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Ambulance solutions Court comes up with money, moves on repairs to armory

Court comes up with necessary funds and moves on repairs to old armory. The fiscal court came up with the money to purchase ambulance units from both local funeral homes and to pay the \$4,000 subsidy to Blue Grass Medical Services without an anticipated bank loan at last Wednesday's regular session meeting. The court also moved to make necessary repairs to the old armory in readiness of the facility to serve as a base for the new service.

The funds for the service became available after County Clerk Homer Scott pointed out to the court that there was \$4,000 in revenue sharing funds remaining in a budgeted account for courthouse repairs. The money was left over after Hurchal Spilmon completed repairs to the courthouse bell tower for \$11,247.

Scott told the court that he had checked with officials in Frankfort, and they informed her that the transfer of revenue sharing funds between accounts was allowable as long as the amount transferred does not exceed 25 percent of the total revenue sharing budget for the county.

After sharing her proposal, the court moved to transfer \$20,000 to a new account in the budget, Code 43-1, "Ambulance Service." The money will cover the purchase of two ambulance vehicles for a total of \$12,000 and

BGMS' \$8,000 subsidy.

The court also authorized County Judge/Executive Rose Smoot to negotiate repair work for the basement of the old armory with Overhead Door Company of Lexington.

Smoot told the court that he had received an estimate from the Lexington company for fixing a damaged portion at the bottom of the slope, and for fixing the door's track and roller system for \$254.00.

However, Smoot told the court that the door would also need modification to allow it to be opened from the outside. It can now only be opened from the inside.

He said that an estimate for installing a radio-controlled mechanism on the door would cost an additional \$600. Smoot said that an alternative mechanism operated by a key would cost \$475. Smoot recommended the second option.

County road superintendent John Ecton, who was in attendance at the meeting, asked Smoot if the key mechanism would work in the event power was cut off from the system. Smoot said that he had not checked into that possibility.

Smoot was instructed by the court to check on just that situation, and was authorized to execute a deal with

Overhead Door for the repairs.

In other action at last week's meeting, the court:

- Discussed the possibility of doing road-widening work on a county road near Morefield in coordination with a water line project currently being undertaken by Jerry Taber. The widening would increase the width of the road which runs back past the Nancy Jacobs farm by three or four feet.
- Taber told the court that he had already obtained an easement for installing his water line, but County Attorney Joseph H. Conley said that the county would need an easement of its own to widen the road. Conley said he would check into the matter further.
- Authorized a \$40,000 payment to the First National Bank for money borrowed to cover general expenses incurred while waiting for tax dollars to begin flowing in.
- Authorized payment to Frank Bowles in the amount of \$295 for work he did on the county jail.
- Received from County Clerk Scott a list of all accounts at the county rock yard that have been delinquent for over a year. Court will decide what to do about the accounts at the next meeting.
- Discussed the possibility of installing posts and a cable near a dangerous See Fiscal Court, page 18



A losing proposition
Carlisle merchants Joyce Wallace (foreground) and Raymond Bruce were busy trying to clear their sidewalks Monday morning, as snow and freezing rain buffeted the city on the dawn of the winter solstice. — Mercury photo.

BGMS is looking for a smooth transition

The contract between the county and Blue Grass Medical Services to provide ambulance service in 1982 was signed Monday, said Dick Cooksey of the Lexington ambulance firm said that

everything is running "pretty smoothly" in the transition period on his end.

Cooksey said that his company will be taking over ambulance service locally on Dec. 30 according to current plans.

The new phone number to connect county residents to the emergency medical service is 289-2721.

As promised to the fiscal court, Cooksey has hired a local person to serve as coordinator for the new service. That coordinator is Larry Burton, employee of the Nicholas County Hospital, who worked in the ambulance profession locally for the past two years as an EMT for Mather's Clinique.

Burton agreed with Cooksey that the transition should be a smooth process. "I can foresee no problems with it whatsoever," he said Monday. Burton said that the response time for answering an ambulance call should not be affected by the changeover. He said

that an ambulance unit would be as close to the Elm Street house at the old armory as it was when located at Mather's Clinique.

Burton also said that he currently has six drivers lined up to work for the service. He won't disclose the names of those persons because BGMS is still checking their references and driving records.

Until other EMTs can be trained and certified, Burton will be backed up and have his time off filled by an EMT from Cooksey's Lexington service. "It is not as important for the EMT to know the area if he has a driver who does," he said.

Cooksey is currently working on arrangements for EMT courses for the prospective employees, and said that he will provide free courses in CPR and first aid to the community with one of his own instructors.

As for the licensure procedure for the service, Cooksey said that he has been to Frankfort twice to talk with state officials and he "thinks everything will be O.K." If the necessary paperwork cannot be completed by the end of the month, Cooksey said there is a possibility that the service will operate for a short time on Mather's Clinique's license.

Cooksey said that he is also checking into governmental grants for the county that could help in funding the service. The county's grant application under Senate Bill 66 was cancelled when the ambulance tax was removed by the fiscal court.

Cooksey said he still believes that by using the county as a springboard for expanding operations into other surrounding counties, his service can

make a go of it financially. "We're not going to make a lot of money in Nicholas County," he said in Carlisle Monday afternoon. "But if the figures I've been given are correct as far as the number of runs annually, it will work."

