

Moundridge EMS



By Mary Napier
Editor, KEMSA Chronicle

Photos by
Jon Friesen



Much of Kansas and the United States was settled in the 1800s due to the railroads, which sold land to settlers for farming and commerce. Moundridge, Kansas was no exception as trains stopped four times a day in Moundridge to bring mail, freight, and passengers. Early settlers included Thornton C.J. Cole and his wife, Drusilla, who built the Cole House. The Cole House offered shelter and hospitality to travelers who couldn't reach their destination as it was halfway between McPherson and Newton. The town of Moundridge was officially established in 1887 when the Coles gave a portion of their homestead to establish the town. As cars and buses were introduced in the United States, the importance of trains faded, and train stations were no longer needed. Therefore, Moundridge moved their depot, and it is now home to the Moundridge Depot Museum.

Besides historical attractions like The Cole House and the Moundridge Depot Museum, and annual events like the Black Kettle Festival, the city of Moundridge is home to Moundridge

EMS. Moundridge EMS is a city-based service established August 9, 1966. The original name was the Moundridge Voluntary Ambulance Service Association, which was later changed to Moundridge EMS.

The City of Moundridge is located just west of Interstate 135 between exits 46-48 and is located 15 miles south of McPherson and 19 miles north of Newton in McPherson County. The EMS service provides coverage to approximately 3,500 residents in 165 square miles in the lower part of McPherson County and 28 square miles in northern Harvey County. This coverage area yields more than 500 calls per year, which is a combination of 911 calls and hospital transfers.

The service has one station and two ALS capable ambulances. The service has 20 staff members who serve the community and provide EMS services. The schedule is made up of half full-time employees and half part-time employees, so you always have one of each on a unit. There are four full-time staff total, which includes three paramedics and one AEMT, who serve in the leadership roles of EMS director, clinical manager, operations manager, and logistics manager. The part-time positions include four paramedics, five AEMTs, and 11 EMTs.

When asked what the service was most proud of, EMS Director Brian Falco said, “It would have to be the dedication of our staff members. We have gone through a few changes in the last five years, including more updated protocols, new equipment (monitors, cots, power load systems), consistent training, and the move from a volunteer-based system to a paid full/part-time configuration. The staff members have met these changes with a willingness to learn and ultimately treat patients better. We really could not exist without the dedication and willingness of our part-time members.”

He also mentioned the amount of experience of the full-time staff members is pretty unique to Moundridge EMS. He explained, “There is close to 80 years of experience treating patients in high call volume services, flight, and remote overseas locations prior to coming to Moundridge. This experience allows for excellent patient care. This also allows us to guide and mentor less experienced technicians with real world knowledge.”

At Moundridge EMS, they believe in mentoring and training new providers, so as long as you have a certification, they will assist you with becoming a better provider. They also provide staff with training days every month, which varies between educational



classroom work and scenario-based training. The scenario-based training is completed outside in the community to replicate as much as possible, real-world calls that have or may happen.

Besides educating the staff, they also educate their community. They provide CPR classes for the community, hospital, and area nursing homes along with “Stop the Bleed.” They also provide standby services for middle and high school athletic events and

like to present during events in the elementary schools.

If the service is looking for education outside of their service area, they typically attend KEMSA events and enjoy the member discounts on education and conferences. Falco mentioned that KEMSA offers EMS providers and agencies the ability to have a voice in EMS, be that at the state or national level, and the educational opportunities, seminars, and group buying discounts are important as well. He feels that together

we can continue to advocate for EMS and express the absolute value of pre-hospital care to the citizens in our communities.

Falco believes to stay motivated we should follow the mantra “to be better than we were yesterday, but striving to improve for tomorrow.” 🌟



MEET SOME OF THEIR PERSONNEL

Jana Bradley, Paramedic, FP-C

How long have you been in EMS? 20 Years

How did you get involved in

EMS? I was taking prerequisites for nursing and working at St Francis. I was outside the hospital and saw the helicopter landing.



I decided that whatever that was, I wanted to do it. I went to my adviser and told her, and she told me that was a paramedic. Next thing I knew, I was on the road to being a paramedic.

