



CROCKETT COUNTY
AMBULANCE SERVICE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: March 22, 2023

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Crockett County Offers First Rural Blood Program in Tennessee

ALAMO, Tennessee — Becoming the first rural emergency medical service in the state, Crockett County Ambulance Service can now administer blood to patients before they reach the hospital.

The Tennessee Department of Health EMS Board authorized the group, which is now among an elite group of county-owned ground transport service in the United States, to administer blood.

“This program is representative of Crockett County’s commitment to supporting innovative ways to provide best-in-class prehospital care for the community we serve,” said Gary Reasons, Mayor of Crockett County. “CCAS continually sets the bar for pre-hospital care throughout the multi-state region, and we are proud of the outstanding men and women who represent their profession with such clinical competence.”

Detailed quality control systems including daily procedures, clinical guidelines, strategic partnerships with Master Medical Equipment for blood storage/handling equipment and Lifeline Blood Services to provide blood products ensures blood is stored properly and utilized before it expires.

Blood utilized by the CCAS team comes from LIFELINE Blood Services, the blood bank serving the West Tennessee region. Local blood donations made through LIFELINE is helping to meet the needs of patients in 21 West Tennessee counties.

Our medical directors, Drs. Tony Emison and Mike Revelle, are household names in the EMS arena. The development of this rural blood program solidifies their dedication and commitment to the highest level of quality care for our patients. Dr. Emison said, “I grew up in Crockett County, worked at the Crockett County Ambulance Service as a young man back in the 70’s which launched me into medical school. It has been an honor to be associated with this program and support their initiatives to provide great patient care to my home county.” Dr. Revelle, who serves on the State of Tennessee

Clinical Issues Committee and is also our assistant medical director remarked, “Like Dr. Emison, I worked at the ambulance service in the early 90’s as a young man and pursued a career in medicine because of that experience. It has been an honor to work alongside of this incredible team of providers to bring a prehospital blood program to my home in Crockett County. I look forward to the great things we can do together in the future.”

“It takes 30 minutes for a patient to bleed out, which may leave many rural Tennesseans without hope of making it to a hospital,” shares John B. Miller, CEO of LIFELINE Blood Services. “A blood transfusion as soon as possible is crucial to their survival. LIFELINE is proud to partner with Crockett County Ambulance Service to provide this life saving medicine.”

“Without the tremendous support we have received from our community, our commissioners, our medical directors, County Mayor Gary Reasons, our engaged EMS committee, our partnership with Master Medical Equipment, our relationship with Lifeline Blood Services, our blood program administrator Critical Care Paramedic Will McBride, and the dedication of your local EMS team – we would not have a single thing to be proud of at the ambulance service”, said Director Stephen Sutton. He continued, “Everyone has stepped up in incredible ways, everyone is moving our community forward and practicing excellence in all things. When our citizens call 911 on their worst day...they want, deserve, and expect excellence. This is not an unrealistic expectation, and we are committed to meeting their expectations”.

This program is truly groundbreaking for rural ground EMS services. The leadership and foresight of the Crockett County Ambulance Service beginning this program opens the door for other rural EMS providers to provide the same level of care to the citizens in their areas.

As Crockett County’s primary 911 emergency medical service provider, the CCAS team consists of more than 52 paramedics, AEMTs, EMT basics, EMR’s and support personnel and operates 4 advanced life support ambulances with 3 emergency response vehicles. Crockett County Ambulance Service has been providing emergency medical services in Crockett County since 1972 and is the 2023 Tennessee Ambulance Service Association ALS Service of the Year.

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