

## Franklin County Transforms First Responder Communications with FirstNet®

*New Technologies Expand Our Capabilities to Better Serve Franklin County, Kansas*

Franklin County, Kansas, May 10, 2021 —Franklin County is connecting first responders to [FirstNet®](#) – the *only* nationwide, high-speed broadband communications platform dedicated to and purpose-built for America’s first responders and the extended public safety community. This tech advancement provides first responders with new capabilities and reliable access to critical information while in the field, allowing them to better serve those who live, work and visit Franklin County.

FirstNet is designed to improve communications across public safety entities nationwide, allowing first responders to communicate with one another easily and quickly during everyday situations, big events or emergencies.

After having issues with coverage in certain parts of the county, Franklin County Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and Emergency Management switched to FirstNet to help connect first responders to each other and those in need. Franklin County uses FirstNet on department-issued phones and in-vehicle routers.

“When we are able to collaborate with responders, we are able to get more information to more people,” **said Christi Hilliker, Franklin County EMS Assistant Chief.** “With FirstNet, we can get coverage throughout the county. We use it for everything from helping to run our current Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system [so we can talk directly to dispatch and other responders] to transmitting EKGs to the hospitals.”

Franklin County joined FirstNet to provide first responders with reliable, modern communications tools needed to perform at the highest level, including:

- One, nationwide communications platform that allows coordination of emergency responses efficiently and effectively across agencies and jurisdictions.
- Always-on priority and preemption for first responders to give reliable access to the connection we need – even when the network is congested.
- A separate, dedicated and highly secure network core purpose-built for public safety’s sensitive communications.
- Innovative tools – like relevant applications and connected devices – to give more actionable information for heightened situational awareness.

“Being able to talk to people and interact with data in near real-time is a huge a step that allows us to think of how we can improve our current structures,” **said Thomas Winter, Emergency Management Coordinator, Franklin County.**

FirstNet, Built with [AT&T](#), in public-private partnership with the [First Responder Network Authority](#) (FirstNet Authority), was designed with and for public safety.

“We’re honored that Franklin County chose FirstNet to elevate their communications capabilities,” said **Molly Kocour Boyle, AT&T President, Kansas**. “It’s our mission to give first responders the cutting-edge tools they need to safely and effectively achieve their mission. FirstNet will help first responders in Franklin County and across the country perform at the highest levels.”

“FirstNet is the exclusive communications platform being built with AT&T for public safety, inspired by public safety. There is no substitution for this purpose-built network,” said **FirstNet Authority CEO Edward Parkinson**. “We look forward to supporting Franklin County and all of Kansas’s public safety community with FirstNet, making sure it delivers what they need, when they need it.”

To learn more about Franklin County Emergency Management and Emergency Medical Services visit [here](#).

Watch how FirstNet has transformed Franklin County’s Emergency responses [here](#).

To learn more about FirstNet, go to [FirstNet.com](#). To learn more about subscribing to FirstNet, contact Christopher McLeod at (913) 213-8840 or [christopher.mcleod@att.com](mailto:christopher.mcleod@att.com). Individual first responders can also subscribe to FirstNet at a local AT&T store.

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