What has kept you in EMS? The challenge. I like putting all the pieces together on a call and figuring out what's going on and how to treat it.

What type of rewards do you get from the job? I get to be a part of making somebody's day a little better. I've also gained an endless family of First Responders. **Challenges?** Not being able to make everyone's day better.

What does the future look like to you? I will continue to do what I am doing. I get to run calls while learning how to do the administrative side of EMS, and I get to help teach the next generation of EMS at the same time.

What is something someone might not know about you? I have never been to the ocean.

Brian C. Falco, Paramedic

How long have you been in EMS? 20+ years

How did you get involved in

EMS? While out in Thomas County, I witnessed a severe auto accident. I stopped to render aid, as I was the first person on scene.



The only medical knowledge that I had was what I learned in the military, self-aid/buddy care. I felt completely inadequate in that situation. I decided I needed a better foundation, so I looked into an EMT course. After working on a volunteer service for a year, I wanted to provide a higher level of care, so I enrolled in paramedic school.

What has kept you in EMS? First, it was due to getting better at the job. It was knowing I was making better decisions, quicker, which allowed me to treat patients better. Later in my career, it was mentoring the newer medics. I wanted to pass on information the same way my mentors passed on their knowledge.

What type of rewards do you get from the job? In the beginning, the rewards were mainly around good patient care, saving lives or making a difference to people. While that is still very much a reward, I think I get as much of a reward out of mentoring new people of all certifications. Watching the changes in their growth as providers is amazing.

What does the future look like to you? The future looks a little rough. The biggest concern is the decline in people wanting to do this job. Numbers keep decreasing, yet the demand from the public keeps increasing. I truly understand that this job is not for everyone. It takes a very different person to provide quality care for the public on a day-to-day basis. The long hours and less than desirable pay makes recruitment an uphill battle.

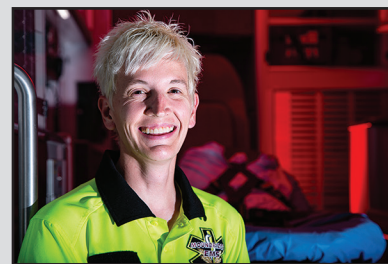
What is something someone might not know about you? I turned down a scholarship to go to UCONN the day after the car accident I witnessed in Thomas County to become an EMT.

Miranda Gallagher, Advanced EMT

How long have you been in EMS? 18 years

How did you get involved in EMS?

I decided at the last minute during my third year of college, where I was studying to become an athletic trainer, to take the EMT class and have been doing this job ever since.



What has kept you in EMS? I love helping people and knowing every workday is going to be different than the last. I also like the work schedule.

What type of rewards do you get from the job? I like knowing that I helped someone when they

MEET SOME OF THEIR PERSONNEL

are having a bad day. Challenges? Balancing work and family life.

What does the future look like to you? I'm unsure of what the future looks like in EMS due to how technicians are compensated compared to other first responders. There are also not as many people getting into EMS as a career now as there was when I first started.

What is something someone might not know about you? I would like to be a zookeeper when I grow up.

Jeremy Samland, Paramedic

How long have you been in EMS? 2005

How did you get involved in EMS?

Through volunteer search and rescue.

What has kept you in EMS? The



many facets that EMS and paramedicine can provide. Being able to work in industry worldwide to volunteering with the local communities is something very few people can say their profession can provide. Also, I enjoy the camaraderie within the profession.

What type of rewards do you get from the job? Challenges? Helping people has kept me in my career. Pushing myself to always grow professionally is very important to me. Finding ways to try and improve EMS locally is key as well.

What does the future look like to you? Working and supporting the local community along with growing my personal knowledge along with EMS as a profession.

What is something someone might not know about you? Most of my overseas assignments have been along the equator for me. I very much dislike the heat. 🌞

Thank you First Responders

We are here to help in any way we can.

We are looking forward to meeting with you in person soon!

Visit us at the
KEMSA
Conference

BOOTH

9

Life-Assist
Helping Heroes Save Lives

800.824.6016



Greg Holliday
Account Manager
greg.holliday@life-assist.com
303.884.9905



Life-Assist.com