

**SALINE COUNTY 911 SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
DRAFT MINUTES**

September 15, 2023

The Saline County 911 Board met at the OEM Building on Friday, September 15, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.

Board Members Present:

Saline County Judge Matt Brumley
Benton Mayor Tom Farmer
Benton Fire Chief Russ Evans
Bryant Police Chief Carl Minden
Bryant Fire Chief JP Jordan
Bryant Mayor Allen Scott
Saline County Sheriff Rodney Wright
Pafford Ambulance Operations Manager David Chreene
Saline County OEM Director Jerry Cohen

Board Member Absent:

Benton Police Chief Scotty Hodges

Others attending meeting:

Communications Manager Staci Winberry, Assistant Communications Manager Deanne Owen, Saline County Comptroller Angie Drummond, Saline County Attorney Kolton Jones, Bryant Police Asst Chief JW Plouch

Communications Manager Staci Winberry presented the minutes to the board from last meeting on 8-28-23. A motion was made to approve the minutes by Mayor Allen Scott and 2nd by Mayor Tom Farmer.

Judge Matt Brumley wanted to discuss the minutes from July 7, 2022 and August 28, 2023.

July 7, 2022 Discussion - Saline County Judge Matt Brumley stated that 14 months ago the board agreed that they would only accept a full consolidation from the City of Bryant. If the full consolidation from Bryant is changed only to accept part of it (Bryant Fire phase 1) and the (Bryant Police phase 2) at a later time is agreed upon the board needs to vote on the new change. This would still be a full consolidation but Bryant Police would be phased in at a later date. Mayor Allen Scott made a motion that the 911 board allows the Bryant Fire Department to come in as quickly as possible to help alleviate overcrowding and over burden on our dispatch center and in addition the Bryant Police will follow as soon as possible. Judge Matt Brumley proposed that adding to the motion that City of Bryant will pay 50% (\$29,356.00) the total cost of the combiner / programming and the other 50% would be split between Saline County and City of Benton \$14,678.00.

Combiner/Programming Payments

- Bryant \$ 29, 356.00
- Benton \$ 14,678.00
- Saline County \$ 14,678.00

The estimated total cost would be \$58,712.00. This cost will need to be paid prior to January 2024 for the combiner and programming cost. The motion was 2nd by Mayor Tom Farmer. Motion carried.

Russ Evans asked about the maintenance fee. Judge Brumley said that will start in 2024 and the City of Bryant will pay with PSAP money at 19% for Bryant. Judge Brumley said that he had the quote and would move forward on ordering the combiner. Mayor Allen Scott stated he would be getting with their finance department 1st thing Monday to get the funds started for City of Bryant for their part on the combiner and program cost.

August 28, 2023 Discussion - On September 15, 2023, Judge Matt Brumley would like to clarify this information. The board was guesstimating what they were going to do. There was talk on how many dispatchers were needed? Now is the time to finalize this and to bring extra people on board to start getting them trained. Eight people – personnel only the amount would be \$20,276.53 for each City of Benton, City of Bryant and Saline County. The amount expected would be up to \$60,829.60 total, this will be split 3 ways actual cost for up to 8 position that will be hired in the last quarter of 2023, (9-30-23* 12-31-23). If Saline County does not hire all 8 employees, the cost will be less and that cost will be split less 3 ways. If there should be a disaster and Saline County has to hire more, that cost would be split 3 ways. Saline County Judge made a motion to amend that portion of the minutes to say that Saline County will hire up to 8 full time employees to be hired for the expansion in the last quarter of 2023 to be split 3 ways equal between Saline County, City of Benton and City of Bryant the motion was 2nd by City of Bryant Mayor Allen Scott. All board members were in favor of the motion for the minutes to be amended. Motion carried.

8 - Dispatchers Hired (9/30/23 – 12/31/2023)

- Total Expected Cost \$ 60,829.60
 - Bryant \$ 20,276.53
 - Benton \$ 20,276.53
 - Saline County \$ 20,276.53

Judge Matt Brumley stated that he had a quote to go forward with integration with Southern and (Motorola) Spillman. The cost for Southern and (Motorola) Spillman is \$50,755.12. City of Bryant has agreed to pay \$23,700.00. Due this year Southern \$27,000.00 - 50% of the cost would be \$13,500.00 for this year. Bryant Chief Carl Minden suggested that Bryant pay all Spillman cost \$23,700.00 and Saline County and City of Benton pay Southern cost. There was discussion about the amount the City of Benton paid when they consolidated with Saline County. Mayor Farmer stated that when the City of Benton came over to the county dispatch center that the city was responsible for their cost and paid approximately \$600,000.00 to the county and/or companies to get them set up and ready. He only thinks that it is fair that the City of Bryant absorbs their cost also. Benton Mayor Farmer and Benton Fire Chief stated that the City of Benton and Saline County will be paying more if that is done. Mayor Farmer made a motion that the cost for Southern for 2023 in the amount of \$13,500.00 to be split 3 ways which would be \$4,500.00 for Saline County, City of Benton and City of Bryant. When the other 50% is due it will also be split 3 ways. Motion was 2nd by City of Bryant Mayor Allen Scott. 1 opposed Bryant Police Chief Carl Minden. Motion carried.

Total Cost of the (Motorola) Spillman / Southern Project - \$50, 755.12

- Southern \$ 13,500.00 (Due Upon Contract Signing)
 - Benton \$ 6750.00
 - Saline County \$ 6750.00
- Spillman (Motorola) \$ 23,700.00
 - Bryant \$23,700.00
- Southern \$ 13,500.00 (Due upon Completion)
 - Bryant \$ 4500.00
 - Benton \$ 4500.00
 - Saline County \$ 4500.00

Judge Brumley asked if anyone else had anything to bring to the board? He would like to give the board some information on the expenses from 2022 “all on estimates” and added in what the expenses are going to be when we have a full consolidation. Adding a half million dollars with new employees and all associated cost which would put us at about 2.6 million dollars. The 911 fees with the added PSAP money that is not landline money from Bryant would put our revenues at 1.93 Million, it leaves the projected gap at \$670 thousand dollars. New split would be Saline County 48%, City of Benton 33%, City of Bryant 19% as last year it was Saline County 60%, City of Benton 40%. This would mean if these numbers are close, that City of Bryant would pay \$127,428. for 911 dispatch services on an annual basis for the 1st year and City of Benton \$221,323. and Saline County \$321,924. These figures are a very rough estimate only. The revenue received from the state thru 3/31/2022 is at \$288,000.00. City of Bryant Police Chief Carl Minden asked if Bryant was still dispatching police on January 1st 2024, are they still having to pay the \$127,428? The Judge did state that the county would still get the \$288,000.00 portion. Bryant Fire would already be at the county and Bryant would already be paying for that and the 911 calls. Chief Minden stated he feels that Bryant would be paying twice to dispatch from Bryant and also Saline County Central Dispatch for the Police. Judge Brumley asked how would you carve out fire? He feels that Bryant is paying the county to be ready when this consolidation is complete. If the City of Bryant is still dispatching at the 1st of the year 2024 the cost for Bryant Fire / Bryant Police will need to be discussed and calls should be prorated. Benton Mayor Tom Farmer stated that everyone knew up front there would be cost associated with the full consolidation and should be responsible for their part.

Judge Brumley asked the board to send agenda items to Communications Manager Staci Winberry for the meeting and the press should be notified by the end of day Friday.

Next meeting will be Tuesday, October 10, 2023 at 9 am.

A motion was made to adjourn Benton Mayor Tom Farmer by 2nd by Saline County Judge Matt Brumley. Meeting adjourned at 10:30 am.