

Chairman Cox, and committee members, I will not take up much of your time today. On behalf of the cities and ambulance services in Lincoln County we wish to thank you for this opportunity to visit with you today. Our story is probably not much different than most other smaller populated counties and smaller cities around the State. In Lincoln County our population is 34,273 and we have approximately 960 square miles of area with four ambulance services that cover it:

Prague – Contracts out to a private firm

Stroud – Contracts out to a private firm

Chandler – Owns and operates their own service

Davenport – Has their own and utilizes volunteers to man their service

There were two additional services operating within the county in the past;

Meeker- shut down their service years ago and their area is covered now by Shawnee and Chandler

Wellston - shut down their service due to financial constraints in December 2010

Stroud and Davenport currently cover the Northeast part of the County with crossing the County line when called

Chandler covers almost the entire West half of the County

Prague covers the Southeast part of the County along with reaching into Okfuskee, Pottawatomie and Seminole Counties for an additional 130 square miles.

Currently the Funding Structure for our services is covered by monies received by the runs made and the balance comes from the citizens of our communities. It is important to each of our communities to provide this life-saving service to our residents. We all know that a quick response to an injured or ill person makes the difference of life or death in most cases. With Wellston shutting down their service, the Chandler service had to take over much of that jurisdiction plus still cover their own. This now creates a longer response time for those residents in that part of the County, as much as 30 minutes or more at times. Wellston would like very much to be able to start there service back up again but, with the lack of funding, this is impossible at this time.

Our idea is a simple one, the residents of each of our cities are paying to have the service available, but all those who live outside our cities do not have to pay for this service to be available, but benefit nonetheless, which in turn puts a large burden on our individual City residents.

Chandler and Davenport use their general fund to supplement theirs

In Stroud, residents pay \$9.96 a month

In Prague, residents pay \$9.00 a month with the City subsidizing the balance.

These additional fees are added to their city utility bill. We feel that by passing legislation, enabling the service provider to add a fee to all electric meters in each certified response area that the service is required to cover, will help tremendously with the financial burden taken on at this time by those who live within the city limits of our small rural communities in Oklahoma.

With all residents paying a fee, all people of Oklahoma will be treated fairly and equitably, and get a quick response time of an ambulance service in their area.

We know you will hear from the utilities saying why this can't be done and why should we have to take this burden on, or it will be too costly etc. etc. If the same fee is added to everyone's bill then it is just the matter of tracking the service area boundaries and determining the number of meters within each service area to know the amount remitted. It is not that complicated, and we small cities are already doing this exact thing. We are not asking the utilities to do this for nothing. We know there will be some cost to them and we feel that the best solution is by letting them keep a reasonable percentage of the money collected to cover their cost like the Tax Commission does. Obviously this is something that would need to be discussed with them to make sure everybody is treated fairly and equally.

I will stop at this point and I would like to thank all of you for listening to me and the situation the cities and ambulance services are dealing with in Lincoln County and rural Oklahoma.

At this time we would be more than happy to answer any questions you may have.

Thank you