

GC Ambulance Board still considering part-time position

BY DEBORAH LUCAS ANGEL
NEWS CORRESPONDENT

Since it's inception in 2024 by the Grant County Fiscal Court, the Grant County Kentucky Special Ambulance Service District Board (Board) has had intermittent issues. From the stop/start of the initial Fire District to adding and removing appropriate members to funding issues to how to move forward with equipment and personnel; the Board has been trying to establish its footing.

Now that they have mainly settled on an Inter-Local Agreement between the Board, Dry Ridge and the City of Crittenden Ambulance Taxing District, establishing a position to oversee day-to-day operations of the Board has become the next stumbling block.

Beginning in July, 2025, the Grant County Special Ambulance Taxing District Board (Board) agreed they needed a "director of operations" position. The establishment and requirements of that position have been discussed on numerous occasions ranging from full to part-time along with considerations of what would be the responsibilities of the position as the Board moves toward fully operational management of the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) for Grant County.

In September 2025, it was decided the position would be a part-time "district manager."

By November the position was referred to as an "administrator." A committee was established to find the right candidate to fill the position.

Chaired by Chad Bedard, board trustee, the committee was to be made up of professionals in the EMS field.

On Dec. 8, a recommendation from the committee was forwarded to the Board. However, due to some members not being present at that meeting, the announcement was postponed. On Jan. 14, 2026, the Board went into executive session, ostensibly to discuss the recommendation. However, no formal announcement of any decision came about.

On Jan. 22, a special meeting was held with the only agenda items listed being "Executive Session as per Kentucky Revised Statute (KRS) 61.810" and "to take action and Vote."

At that meeting, after the meeting was called to order, the Board immediately exited into the roughly 15 minute executive session which under KRS is described as "Exceptions to open meetings." Section (1) "(a)ll meetings of a quorum of the members of any public agency at which any public business is discussed or at which any action is taken by the agency, shall be public meetings, open to the public at all times, except for the following..." (g) "(d)iscussions between a public agency and a representative of a business entity and discussions concerning a specific proposal, if open discussions would jeopardize the siting, retention, expansion, or upgrading of the business..."

Upon returning to the special session, Secretary Ashley Brinker noted it was motioned to "offer the part-time" position to "David Curtis." The voice

vote to approve was taken as follows:

- Treasurer Brooke Cummins – Yes
- Trustee Chad Bedard – No
- Secretary Ashley Brinker – Yes
- Chair Anthony Morgan – Yes
- Vice Chair Dave Curtis – no vote

As a quorum was met, the majority ruled in favor of Curtis, and he was to be named as part-time director of the GCKSASD.

However, the meeting dissolved as Kevin Stave of Dry Ridge Emergency Medical Services asked questions, including wanting to know who was recommended by the committee. As this was a special meeting and no public comment item was on the agenda, Board Attorney Pete Whaley said any requests were to be "submitted to (Grant County Attorney) Steven Bates" or himself.

With that the special meeting was adjourned.

WHAT NOW?

At the Feb. 11 regular meeting, while Bedard was not present and Cummins was "running late," there was still a quorum to hold the meeting as Morgan, Brinker and Curtis were present.

Speaking on the "update of the hiring process" Morgan noted the Board had recommended Curtis be hired "pending backgrounds and other prerequisites we have and we have gotten back part of that and still waiting on some" and that Curtis was "not on board yet" as the director.

Curtis asked to speak and read from a prepared address.

He said in September or October (2025) A. Lee Burton, fire chief and EMS with City of Crittenden, had recommended a "liaison to go between the City of Dry Ridge and Board." Burton agreed he had said that.

Curtis said a liaison was going to be hired. He continued "somehow somehow the wheels kinda fell off and it turned into a director." He said he did not believe it should have been a director, instead the position needed was a "liaison" between the Board and Dry Ridge.

He said the Board had named him the previous week, but before he accepted any position he wanted to clarify his view and to make a statement.

Curtis thanked the Board for recommending him as the currently titled "EMS Director." He said he does want to serve in the part-time position, however, he "respectfully request[s] the position title be amended to part-time EMS liaison" prior accepting the position.

He said, "As written, the title and description imply operational authority and administrative responsibility over county-wide EMS services. That authority appropriately rests Kevin Stave of the Dry Ridge Fire Department and with Chief Allen Cammack, who is already serving as EMS director for Grant County."

He said it important that "roles and lines of authority remain clear, accurate and transparent to avoid confusion

among providers, elected officials and the public." He said the "intent of the position as discussed is best reflected in a liaison role that functions as a collaborative go-between for the Grant Special Ambulance Taxing Board and the City of Dry Ridge Fire and EMS."

Curtis reiterated renaming to part-time EMS liaison will "more accurately capture the scope of work and preserves the established leadership structure currently in place." Further, he said the "proposed focus areas for that role would be to ensure clarity and effectiveness." He recommended the core responsibilities to be:

- Serve as primary communication link between the Board and Dry Ridge Fire/EMS leadership
 - Assist the Board with oversight function without assuming operational command authority
 - Monitor service delivery metrics and report trends, concerns and accomplishments to the Board
 - Support contract compliance and assist with coordinated agreements renewals and amendments
 - Facilitate collaboration on budgeting, capital planning and long-term system sustainability
 - Act as neutral advisor to the Board on EMS best practices, regulatory compliance and system development
 - Support transparency and consistency in messaging between the Board, providers and community.
- He said he will accept the position when the name

is changed and the duties and authority are established by the Board.

Whaley asked if "more than just the title" was being changed.

Curtis replied, "My advice ... considering the circumstances, we need to address this when all members are present."

A work session prior to the next meeting was suggested. Whaley advised to "table the status of Mr. Curtis until the next meeting."

