



Established 1972

By and For the People of Love County

Richard Barker,
Administrator

**Ambulance Emergency
911**

**Clinic Appointments
276-2400**

**Hospital Information
276-3347**

**Adult Day Center
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211**

**Domestic Violence Help
276-2042
Hotline - 226-6424**

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276-9410**

EMS/Fire Brigade's Longest-Serving Medic Fights Fires, Too

Obie Heath, Operations Chief

Talent and timing have been everything in William "Obie" Heath's long career. He is the longest serving medic in Love County EMS/Fire Brigade, having joined the ambulance service 25 years ago. But his firefighting skills in earlier jobs had him perfectly positioned to help establish the fire brigade when that unit was added to the emergency medical service in 2006.

Heath was tasked with building the operations side, including how the fire service would run and the equipment to purchase. The beautiful ambulance/fire Station 2 opened in 2008 on the grounds of WinStar Casino, its major service area.

Heath was inspired by the example of his father, Kenneth Heath, chief of the Sulphur Fire Department, to launch his career at age 18 as a firefighter/EMT for the Ardmore Airpark Fire Department. He later worked for the Wewoka Fire Department.

Then, upon joining the ambulance service in Love County in 1994, Heath concentrated on medical calls as the service steadily raised its ranking from Basic to Intermediate to Paramedic-level Advanced Life Support. He earned paramedic certification in 2009.

Today on his 48 hour shifts, Heath is operations chief for ambulance, fire, and casino first aid attendants. On off days, he drives to Norman to manage first aid attendants at Riverwind Casino, another outpost of Love County EMS/Fire Brigade.

"I enjoy my career. I can't think of doing anything else," Heath said. "I'm still in shape, and I pick up a fire hose on some calls," he added with a smile.

Heath lives in Davis, but calls Love County his second home. "This is a great community. It feels like home because I know more people here than in Davis." His wife, Tammy, worked several years as a floor nurse and pharmacy nurse for Mercy Health/Love County Hospital. Their daughter, Mercedes, is an emergency room registrar, and works part-time as an EMT with the ambulance service in Tishomingo.



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