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*By and For the People of Love County*

**Richard Barker,  
Administrator**

**Ambulance Emergency  
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**Clinic Appointments  
276-2400**

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276-3347**

**Adult Day Center  
276-1542**

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211**

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

**Growers Market  
276-9410**

# **EMS/Fire Brigade Lieutenant Growing with the Department**

## **Lieutenant Ben Grace, Firefighter/Paramedic**



Ben Grace has been growing with the department since joining Love County EMS/Fire Brigade in 2010. A graduate of Grayson College's firefighter/EMT program when he arrived, he completed an additional 18 months of education through the EMS/Fire Brigade training center to gain paramedic licensure.

On the job, Grace also trained to become a driver of ambulances and fire trucks and the operator of fire apparatus, such as hydraulic ladders that move firefighters into position for upper-floor rescues or firefighting.

In April 2019, Grace added "Lieutenant" to his credentials. "I was promoted to fire lieutenant. When an Operations Chief is not present, I will be the officer on the scene to make decisions about what apparatus to use and how to fight the fire," Grace said.

His new title, he said, enables him to continue to "grow with the company." Lieutenants additionally oversee recordkeeping on fire and ambulance runs and direct crews in the cleaning and maintenance of facilities and equipment.

There is considerable "scenario" training during down hours in both fire and medical operations. "There is lots of learning in that time to trust your crew and give them confidence in what to expect from me on a call. This is a great crew. We have been together three years," Grace said.

The most interesting part of emergency work remains the same, he said. "No two calls are the same." Grace grew up in Colbert and joined the volunteer fire department at age 18. He was inspired to enter fulltime emergency response by high school friends Chance and Chase Weger, who preceded him at Love County EMS/Fire Brigade.

Grace has a son, Korbyn, age 6, and a daughter, Kynadi, age 2. Wife Callie is employed in a Durant law office.

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# **Mercy Health/Love County**

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**300 Wanda - Marietta, OK 73448**

**[www.mercyhealthlovecounty.com](http://www.mercyhealthlovecounty.com)**