"I feel optimistic about it," he said. "I think that everyone will be satisfied by our service." He added that "we'll know in four months if it'll fly or not," and restated his willingness to open his books for public inspection upon request.

The only contractual problem that came up was the county's additional requirement that BGMS provide a \$10,000 performance bond. The fiscal court decided at last week's meeting to provide the premiums on the bond. The county will purchase the bond through Charles Cox for an annual premium of \$20.

The provisions of the contract that bind the county and BGMS for the coming year are listed in the following document prepared by County Attorney Joseph H. Conley.

"This Contract, made and entered into this 21st day of December, 1981, by and between Nicholas County, Kentucky, party of the first part, by and through its duly authorized undersigned representative, and Blue Grass Ambulance Service, Inc. d/b/a Blue Grass Medical Services, party of the second part, by and through its duly authorized undersigned representative, for and in consideration of their mutual promises contained herein, WITNESSETH:

"Second party agrees as follows:

(1) To provide an emergency ambulance service in Nicholas County, Kentucky.

"See Ambulance contract, page 15

Two county homes destroyed by fire

Two county homes were destroyed by fire last week, while family chimney fires helped contribute to a very busy week for county fire fighters.

Nicholas County Fire Chief Woodrow Wilson said Monday that the county fire department had been called out seven times in the past five days, as of that afternoon.

The first home destroyed was the home of Roy Jolly on the Mt. Moriah Road.

Wilson said the fire broke out around 10 a.m. last Wednesday because of an overheated chimney pipe. He characterized the results of the blaze as a complete loss.

The second home to be destroyed belonged to Sidney Anderson on the Sney Creek Road. Wilson said the fire took place last Friday, and that the house and contents were a complete loss.

Wilson said a cause for the home-damning blaze had not yet been determined.

A five-foot tobacco barn was the victim of yet another fire last Wednesday evening. Wilson said that the fire crew was called to a 5:30 p.m. blaze at a barn belonging to Housse Rule on the Gray Road near Morefield.

The local fire chief said that the barn, striping room and an undetermined amount of hay were completely destroyed in the incident. No cause for the fire has yet been determined.

Another family chimney that was the cause of a Saturday night blaze at the home of James Sapp on the Carl Ruskell farm on Pleasant Springs Road.

Wilson said that county firefighters were dispatched to the scene at 11 p.m., and that they were able to save the house. He said that only minor damage was sustained around the flue itself.

The fire was attributed to a hole in the chimney.

The Lee Hall home on Cane Run Road was the scene of yet another chimney-related fire Sunday, when the fire department was called out in time to limit the blaze to only minor damages.

Wilson said that the fire was caused



"See Fire, page 18"

Basketball fortunes turn around

Nicholas gets on track with two big victories

"We're learning," Coach Mike Kenney said through an irrepressible smile Friday night as his young basketball team won its second game of the week in a thrilling 66-point slugfest over Bath County.

Earlier in the week the Jackets bested MMI 69-61, and broke a four game losing streak that opened the season.

With the return of senior all-region performer David McGuffey last week and the sustained play of sophomore Steve Anderson, the basketball fortunes for the young team have taken an upward turn.

Anderson pumped in 23 points against MMI and added 18 against Bath County to maintain his season's average at 23.8 points per game.

All McGuffey did for the Bath County game was to haul down 20 rebounds, dish out 11 assists and score 12 points. Not a bad night.

"He makes a difference," Kenney said of McGuffey's return to the lineup. "He plays hard, he plays aggressively, he plays the game the way it is supposed to be played."

The leadership was obvious Friday night. As he stretched up and down the floor and drove after loose balls, the enthusiasm spread to his teammates. In fact, they hardly looked like the same team that dropped the first four games of the season.

"They were quicker, their passes were sharper, and they hit the boards on both ends of the court much harder."

"The kids played hard. It was a good effort. But they played just as hard in those games where we got beat by 20 points," Kenney said. In Kenney's game plan, the time factor of working together is just beginning to click.

"We're getting in shape," he said, "but there is still a bit of work to do." Kenney said he particularly needs to develop more consistency in bench support, and still needs more time for his team to play together.

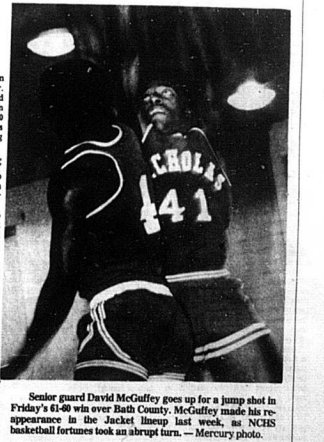
That time together may be tough to come by with center Jeff Howard out with a shoulder separation and guard Mike Woodley out with a hairline fracture of his foot.

"We're just going to keep playing the best competition we can," he said Friday night, "and hopefully by the end of the season we'll have learned a few things."

Friday's game against the Bath Wickets was an excellent lesson in dealing with pressure. After fighting back from an early Bath barrage, the game was nip and tuck for three and a half quarters.

There was clutch play after clutch play. Anderson and Kirk Matten (who supplied the clutch scoring, while Mike Webb and McGuffey terrorized the coach.

"See Jackets, page 18



Senior guard David McGuffey goes up for a jump ball at Friday's 61-60 win over Bath County. McGuffey made his re-appearance in the Jacket lineup last week, as NCHS basketball fortunes took an abrupt turn. — Mercury photo.