The Board voted to table the issue until the March meeting and to potentially have a work session before that meeting.

Grant County Fiscal Court, District 2 Magistrate and previous Ex Officio member of the Board Shawna Coldiron addressed the Board, noting the position would eventually become a "director's position." She said Dry Ridge is "per se a subcontracting service for us," that it is "a subset entity" that has contracted to run EMS.

Curtis noted as per the Inter-Local Agreement that Dry Ridge outlined the responsibilities of the entities in the agreement. He explained the transference would be between the Board and Dry Ridge.

Dry Ridge holds the Certificate of Need for the County and responds to EMS needs in the County with their equipment and personnel. The Inter-Local Agreement covers issues and procedures for the transfer of responsibility, equipment and personnel.

John Weiss addressed the Board with questions concerning the process and responsibilities, as well.

Crittenden City Council seeks to curb roaming chickens

BY DEBORAH LUCAS ANGEL

Mayor Jim Purcell called the Feb. 10 meeting of the Crittenden City Council to order with all members present. On the agenda were a pair of ordinance readings.

· First Reading Ordinance No. 351-2026: "Amendment of Penalty for Harboring Fowl." Purcell explained this is an amendment to the original ordinance passed "two to three

years ago" laying out requirements for keeping chickens within the city limits.

He said at that time the ordinance was approved, there "was no penalty section."

Apparently, there have been issues with chickens being allowed to roam away from their property, becoming a nuisance.

This ordinance provides for a "\$10.00 initial fine" with increasing fines for subsequent

violations which can reach up to \$100. Each day a violation continues will be considered "a separate violation."

Purcell said the second reading will be conducted at the March 10 meeting. As this was a first reading, no action was necessary.

· Second Reading Ordinance No. 350-2026: "An Amended Ordinance Providing the Final Budget for the City of Crittenden to

Reflect Actual Revenues & Expenditures through June 30th, 2026." With a "slight increase on taxes" the budget had needed "to be tweaked" via ordinance. Council approved unanimously.

The next Crittenden City Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 10, at 7 p.m. at the City Building; 117 South Main Street, Crittenden. For more information, call (859) 428-2597.

Alleged drunk cited, released after calling first responders N-word

STAFF REPORTS

A man who was allegedly drunk and called police, EMS and firefighters the N-word while they responded to call on Highway 22 is scheduled to be arraigned Feb. 19 in Owen County District Court, according to report on file in the courthouse.

The bizarre incident took place last December and ended with a judge ordering police to cite and release Jackson, who is also facing alcohol-related charges in Grant County, according to the report.

Joshua Jackson, 25, of Mason Estates apparently called 911 and told dispatchers about what a police report describes as a rollover collision on Highway 22, saying there were multiple occupants and a possible ejection, according to a citation on file in Owen County District Court.

Police said the caller, Jackson, "didn't make any sense," according to the report, which makes no further reference to a vehicle wreck.

While enroute, police said they received a call from EMS who said Jackson was intoxicated and fighting with them, according to the report. Police said Jackson was "unable to stand or make cohesive movements" when they arrived and had "very slurred speech and bloodshot eyes."

Jackson allegedly refused to identify himself, became belligerent and was non-compliant but became compliant at "Taser point," according to the citation.

Police said he was also "combative with surrounding fire and EMS workers," and "began hostilely referring to everyone as [the n-word]," according to the citation.

Police said Jackson continued to refuse to identify himself, noting in the report that "family/social media searches determined the suspect's name to likely be Joshua Jackson, with a possible birthday of May 17, 2005. However, the suspect didn't confirm the information."

The report says trooper James Onket "then contacted [District Court] Judge Tom Funk, who granted permission to site and release [Jackson] as [Jackson] had been admitted to the hospital for an undetermined amount of time."

AUCTION

FROM PAGE A1

weather, but early bidding was fiercest for desserts and bourbon. Bidding on a bottle of Pappy Van Winkle had already reached \$750 before the auction began. Violet McMurry's coconut cream pie brought \$205.

The first jam cake sold, which was baked by Mary Lee Willoby, was bought by NKA and subsequently taken to the kitchen, cut into 12 slices and plated. The pieces were carted onto the auction floor and sold, bringing \$30 per slice.

Auction organizer Kristie Willoby did not have all the numbers tallied but judged it another successful event. She noted, "A couple of the highest selling items were the Savannah Banana tickets and the 6-night stay in North Carolina." Both items sparked a "bidding war."

NKA has been a generous supporter of the Kiwanis Auction, donating their services and foregoing the usual buyers premium charge.

As a sign of the changing times, the phone bank, which in past auctions was a hive of activity generating a blizzard of wadded up Post It notes, was quiet. Almost without exception, offsite bidders turned to the internet to submit bids this year.

"We would like to thank all donors, bidders and everyone that make this possible," said Willoby. Proceeds from the annual auction allow the Kiwanis Club to continue their support of many worthy programs throughout Grant County.



Betsy Smith

With Kiwanis members, phone bank operators, auctioneer and tech team at the ready, Chris Alstott welcomes folks to the 2026 Kiwanis Charity Auction.



Betsy Smith

A well-oiled technical team was required to pull off the Kiwanis Charity Auction. The crew from the local cable department made sure the live-feed went out while another crew monitored incoming internet bids and fed them to auctioneer Jerry Bailey.

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Legal Notice

The Grant County Board of Education will accept sealed RFPs for architectural/engineering services. Proposal forms may be obtained from the office of the Superintendent of Grant County Schools, 820 Arnie Risen Boulevard, Williamstown, Kentucky 41097. To be considered, Proposals must be received by 2:00 p.m. Thursday, March 5, 2026 by the Superintendent of Grant County Schools.

Todd Moody, Superintendent
Grant County Schools