Barbour County Ambulance Authority Meeting
April 10, 2026
10:00 am

APPROVED
5-8-26

DAVID STRAIT, COREY BRANDON, CHERI STURM, RHONDA ROBINSON, ROD KIMBLE, BOB WILKINS

Aaron Bostel, Shana Frey, Bryan Murphy, Dylan Harper, Phil Hart, Natasha Kosowsky

Absent/Regrets: Suzanna Skidmore, Evan Workman

David Strait called the meeting to order at 10:00am.

Rod Kimble made a motion to approve minutes from February 20, March 13, March 23, 2026; Corey Brandon seconded.

Board appointments were discussed. On a motion by Rod Kimble; seconded by Corey Brandon, Jon Wright will be submitted as a recommendation to the County Commission for consideration.

Aaron Bostel provided operational updates.

- 233 reports in March; 185 billable calls.
- He compared March billing to March payroll to demonstrate the current shortfall.
- Ambulance fleet status was discussed.
- Staffing was discussed.
- Maintenance needs at both stations were discussed.
- A recent EMVO training recruited four full time drivers; two of them are obtaining their EMT certification and two part time drivers.
- The use of a billing collection agency was discussed, and information is being gathered.
- New legislation has been passed requiring increased education, additional medication requirements, and emergency critical kits, all of which will result in increased expenses.
- Upcoming events that require EMS presence include the School Safety drill on 4/29, Prom on 5/9, Rodeo on 5/15-16, Blue & Gray Reunion on 5/28-31.
- A discussion was held regarding the establishment of a CISD team and peer support groups in response to a recent emergency call. Bob Wilkins commended Aaron for his handling of the situation with the resources available, noting that timely attention is critical in such circumstances and that the matter was addressed appropriately and efficiently.

Financials were discussed, including a graph illustrating billing levels and the ongoing challenges with achieving sufficient collections. Aaron reported that the Medicaid billing issue has been resolved and that a team is actively working on the Blue Cross Blue Shield matter. Questions were raised by facilities regarding contracts, and Aaron resent the billing agency contracts to confirm the accuracy of associated fees.

A discussion was held regarding increasing revenues and capturing all charges. The current billing agency was noted to be deficient in identifying issues and correcting errors where revenue is not being captured or collected in a timely manner. However, it was also recognized that switching billing agencies would create a funding gap that is not currently sustainable.

Rob Kimble suggested exploring a regionalization project among county commissions and/or ambulance authorities.

A discussion was also held regarding new state legislation providing additional revenue for EMS agencies. The understanding is that increased funding may be available to agencies that also implement a local ambulance fee. Needs, potential approaches, and planning considerations were discussed should this option be pursued.

Phil Hart expressed interest with an EMR and CPR class for Fire Departments. Discussions are underway with PST and the Shirley Kimball Training Center to coordinate scheduling.

It was also discussed to consider establishing an MOU between the Barbour County Ambulance Authority and the Belington Volunteer Fire Department to reestablish the First Responder program.

The next regular meeting is May 8, 2026 at 10:00am.

Rod Kimble made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11.39am; Corey Brandon seconded.