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Dickinson County EMS

Geary County, Kan. is home to the largest body of water in Kansas, Milford Lake. It is also the home of Junction City Fire Department, this issue’s service spotlight. The City of Junction City is in the Flint Hills Region along the east-west corridor of I-70 between exits 301 and 290.

The City of Junction City Fire Department (JCFD) is a multi-role agency that provides fire suppression for the City of Junction City, technical rescue, and advanced life support emergency medical care to all of Geary County.

The members of JCFD are the core and the strength of the department; being such the members of the department are held to a high standard of professional, ethical, and moral conduct. All members of the department are encouraged to hold credentials that meet or exceed the standards of the State of Kansas, the International Fire Service Accreditation Commission (IFSAC), National Professional Board, and the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). Every member of the JCFD is encouraged to have as a minimum standard, Firefighter II, Hazardous Materials Operations, National Registry Emergency Medical Technician to Emergency Medical Technician Paramedic.

Junction City Fire Department provides EMS with basic and advanced life support pre-hospital care and transport for the City of Junction City and the surrounding communities of Geary County, which include Milford and Grandview Plaza. In addition to providing coverage for EMS for the community, the department provides inter-facility convalescent transport for the local Geary Community Hospital and medical facilities.
In 2018, Junction City Fire Department responded to 3,214 calls, which averages 8.8 patients per day. The population of Geary County is 32,594 with approximately 23,000 being located within the city of Junction City. One unique thing about Junction City is they are located near Fort Riley, the Home of the U.S. Army 1st Infantry Division. This provides additional people living in the area, who maintain a home residence in another state.

The JCFD consists of 52 staff with 48-line personnel on three shifts of 16 crew members. The overall staff includes 12 paramedics, 32 AEMTs, and five EMTs with three positions currently open. They provide care out of two stations located in Junction City.

In 1998, Junction City Fire Department was the first EMS organization in the state of Kansas to implement the EMT-Intermediate level advanced initiatives, allowing their EMT-Intermediates to perform endotracheal intubation and administer Albuterol in the field.

With an aggressive set of patient treatment protocols, Junction City Fire Department allows their technicians to work at the full capacity of their level of training. The paramedics have the ability to perform other key medical management procedures such as chest decompression, cricothyrotomy, rapid sequence intubation, and adult and pediatric intravenous infusion. Their paramedics also provide advanced life support by having the ability to administer 27 different emergency medications, as well as provide cardiac defibrillation, and transcutaneous pacing. AEMTs are allowed to place I/Os. The crews are able to obtain 12-lead EKG and transmit them to both Geary Community Hospital and Salina Regional Health Center.

JCFD provides continuing education needed to keep EMS skills current. They utilize American Safety Health Institute (ASHI) to train on BLS, ACLS, and PALS. They are also a NAEMT training center and have taught PHTLS courses. Several members of the service are Kansas Board of EMS qualified instructor coordinators. As a dual role service, crew members must be willing to step up and train on EMS, fire, and technical skills such as rope, water and confined space rescue.

A Disaster Response Medical Unit was donated by Shell Oil Company of Deer Park, Texas. The ambulance can hold two stretchers, as well as the ability to seat eight other people. The unit has an awning on the side of the unit with potable lights.
running off a generator. Once this vehicle is fully in service, it will be a mobile Casualty Collection Point. Over 100 patient self-care kits are ready to treat a large number of patients until additional resources can arrive on scene. This vehicle has a Wireless Vital Sign Monitor allowing BP, Sp02, and 3 lead EKG to be obtained on a patient while the patient is packaged in events like a technical rescue.

Junction City Fire Department has an Utility All-Terrain Vehicle (UTV) with a medical stretcher assembly. This allows for a stretcher and a medic to be transported off road or in areas where an ambulance is not capable of going. They can load the patient then transfer to an ambulance to allow care to be maintained for the patient.

Currently, Junction City Fire Department is in a partnership with Geary County Sheriff Department in creating a Water Rescue/Dive Team.

One of the things that Junction City Fire Department is most proud of is the willingness of the crews to commit to training and community education. The members of the department are committed to training to consistently improve their patient care skills to ensure they prove the very best care possible. The crew members are also involved in community education by teaching both traditional and hands-only CPR. They have recently started teaching the Stop the Bleed course to interested community organizations/members. They are actively teaching First Aid courses to Boy Scout Packs and Troops.

“The Junction City Fire Department strives to provide the best pre-hospital emergency care possible to our residents, as well as those visiting or passing through our community,” said Kent Vosburg, Division EMS/Training Chief.