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Legislative Liaison

Oklahoma Non-Profit EMS
Ambulance Association





State of EMS in Oklahoma

2nd busiest Public Safety discipline behind Law Enforcement
EMS makes an Average 80% of the
Call volume of EMS and Fire related calls.



ESSENTIAL

Ambulance Service is not considered essential in Oklahoma
We are the only Public Safety Entity that is not considered essential.

No County or Municipal is required in Oklahoma to provide Ambulance Service



ESSENTIAL

Ambulance Services in Oklahoma are not even considered Public safety in Labor laws. We follow the laws as fast food restaurants while Law and Fire are under public safety employment laws that are designed for Emergency services and disaster response

ESSENTIAL



EMS has NO Guaranteed funding in the State of Oklahoma without going out for Special elections

Currently, Property Tax in Ambulance Districts established by Article X 9C of the Oklahoma constitution is capped at 3 mills and across the state only funds 20-30% of Ambulance Operations

The Remaining 70-80% is made up by billing

Retirement

EMS in Oklahoma on Nov 1, 2024, will be eligible for a
20 Year retirement under OPERS

Ambulance Service under OPERS will be considered
Hazardous duty on Nov 1.



Retirement

OPERS does not allow medics that have worked for years

In Oklahoma has been under the old system and switch to the 20 years system which will cause a existing medics to leave the system still for other jobs. New to the system medics that have worked in Oklahoma will have to start at ZERO.

We will still have a shortage of medics until the new younger medics catch up with the system, still straining the State Ambulance systems.



Retirement

We need to allow all employees of the Ambulance Service
To be on the 20 years system.

An Ability to buy all years of service should be put in place as an option



TORT



Public Ambulance services established under the Oklahoma Consitution (Article X 9c) are not listed as covered in the Tort protection laws

Municipal Ambulance services are.

Fire and Law Enforcement are

The Oklahoma Supreme Court has ruled the Article X 9C Ambulance Districts are covered under Tort.

We need this to be added to legislation to stop the attacks on the Ambulance districts that could case of loss of Ambulance Coverage in smaller areas



Sole Source

Law Enforcement and Fire departments have established districts, and no one can violate them without breaking the law.

EMS needs to strengthen the Sole Source laws in Oklahoma to give Public Ambulance Services the same protections



Recruitment and Retention

Strengthen the Retirement system to keep seasoned Knowledgeable and trained medics in the Ambulance Systems

Dedicated funding could increase better pay and retention to keep knowledgeable and trained people

Tax Incentive for medics



State Grants

Reform the OERSSIRF

Grants to better serve the Ambulance Districts in the state and the people.

Adjust the Criteria and eligibility to receive the grant money

This Grant is designed to Stabilize EMS but is so difficult

Department of Emergency Medical Service



Establish a stand-alone department that solely deals with EMS.
Combine multiple divisions in the Health Department into one and
establish of Organizational chart for EMS state-wide.

Save EMS in Oklahoma



Pass a Save Oklahoma EMS bill package

Make Public Ambulance Service Essential

Be added to TORT Reform

Establish a more permanent funding

Protect Ambulance Districts from having to fight against outside agency Poaching and destabilizing the system

Strengthen the Sole Source laws

Establish a Department of EMS

Create a Taskforce to guide Oklahoma Policy made up of Active Public Ambulance Districts.

Create an Oklahoma Taskforce to advocate with federal legislators laws to better protect Oklahoman Ambulance Services and the people of Oklahoma



QUESTIONS?

If you ever have
Questions or need information
on Ambulance Services in
Oklahoma please call
580-916-1887
Thank you

