

Saline County Area Transit
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July 31, 2026

Crete City Council,

Saline County Area Transit provided 11,000 trips and logged over 94,000 miles in FY 2026. Two new vehicles were delivered in the fall of 2025. These had been ordered in February and March of 2021. The 2014 and 2016 Dodge lower floor (ADA accessible) vans were retired and money received was used toward the local match share of the new vehicles. Saline Transit is in the process of ordering a non-ADA minivan. However, NDOT has indicated they would not procure it until FY 2028 due to budget constraints.

Attached is the funding chart that shows each town's share of the local matching funds for fiscal year 2027. NDOT awarded the FY 2027 Federal and State 5311 grant at only 70% of the budget. In addition, fuel prices have increased more than \$1.25 per gallon from when the budget was created.

In light of these issues, the Saline County Area Transit Board of Directors decided it was necessary to increase bus fare rates. The new rates became effective July 1, 2026, the beginning of the new fiscal year. Some routes with light ridership have been cut.

Saline Transit has been successful in securing a number of grants for specific projects such as updated lighting in the garage, signage for the building, and some advertising. Private donations have been very impactful also.

Any new ideas for fund raising opportunities are welcome and should be forwarded to Saline Transit board members or myself at the Western office. Saline Transit wants to know if there are transportation needs that are not being met.

Please contact me if the Council would like me to present in person so we may set a meeting date.

Scott Bartels
Director