on the agency normally runs between 4 to 5 months for implementation. There is a 3-tier process for their on-boarding: 1st training/personnel call is today at 1:00 pm, 2nd a conference call with IT to plan the process they are going to take to get this implemented into the computers scheduled for tomorrow and 3rd a conference call with the field responders which will be Pafford ambulance also scheduled for tomorrow. They will also do a pre-assessment of our facility scheduled for Tuesday next week with Kevin and also some dispatchers to get a feel for everything to try to make the best move forward for the implementation.

The CADs were pushed together last week with the City of Benton and Saline County. Everything went pretty smooth, the issues that did arise were resolved quickly. At this time, we have a combined CAD system.

Finances for the center was discussed. Percentages have changed on the 2020 census and will need to be discussed at a later meeting.

Phone System: The phone system will be combined with city and county. Hoping that this will be done this month. Saline Counties 911 lines are currently tied into the A T & T system in Little Rock. Because of this if something happens we would lose all of our 911 lines. A T & T is changing to where 50% will be stored in Little Rock and 50% stored in Fayetteville for 911 lines. A T & T is looking into a 3rd line to hook a sim card to a cell phone if something goes down with our building. We should have 11 lines when all is combined.

Radio System: Currently waiting on Pafford ambulance to get their radio. Hopefully this will be within the next 2 weeks. AWIN can be used if needed on a temporary basis. Paul Fowler advised that Pafford is currently using Med-Tran radio frequency right now and that can be continued if needed.

Training: CTO Training for January 18th – 20th, 2021 has been cancelled until a later time because we are short on personnel.

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Saline County OEM/911 Director Brandon Guillot and 2nd by Benton Mayor Tom Farmer. Meeting adjourned at 10:35 am.