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Sandusky County EMS Director Jeff Jackson, who has held his position for about 11 years, said the department has about 37 employees and handled about 6,200 squad runs last year. Accreditation is not the only honor the organization has received. In 2017, Sandusky County EMS was named one of the top eight EMS agencies in Ohio for cardiac response.

Jackson said his favorite part about the job is adding new equipment because it can make it easier for his crews to do their jobs efficiently.

“The technology behind them is very technology dependent, which can be good and bad,” he said. “We have become very dependent on having a constant internet connection. We use that resource in multiple applications.”

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Jackson said data is gathered from the machines and is then used to improve training practices.

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Jackson said the newest technology to be added to his department’s trucks are GPS units and mobile communication terminals.

“Those are in preparation for the new 9-1-1 system that Sandusky County is transitioning to in March 2019,” he said. Jackson said some of the biggest challenges his organization faces are personnel and issues with vehicles.

“None of the two are quick fixes,” he said.

Jackson said a shortage of paramedics and EMTs in Ohio has made finding and retaining good employees difficult. His response to the personnel challenge is to raise awareness about the field.

“We have to make people aware that EMS is a very good career to enter into,” he said. “We also have to make sure legislators are aware of the importance of EMS.”

Ken Majors, director of neighboring Seneca County EMS, commended Jackson and his department for their professionalism and high standards.

“Jeff is a natural leader of a very progressive third-service countywide EMS department,” Majors said. “His experience, knowledge and vision for the future is leading the way in Northwest Ohio EMS.”

Sandusky County EMS personnel.
EMS committees, subcommittees and ad hoc committees are created by statute or are established by the State Board of Emergency Medical Fire and Transportation Services for a specific purpose. Appointments are made in accordance with rules adopted by the board. Committees, subcommittees and ad hoc committees are the backbone of the State Board of Emergency Medical, Fire, and Transportation Services (EMFTS). Appointees provide advice and assistance to the EMFTS Board as directed. Their work is critical to improving Ohio’s Emergency Medical Services.

OEMSCA has one of its members appointed by the governor sitting on this board; we also have members of OEMSCA serving on Homeland Security, EMS Systems Development and Rural EMS committees. Our ongoing relationship with the National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians (NAEMT) also has given us a voice at the Federal level. We have an OEMSCA member serving as the Ohio Advocacy Coordinator, and an affiliate representative. These members attend and represent NAEMT and OEMSCA at EMS on the Hill meetings, which has resulted in a federal level representative from Ohio for the EMS caucus, a position that had never been filled before. Lawmakers have approved several pieces of legislation that support EMS.

OEMSCA also holds a seat on the statewide Surgenet Working Group. Giving EMS a platform from which to make statewide patient tracking more user-friendly for EMS personnel. The Third-Service EMS delivery platform is being positively recognized throughout the state and at the federal level because of the work and dedication of OEMSCA and its members. Only through our continued hard work as an organization will EMS have a bright and strong future. We need to stand together in support of each other and in support of EMS, recognizing that it is a part of everyone’s quality of life. - Vincent T. Gildone, president of Ohio EMS Chiefs Association

Vincent Gildone

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Compiled by
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