

Carbon County EMS Board Minutes

September 30, 2025

Called to Order at 7:04 in Bridger at Clarks Fork Valley/Bridger Fire Station

- a) **Roll Call:** Board Members: Kim Haman, Anna Simons, Mark Patterson, Roger Steffensen, Jennifer Hickock. Others Present: Torsten PrahL RLFR, Kim Bednarz RLFR, Chris Pugrud JEMS,
- b) **Reading and Disposing of any unapproved minutes:** Minutes from June 17, 2025 were not approved, as quorum was not present. Tabled for next meeting.
- c) **Reports of Board Members:** Simmons reports that it seems like CFVA has had great success with their recent EMT class
- d) **Public Comment in accordance with 2-3-103, MCA:** None
- e) **Old Business:**
 - a) None
- f) **New Business:** None beyond agency reports
- g) **Agency Reports:**
 - a. CFVEMS- Roger reports that it has been a difficult summer for their service. They plan to start another EMT class in January. They do have a replacement ambulance for the ambulance that was totaled in the accident earlier this summer, but have not been able to put it in service yet due to insurance things getting worked out. They were able to purchase a truck with a remount box for \$210,000. The county EMS money came in at just the right time for them to be able to purchase the replacement. They have had 132 calls ytd- 93 in Bridger, 19 in Fromberg, and 17 in Belfry. He noted that 14% are falls, 11% MVC, 9% breathing problems, (anna, please verify these numbers here, my notes were rough), 30% go to Intermountain Health, 24% to Billings Clinic, and 19% go to Beartooth Billings Clinic. He also had some billing stats he shared- 24% are insurance, 5% medicaid, 18% medicare, and 13% are selfpay.
 - b. Red Lodge report from Torsten PrahL: RLFR has started EMT classes- 3 in the High School class, and 11 in the evening class. RLFR is hosting CALS Oct. 23-24, working with Ski Patrol on their yearly refresher. 463 total calls, down 4 from same time last year. They have committed to purchasing an ambulance next year, the order has been placed. They hosted a movie night at the Roman for all Carbon County first responders, was great fun, and had a great turn out.

- c. Joliet report from Chris Pugrud – Chris did not have data to share, but states that the county funding has been helping them significantly. They have been able to cover the “mutual” zone with RLFR. Their next big purchase will need to be 20-25 new radios. As the county will be upgrading the radio system, the radios that Joliet has will not be able to work on the update. They have a committee looking into grants to help them with this. He also mentioned that Joliet has enacted a “response or activation” fee suggested by its biller; this would apply to calls when the patient denies transport. Quite a bit of discussion ensued; after skepticism was voiced, Pugrud said he would convey this back to JEMS.

Patterson commends Joliet EMS on the tragic accident that occurred in Joliet’s district late the previous night (a two car collision involving a horse, and resulted in two fatalities), as well as all summer. He comments that he listened to the radio traffic last night and states that they all did a great job, and appreciates what they do.

- h) **Next meeting:** It was agreed since the board has now toured all three county EMS facilities, it should only need to meet twice a year barring special needs, and the next meeting was scheduled for January 27th in Joliet. This motion was moved by Eldred, seconded by Hickock, and unanimously approved.

Adjournment: Mark Patterson moved to adjourn, seconded by Haman. All were in favor and the meeting adjourned at 8:11.

Following the meeting, the board was hosted by CFVEMS for a tour of the facility.