

Ambulance Service Changes

FAQs

WPCATA Overview

From www.paynecounty-ems.org.

Founded in late 2009, the Western Payne County Ambulance Trust Authority (WPCATA) is responsible for emergency medical service in Stillwater, Perkins and Glencoe. Improving the quality of ambulance care residents receive and keeping costs low are the trust authority's primary goals.

Through a competitive bid process, WPCATA selected a private ambulance company (LifeNet, Inc.) to provide emergency medical service in western Payne County. LifeNet service is expected to begin in 2011. WPCATA will provide oversight of LifeNet to ensure that quality and financial standards are met.

WPCATA is led by a board of directors that includes: Chairman Jerry Moeller, Stillwater Medical Center; Gary Clark, Oklahoma State University; Rex Horning, Stillwater National Bank; Rick Jarvis, retired fire chief; and Bill Sasser, Stroud National Bank.

What are the changes in Payne County's ambulance service?

Historically, the Stillwater Fire Department has been providing two levels of Emergency Medical Services:

- 1) **First Response with Certified Emergency Medical Technician (EMT).** First Responders provide rapid treatment of the sick and injured prior to the arrival of the transport ambulance.
- 2) **Ambulance transport services.** This refers to transporting people to the hospital during medical emergencies and transporting non-emergency patients to and from health care providers.

The Stillwater Fire Department will continue to be First Responders during medical emergencies; however, in the next few months, the Western Payne County Ambulance Trust Authority (WPCATA) will take over the ambulance transport service.

Why the change in service?

After many hours of discussion and citizen input, the Stillwater City Council voted to change how ambulance transportation services were delivered to Stillwater residents. The WPCATA was formed to oversee ambulance transportation services for Western Payne County.

Who will operate ambulance transportation service?

WPCATA selected LifeNet, Inc., a private ambulance service, to provide ambulance transportation services to the area currently served by Stillwater Fire Department. For the most current information about LifeNet and its services, visit the WPCATA's web site <<http://www.paynecounty-ems.org>>.

Why is the City of Stillwater collecting a \$5 per month ambulance provider fee?

The City of Stillwater is collecting ambulance subscription fees for WPCATA. Households that participate will receive a discount for services if they are transported by LifeNet. The City of Stillwater does not retain any of the monies collected, and citizens can choose not to participate in the subscription program.

How do I opt out of the program?

Customers may change their election only during the annual February election period. Forms and the most current information are available on the WPCATA's web site <<http://www.paynecounty-ems.org>>.

If I choose not to participate in the subscription program and I call 911, will I receive an ambulance?

Yes. The State of Oklahoma requires all ambulance providers to respond to the aid of an emergency call for help.

What is going to happen to the Stillwater Fire Department's ambulances and the ambulance equipment?

The ambulances currently owned and operated by the Stillwater Fire Department will be loaned to WPCATA. The majority of the equipment used to treat sick and injured people will remain with the Stillwater Fire Department to carry out its First Responders' duties.

What didn't change?

Again, the Stillwater Fire Department will continue to respond to all life threatening incidents to assist with patient care. As First Responders, the Stillwater Fire Department will continue to provide rapid treatment of the sick and injured prior to the arrival of the transport ambulance.