Ellsworth County is located in central Kansas and includes the cities of Ellsworth, Holyrood, Kanopolis, Lorraine, and Wilson. The county seat is Ellsworth. Ellsworth County also includes Kanopolis Reservoir, Fort Harker Museum, Hogden House Museum, the annual Czech Festival in Wilson, and more. The population of Ellsworth County is 6,330, and it is approximately 723 square miles.

Ellsworth County EMS (ECEMS) is a county-based ALS service started in the early 1970s. In 1994, the service expanded to include its first full-time director and two part-time technicians. Just four short years later in 1998, the service became full-time with 24-hour shifts, and now the service call volume is about 700 calls per year. One unique aspect of the service is that it covers part of the interstate and several different highways that all run through the county posing its own challenges. The EMS service covers 23.5 miles of I-70, 25 miles of K-14, 21 miles of K-156, four miles of K-232, 17 miles of K-140, 15 miles of Highway 40, 13 miles of K-141, and six miles of Highway 111.

They currently have three EMRs, seven EMTs, six AEMTs, three paramedics, and one in-house billing secretary. ECEMS provides service with two units out of one station in Ellsworth staffed full-time, and one station that houses a third ambulance in Wilson, which is used for a first response unit. The units consist of three ALS ambulances, and they have one supervisor/ALS unit.

Their advanced protocols include Adult and Pediatric IO, 12 Lead, Pacing, Cardio Conversion, Pain Management and more being added in the future. The staff has certifications in ACLS, PALS, PHTLS, TECC, CEVO 4 instructor, and BLS CPR. Some staff are BLS CPR Instructors. All personnel are required to be
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Kansas certified and CPR certified annually. The service takes great pride in being able to care for residents and their families in the local and surrounding communities. In general, they are proud of the overall dedication of their local responders when needed in a more serious or upscale emergency.

ECEMS also provides ambulance stand-by for many different sporting events for the schools. They are the primary CPR training location for the public, local hospital, local nursing homes, child care center, and other local businesses as requested. This year they taught Stop the Bleed to all teachers within the Ellsworth and Wilson school districts in the county and provided Hands Only CPR instruction and Stop the Bleed classes to all middle and high school students in Ellsworth.

They are heavily involved in local community activities and hosted an Open House and Touch a Truck event on May 18. Each year they take part in three different annual community days Kanopolis Fort Harker Days, Wilson Czech Festival, and Ellsworth Cowtown Days.

The city of Ellsworth located in Ellsworth county was known as a cow town in the 1860s and served as a trade route on the Santa Fe Trail. It was once called “the wickedest cattletown in Kansas,” due to the numerous killings following shootouts between drunken cowboys. Now, Ellsworth boasts a thriving community that has thrived through damaging floods, Indian ravages, wild west gunfights, and gambling halls. While you don’t see much of that today, the community does celebrate and honor its heritage during its annual Cowtown Days event in August. The event website said, “We are proud to call this home, and forever know that ‘Abilene, the first; Dodge City, the last, but Ellsworth, the wickedest’ is a phrase that represents our tenacity.” So, if you find yourself in the area in August, you might want to check it out. They say Ellsworth is a proud community with a welcoming spirit.

MISSION STATEMENT:
The mission of Ellsworth County EMS is to provide rapid professional pre-hospital emergency care and safe transportation to all requests for emergency service within Ellsworth County. To promote public wellness and safety awareness in the communities. To offer initial and continuing education in emergency pre-hospital care. To coordinate EMS activities during multi-casualty accidents. Ellsworth County EMS will provide the same care to all patients regardless of race, creed, age or sex.
MEET SOME OF THEIR PERSONNEL

Jeremiah Brown/ Ellsworth County EMS
Service Director, AEMT

How long have you been in EMS? I obtained my initial EMT certification in 2009 and then moved on to an Advanced EMT level in 2013.

How did you get involved in EMS? I got involved in EMS in 2009 when I was a Firefighter for the Valley Center Fire Dept. After obtaining my initial EMT certification, I also began working for Sedgwick County EMS where I worked as an EMT in the Reserve Program. I then moved to Ellsworth and became full-time in EMS in 2011. In January 2018, I was promoted to Assistant Director at Ellsworth County EMS and then promoted to my current position of Service Director in July 2018.

What has kept you in EMS? Just being able to help others is what keeps me in EMS. I truly believe in service to others before self. Also, the adrenalin rush and suspense of the job. You never know what types of calls you are going to be presented with as each call is different. So, I think the unknown keeps it exciting.

What type of rewards do you get from the job? Challenges? Knowing you did your best to help someone else is a reward in its own. Understanding that for most people it is one of their worst days and that you were able to help them in some way or form through it. Also, when you work in any line of public service you become part of a family due to the hours that the job requires and in return develop comraderie with others. With that being said, some of the challenges of the job are being able to balance a positive work and home life.

What does the future look like to you? I am not sure of what the future holds for me. Only God knows that. But I would like to go back to school one of these days to further my education to either advance my certification level or to advance my education on an administrative level.

What is something someone might not know about you? I am a huge sports fan. My favorite sport is baseball. My favorite team is the Boston Red Sox and anyone who is playing against the New York Yankees. Nascar is my second favorite sport, and I usually attend the races at the Kansas Speedway each year.

Stacey Jordan, AEMT

How long have you been in EMS? I started my EMT class in 2013, in Missouri. I moved to Kansas and completed my AEMT class. I started working for Ellsworth in 2016 and worked as an EMT and then an AEMT.

How did you get involved in EMS? I started working on my nursing degree, but I wanted something more challenging where I had to use my critical thinking skills daily. I started my EMT class and knew that this was the career path I wanted to follow.

What has kept you in EMS? Being able to help people in their time of need. It can be a stressful time when people are requiring the skills of EMS to keep them stable. There is always something new to learn in EMS.

What type of rewards do you get from the job? Challenges? Working in EMS has improved my confidence and ability to take lead in emergent situations. This job is not for everybody and the community appreciates the service we provide. I enjoy my job and am only looking forward to bettering myself.

What does the future look like to you? I am planning on going to Paramedic school later in the fall of this year. I am then planning on completing the paramedic to RN program. When I have more experience under my belt and my two boys are grown up, I have thought about possibly working on a cruise ship as an RN/Paramedic.

What is something someone might not know about you? I moved from England, UK, in 2011 to the United States. I still have a strong accent, which my patients always like. I also do not like biscuits and gravy!
Shawn Shipley, AEMT

How long have you been in EMS? I’ve been in EMS for around 3 years and 9 months.

How did you get involved in EMS? I lived in a community that had a volunteer EMS system and had difficulty in getting an EMS crew ready for transfers out of the local hospital in a timely manner. I decided to take EMT training in order to help to alleviate this problem.

What has kept you in EMS? The opportunity to help people in my town and county when they most need it is a big part of what has motivated me to continue to serve with EMS.

What type of rewards do you get from the job? Challenges? The job is rewarding because it allows me to work together with a dedicated team in order to help others.

One of the biggest challenges of the job for me is to always keep improving. It is important to me to evaluate how well I managed the patient’s care and how I can improve the patient care that I will provide on future runs.

What does the future look like to you? I want to continue to provide care as an AEMT for the next few years in order to become a more experienced technician. Ultimately, I would like to become a paramedic.

What is something someone might not know about you? I’m a part-time technician. I teach music (general, vocal, and band) in grades PreK-12 as my full-time job.