Winfield Fire/EMS Department is located in the City of Winfield in Cowley County. Winfield is 12 miles north of the Oklahoma line and 43 miles southwest of Wichita. Winfield Fire/EMS is a Type II ground ambulance service and provides fire protection to the City of Winfield and the surrounding 236 square miles. The EMS district covers approximately 750 square miles. In addition to providing service to the City of Winfield, they also provide EMS coverage to Atlanta, Burden, Cambridge, Dexter, Rock, Udall, and Strother Field as well as the rural area in the northern two-thirds of Cowley County. The total population is approximately 19,000 for the EMS response area.

The Winfield Fire Department was established in 1876. They have continuously operated out of the same Fire/EMS Station at 817 Fuller Street since 1886. The department assumed responsibility for EMS coverage in July 2014. The department responded to 2885 calls in 2019. Of those responses, 83% were medical and 17% fire calls. The service is staffed with 30 full-time, one part-time, and eight EMS reserves (volunteers). All response personnel are EMT or paramedic certified. Other certifications held by staff are firefighter, officer, ACLS, PHTLS, CPR instructor, rescue technician, and instructor.

Winfield Fire/EMS has five ambulances, 12 fire apparatus, rescue boats, an EMS mobile medical trailer, fire safety trailers, a technical rescue trailer, a hazardous materials response trailer, and all-terrain vehicles. Their EMS protocols include ALS advanced procedures. Winfield requires training in ACLS, PHTLS, BLS, and FF1 for their staff. All department personnel are cross
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trained to meet the demands of a fire and EMS service. When EMS was first incorporated in 2014, they averaged two paramedics per shift and now in 2019 they average five per shift. Winfield EMS is a very young EMS service with only five years of service. Over the past five years with the support of the city and community, they have incorporated new equipment within the service to provide the highest level of prehospital care. During that time, Winfield Fire/EMS has had eight employees obtain their paramedic certification through Cowley College at the Allied Health Center located in Winfield. This has helped the department maintain a strong ALS response for their service area. They also partner with Cowley College with incoming and current students during their recruitment and training.

Winfield Fire/EMS is involved in multiple community programs. Community Hands Only CPR training is provided during the month of February, and they typically reach approximately 1,100 participants within their response area. Winfield Fire/EMS deems February as “Heart Safe Month.” They additionally provide Stop the Bleed training and general fire and EMS community education. They host a Heart Saver dinner for patients and technicians and host a stuff the ambulance event for the local food pantry. They also provide free installations for smoke detectors for anyone who needs one. In the warmer months, they hold water safety training for youth in the community along with community partners, William Newton Memorial Hospital and the Cowley County Health Department. During that event they pass out life jackets for the youth and provide water safety training.

The City of Winfield is excited to help meet the needs of the growing department by adding on to their station within the near future to house all apparatus in one location. With the addition of EMS in 2014, the department added nine full-time personnel and multiple pieces of apparatus. Due to space constraints in the existing station, some equipment is being temporarily stored in multiple locations off site from the main station.

If you visit, check out the Cowley Waterfall located along U.S Hwy 166, outside Dexter. It was named number 12 on the list of the most beautiful waterfalls in the U.S. by Yahoo Travel, and also recently named on the list of “The Most Gorgeous Waterfall in Every State” by Reader’s Digest. This unique fishing, hunting, and camping destination is the perfect family adventure. Cowley County is also home to numerous historic stone arch bridges located throughout the county.

Winfield is home to Southwestern College with approximately 1,150 students, and Ark City is home to Cowley College with approximately 2,800 students. In September, the Winfield fairgrounds are jam packed for a full week of art and music enthusiasts for the Walnut Valley Festival, so make plans to attend.

Overall, Winfield Fire/EMS is very proud of the support they receive from the HL Snyder Medical Foundation by offering grants for education and cutting-edge medical equipment for the service. They also have tremendous support from the community and the City of Winfield, which they are proud to serve.
MEET SOME OF THEIR PERSONNEL

Sean Phares, Fire Lieutenant/Paramedic
How long have you been in EMS? 12 years
How did you get involved in EMS? Winfield Fire Reserves
What has kept you in EMS? Performing the job in a Combination Fire/EMS department
What type of rewards do you get from the job? Challenges?
It’s rewarding to train the department as well as the volunteer fire departments in Cowley County, and it’s challenging to learn new firefighting techniques as well as training to be a Med Spec Technician.
What does the future look like to you? Retirement!
What is something someone might not know about you? I play the accordion.

Amy Phillips, Administrative Assistant & Certified Ambulance Documentation Specialist
How long have you been in EMS? 10 years (5 ½ years with the City of Winfield and 4 ½ years with Winfield Area EMS)
How did you get involved in EMS? A new job opportunity/opening for an Administrative Assistant with Winfield Area EMS. I applied, got hired and have been with EMS ever since.
What has kept you in EMS? Having a great boss, great co-workers, and the opportunity to keep learning something new every day!
What type of rewards do you get from the job? Challenges?
Rewards: Seeing our department come together as one after being merged together from two separate departments, our medics giving great patient care from start to finish, and support from management on billing trying to make sure that our medics have the latest and most updated documentation knowledge.

Challenges: Out with the old and in with the new, insurance rules and regulations changing so frequently, and our department was selected for the first year of the Medicare Ground Ambulance Data Collection.
What is something someone might not know about you? I make my bed EVERY morning.

Derrick Yoder, EMT
How long have you been in EMS? Just over 2 years
How did you get involved in EMS? I began as a volunteer firefighter in Ark City. I got my EMT certification and joined Winfield Fire/EMS reserves. Once a full time position opened up, I applied and got hired on.
What has kept you in EMS? The duty to serve. I enjoy helping others and want to continue to educate myself to better serve my family, friends, and community. The brotherhood in the department is also very enjoyable. I like having another family who is there for me any time I need.
What type of rewards do you get from the job? Challenges?
Rewards: I get rewards from the job every time we have a critical call and make a difference, whether it be fire or EMS. Being able to save someone’s life or property is an amazing feeling. Some challenges are obvious things with the job. We are in a high stress job, we work long hours, and sometimes we run on little sleep or incremental times of sleep. You have calls that are pretty traumatic, and it takes some time coping with things. All of that is the nature of the job, but the benefits of working here outweigh the stresses for sure.
What does the future look like to you? I am beginning school to become a paramedic, and I will continue to expand my knowledge base and grow here at Winfield Fire Department.
What is something someone might not know about you? I do not have a uvula. When I was a sophomore in high school, I had a tonsillectomy/adenectomy. During this procedure, they actually took out my uvula as well. ☹