Regent begins operation in East Feliciana

Baker-Zachary bureau

CLINTON — Regent Ambulance Service has begun operation in East Feliciana Parish from its headquarters here, according to the new director of operations, Douglas Beauchamp.

When stations in Jackson and Slaughter come into service within the next few weeks, virtually any area of the parish can be reached by ambulance within 10 minutes, he said.

The new ambulance service officially began operation April 7 and succeeds Clinton’s former volunteer service that was part of the city’s Fire Department. The emergency number for Regent Ambulance Service is 683-3354.

Two ambulances are in service and four more are scheduled to be added later this month, Beauchamp said.

Both emergency and non-emergency service is provided, Beauchamp said. There is a basic service charge plus a per-mile fee, with three different types of charges: advanced life support, basic life support and non-emergency transport.

“Our ambulances are operated by emergency medical technicians who are trained in basic life support,” Beauchamp said. “We will be adding paramedics in the near future.”

A second station will begin operation May 12 in Jackson to respond in that portion of the parish, he said. “Then, in a few weeks we will have a third station in Slaughter to serve the southern portion of the parish. We will then be able to cover every area of the parish in a maximum of 10 minutes once all stations are in operation.”

Ambulance service in the Clinton area has been provided by the town’s volunteer Fire Department, but problems with liability insurance coverage, curtailment of federal revenue sharing funds and a general decline in volunteers have forced the city to abandon its services, Beauchamp said.

“Emergency response time by the former volunteer ambulance service was lengthened because volunteers had to go to the site from their homes or businesses once they were notified of the emergency,” Beauchamp said. With the new full-time service, stations are staffed 24 hours a day.

Regent Ambulance Service is a division of Regent Health Systems, Inc. The ambulance service is headquartered on St. Helena Street in Clinton.

“The situation is similar in Jackson and in other surrounding communities,” he said. Beauchamp was a volunteer with the Clinton rescue service.