



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
276-1542**

**Community Resources
211**

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

**Growers Market
276-9410**

Hospital Partners with Chickasaws on Emergency Response at Casino

In 2004, Mercy Health/Love County Hospital, Clinic, and EMS formed a contractual agreement with the Chickasaw Nation to supply EMS ambulance service to WinStar Casino. The Fire Brigade was added to the contract in 2008 as the first high-rise hotel began to go up on the casino grounds. Love County's is believed to be the nation's first hospital-based EMS with a fire service.

Tracy Walker *Operations Chief*

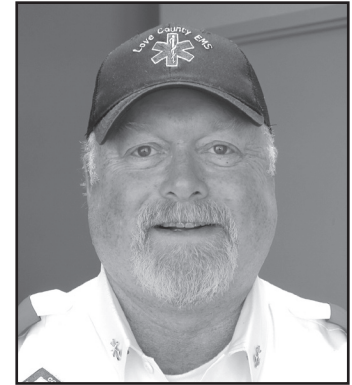
Tracy Walker can't wait to see what happens next. His career in the EMS-Fire Brigade has paralleled the massive and rapid growth of the WinStar Casino complex near Thackerville.

"I started answering ambulance calls from out of Station 1 (Marietta) in 2004 when the casino was just a tent. An ambulance station opened in a trailer behind the casino, and then we opened another small structure to train a fire brigade. Those forces were combined in the brand new Station 2 in 2008. WinStar Casino's growth has been amazing and exciting, and I can't wait to see what they put up next," he said.

The rank of Walker, a firefighter/paramedic, has risen almost as rapidly as the many new buildings and outdoor venues Station 2 covers. He is now one of three Operations Chiefs in the 53-person department with supervisory responsibility for the activities of all the first aid attendants, firefighters, EMTs and paramedics on his shift.

Walker started his career in the construction/remodel business in Dallas. His interest in firefighting came about by accident in 1989. "Barking dogs woke me up one night at home. When I stepped out to investigate, fire trucks were pulling up to put out a structure fire in the neighborhood. I helped pull hose and after watching the work, I decided to join a volunteer fire department and start training for this occupation," he said.

Walker completed classes in firefighting and acquired licensure successively as a Basic EMT, Intermediate EMT, and Paramedic. Prior to joining Mercy Health/Love County EMS-Fire Brigade, he worked for an ambulance service in Marshall County. "Helping people and the community is still the attraction. I fell in love with this career and it has been fulfilling," Walker said.



We're YOUR Hospital, Clinic and EMS

Mercy Health/Love County

*The Small-Town Hospital
with the Big Heart*

300 Wanda - Marietta, OK 73448

www.mercyhealthlovecounty.com