



By Brandon Beck
Past President, KEMSA

Photos by
Jon Friesen

In 1854, the City of Leavenworth was founded as the very first city of Kansas. Buffalo Bill Cody spent part of his life in Leavenworth and later worked in the area as a Pony Express rider and Army scout. Cody's parents are buried in Leavenworth. It would be more than 120 years later before Leavenworth County EMS was established in 1976. The service was established by voter referendum. The referendum granted the county the rights to own, operate, and collect taxes from county residents to provide emergency medical services. Initially the service only provided basic life support services, but in 1981 sought approval from the voters to increase service to the advanced level. The voters approved the increase in services and supported a referendum to allow the Board of County Commissioners to tax a maximum of three mills to support this level of service. Leavenworth has proudly been able to continue providing advanced level care county-wide since 1982.

The service operates out of four stations and employs a total of 54 technicians (30 paramedics and 24 EMTs). The Board of County Commissioners oversee the fiscal management of the service and appoints the Director to oversee daily operations and staff management. EMS is a department within the county government and provides services to the entire

county with a population of approximately 81,000 people.

Leavenworth County EMS runs approximately 13,000 calls per year. The service utilizes five ambulances and two staff response vehicles to cover the 471 square mile response district. Within their response district lies five separate prison facilities. Leavenworth County EMS is most likely the sole EMS agency to provide coverage for military, federal, state, and private prisons. Leavenworth is the home of the United States Federal Penitentiary, Core Civic Detention Center, United States Disciplinary Barracks, Lansing Correctional Facility, and the Joint Regional





Correctional Facility. As one would imagine, service to each of these facilities come with challenges and require additional steps to ensure security within the facilities are maintained while providing emergency medical services to the individuals residing inside those facilities.

The service has protocols for adult IO, 12 and 15 lead EKGs, QuikTrach, and chemical facilitated airway management. Leavenworth County EMS also utilizes the Stryker Power-PRO XT cot and Power-LOAD system in their ambulances. The newest equipment to be put into service recently was the AHP 300 transport ventilator. This ventilator is an electronically controlled, portable ventilator, designed to provide emergency respiratory support. It allows for invasive

and non-invasive respiratory support with a variety of ventilation modes to choose from.

Many of the paramedics on staff hold Advanced Cardiac Life Support and Pediatric Advanced Life Support certifications, with renewal courses provided by the service to these employees. Coaching the Emergency Vehicle Operator (CEVO) is a requirement and is provided for all employees. Much of the service's training program is voluntary and is usually open to their

supporting fire departments and other responders in the area. Like many services during the pandemic, online continuing education was utilized to keep personnel adequately trained in new equipment, procedures, and updated protocols.

Serving a community rich in history, Leavenworth County EMS strives to provide quality patient care by employing dedicated personnel and implementing new technology and equipment to serve the residents and visitors of Leavenworth County. 🌟

MEET SOME OF THEIR PERSONNEL

Heather Flickinger, Paramedic/Lieutenant

How long have you been in EMS?

I have been in EMS for nearly 10 years.

How did you get involved in EMS?

I have always had a strong connection to EMS due to my extended family. I grew up visiting my family in Tennessee that worked/still work for EMS services.

What has kept you in EMS? My love of helping people has kept me pushing forward in this job.

What type of rewards or challenges do you get



from the job? I love being there to help others, especially the elderly. I find it rewarding to be the one to help them in their time of need, or to simply hold their hand on the way to the hospital. A challenge that I think I face most in this job is finding the time to be "off duty," you always find yourself wanting to help someone even when you're "not on the clock."

What does the future look like to you? The future is looking bright and sunny! I am hopeful to one day promote to a shift captain position, and to further my education with classes such as Critical Care Paramedic.

What is something someone might not know about you? I have a huge love of elephants! When I was younger, I wanted to work as a zookeeper.

MEET SOME OF THEIR PERSONNEL

Jonathan Meyer, EMT

How long have you been in EMS? I have been in EMS since December 2017.

How did you get involved in EMS? I became an EMT in 2010

and shortly after that joined a volunteer fire department. I then pursued a bachelor's degree in Health Information Management. Toward the end of my bachelor's program, I decided that I wanted to work in EMS and become a paramedic. I applied to be an EMT at my local EMS agency (Leavenworth County EMS) and was offered a position.

What has kept you in EMS? I have many. First is my service. I work for an amazing service that sees the potential in their employees and provides educational opportunities to further their knowledge and skill set. I have a great set of coworkers who are always there for me. I have an administration that ensures that we have what we need to successfully perform our job. I also have a family who fully supports me and has been flexible. Lastly, I absolutely love what I do!!!

What type of rewards or challenges do you get from the job? There are many rewards to working in EMS. One of the many rewards that I get from this job is the feeling of knowing that I was there for someone in their time of need and possibly the worst day of their life, and I most likely made a positive impact on it. Another reward is the continual learning about the human body, new medications, new procedures, and new techniques of doing skills. A challenge that comes to mind is keeping up with advancements in EMS and medicine, while absolutely enjoy learning about new stuff it can be challenging at times to keep up.

What does the future look like to you? I just completed the paramedic program at Kansas City Kansas Community College, so in the near future I'll be a paramedic.

What is something someone might not know about you? I'm an only child.



Jack Stallbaumer, Paramedic

How long have you been in EMS? 4 years

How did you get involved in EMS?

Initially I started with an EMR class while I was still in high school as I knew I wanted to

be in the medical field. I really enjoyed the class and continued my education in EMS.

What has kept you in EMS? Each shift is different which helps keep things fresh and interesting. I love the interactions we are able to have with patients. My coworkers have a big impact on keeping me in EMS. We spend a lot of time with each other, and it is almost like a second family.

What type of rewards or challenges do you get from the job? EMS can be an extremely rewarding as sometimes we are the difference between life and death. Being able to help someone at their most vulnerable moment is really powerful and is something not a lot of jobs are able to offer. As rewarding as it is to save a life, it also presents the biggest challenge of not being able to save a life. Dealing with loved ones of someone who just passed is the most difficult part of the job. The hardships that come with the job are alleviated with the help of my family and friends.

What does the future look like to you? I would love to continue my career in EMS as well as continue my education toward a bachelor's degree.

What is something someone might not know about you? I enjoy volunteer work on my off days. We have a schedule, which gives us a lot of time on our off days. Volunteering is a great way to stay healthy both mentally and physically. I work with Big Brothers Big Sisters and find the experience to be both fun and rewarding. 🌟

