Phillips County, Kan. is a county located on the northern border of Kansas on the Nebraska state line. It is about halfway between Kansas City and Denver, but you have to leave Interstate 70 and travel north from Hays on US Hwy 183 to where it intersects with US Hwy 36 to be able to see what Phillips County has to offer.

Phillips County is steeped in rich history and just celebrated their 150th anniversary in 2017. The county was originally established in 1867 and was name in honor of William Phillips, a Free State man who was murdered at Leavenworth on Sept. 1, 1856 by Frederick Emory and his pro-slave “law-and-order” militia.

If you explore the Phillips County website for just a few minutes, you will quickly realize that Phillips County is a “community that is fueled by a network of progressive resources.” As part of the county’s economic development, they provide demolition assistance for dilapidated residential structures, residential revitalization programs to help homeowners with the exterior of their homes, and commercial revitalization programs to assist retail and service businesses to enhance their storefronts. Along with revitalizing the community, the county has lots to offer those who live there and those who want to visit. The county offers lakes and wildlife areas including Kirwin National Wildlife Refuge, Logan Lake, and Agra Lake; stage and theaters; museums; sports and fitness opportunities including golf courses, disc golf courses, pools and even a pickle-ball facility; hotels, bed and breakfasts, and RV/ campground accommodations; and dining establishments for everyone.

Phillips County includes the
cities of Agra, Glade, Kirwin, Logan, Long Island, Phillipsburg, Prairie View, and Speed in about 900 square miles. The total population is approximately 5,500 with a total of 25 different townships in the area.

If all of the above reasons don’t entice you to visit the area, you might decide to visit in order to talk to some of their dedicated EMS volunteers. However, it might take you a while if you want to get to know all of them as they have a total of 82 volunteers on their service. Yes, 82 volunteers!

Let’s get to know a little bit more about them and their local service.

Originally there was an ambulance service in Logan and one in Phillipsburg that were established about 1974. In 1988, Phillips County EMS was established as a volunteer county-based service. They run approximately 650 calls a year.

While mostly volunteer, the service does have four full-time staff including two paramedics and two AEMTS. Of the 82 volunteers, they have 10 paramedics, 20 AEMTs, six RN/EMTs, 41 EMTs, and five EMRs. These personnel support five stations and eight units. The service has very progressive protocols including advanced level protocols.

When asked what is unique about the service, EMS Director Pete Rogers quickly replied “The dedication of the volunteers! These great people will give up their own free time to answer the call. They are our strength.”

These volunteers and staff also participate in several community activities throughout the year when they aren’t busy with their regular jobs or running calls. They teach CPR, first aid, and general safety in the schools and engage with the public while doing blood pressure checks, taking blood glucose levels, and providing EKG services.

Another thing the service prides itself on is the amount of education they offer. With initial courses, staff meetings twice a month, and additional AHA offerings, they provide 300+ hours of CE per year. That is way above the state requirements!

When talking with Rogers about the service, there is something he would like the readers to know. He said, “Phillips County EMS is an incredible organization. It is made that way from very supportive commissioners, great people who wish to give back to their community, and very understanding employers. It is incredible to me that if and when the call goes out, volunteers show up. Regardless of the time of day. My thanks go out to the volunteers, their families, and their employers.”

The Phillips County slogan is “Real opportunity located in the heart of America.” Check it out if you find yourself in the area or make a special trip off Interstate 70 to check out this community.