

**SALINE COUNTY 911 BOARD
FINAL MINUTES**

March 3, 2022

The Saline County 911 Board met at the OEM Building on Thursday, March 3, 2022 at 9:00 a.m.

Board Members Present:

Saline County Judge Jeff Arey
Benton Mayor Tom Farmer
Saline County OEM/911 Director Brandon Guillot
Benton Police Chief Scotty Hodges
Benton Fire Chief Russ Evans
Pafford Ambulance Operations Manager Devin Holland
Saline County Fire Service Coordinator April Kesterson

Board Member Absent:

Saline County Sheriff Rodney Wright

Others attending meeting:

Communications Director Kevin Jones, OEM Fire Service Coordinator Matthew Lutz,
OEM Deputy Director Austen Walls

Director Guillot presented the minutes to the board from last meeting. Motion made to accept the minutes by Saline County Judge Jeff Arey and 2nd by Benton Mayor Tom Farmer. Minutes accepted.

Director Guillot introduced Matthew Lutz the new Saline County OEM Fire Service Coordinator to the board. He will be replacing Saline County Fire Service Coordinator April Kesterson. Judge Jeff Arey introduced Devin Holland Pafford Ambulance Operations Manager to the board, he will be replacing Paul Fowler with Med Tran Ambulance Service.

Communications Director Kevin Jones gave updates to the board:

Priority dispatch: A week long (40 hour) stakeholders meeting will be next month beginning April 4th. Invites will be sent out when a schedule is finalized with Priority. There will be different sessions open to Mayors, Fire Chiefs, Ambulance Personnel, Dispatchers, IT, etc. Projected go live date is scheduled for June 28, 2022. EMD training for dispatchers is scheduled for May 9 – 21, 2022. This will be 2 straight weeks of training which the dispatchers will be attending even on their days off.

The CADs were pushed together with the City of Benton and Saline County. The screens are really crowded. City and County received approximately 116 thousand calls of service for last year.

Phone System: The phone system has been combined with city and county. Everything is working as one unit with very minor problems.

Ambulance Service: As ambulance units get deployed within the county another unit is sent close to that area to cut down on the response times. East End and Haskell areas take longer to get there when a unit is not covering those areas.

Radio System: All radio console and portables radios have been programmed with the new Pafford Ambulance frequency. We currently have no radios with Med-Tran ambulance in them.

Personal: We have hired 2 dispatchers, Taylor Castillo and Mollie Rodgers. Both are previous employees and returning with prior experience but both will be receiving some refresher training. Mollie started on 2/20/22 and Taylor will begin on 3/5/22. Dillon Carpenters resigned and his last day was 2/18/22. We have 3 open positions at this time. We would like to fill the positions promoting within our department. Currently, there are still 3 dispatchers remaining at city employees.

April 1st is the last day to have appeals into the state to be able to remain a PSAP and receive funding. We are still waiting to see what the City of Bryant is going to do as far as an appeal. January 1, 2023 funding should go to Saline County.

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Saline County Judge Jeff Arey and 2nd by Saline County OEM/911 Director Brandon Guillot. Meeting adjourned at 9:26 am.