

**APPROVED**

## **Fauquier County Board of Supervisors' Public Safety Committee**

**October 4, 2022**

### **MINUTES**

#### **1. Call to Order**

Public Safety Committee Chairman, Chris Butler, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

#### **2. Introduction of Participants**

Present were:

- Mr. Chris Butler, Fauquier County Board of Supervisors (Lee District)
- Mr. Rick Gerhardt, Fauquier County Board of Supervisors (Cedar Run District)
- Sheriff Jeremy Falls, Fauquier County Sheriff's Office
- Ms. Erin Kozanecki, Deputy County Administrator
- Tracy Gallehr, County Attorney
- Chief Darren Stevens, DFREM
- Lt. Colonel Chad Brubaker, FCSO
- Mr. Mike Gilliam, Assistant Chief, DFREM
- Mr. Tom Marable, FRA President
- Joelle Kight, FCSO
- Ms. Shel Douglas, Department of Social Services
- Ms. Angela Gibson, Department of Human Resources
- Ms. Dana Park, Office of Management and Budget
- Mr. Chuck Kuhler, FCSO
- Major Wells Nevill, FCSO
- Ms. Donna Cason, I.T.
- Ms. Marsha Holmes, I.T.
- Mr. Scott Chamberlin, DFREM
- Mr. Kenneth Neam, DFREM
- Mr. Kalvyn Smith, Chief, Catlett
- Mr. Jim Weeks, Chief, Lois
- Mr. John Kerns, Chief, Orlean
- Mr. Billy Boylan, Chief, The Plains
- Mr. Tom Pavelko, Staff

**3. Approval of the Minutes and Agenda**

Supervisor Butler moved for approval of the current agenda and the minutes of the June 22, 2022 meeting. Seconded by Supervisor Gerhardt.

**4. Communications Statistics and Updates**

The Sheriff's Office Communications Division presented 911 call data for the month of August 2022. There were no additional comments or discussion on this report. Joell Kight from the Sheriff's Office advised the Communications Committee met on September 7 and will meet again on October 5.

**5. CAD Replacement/Consultant Update**

Marsha Holmes (I.T.) updated the Committee on the progress of the CAD system replacement, as they are providing project oversight. She advised that stakeholders have met and gave their top priorities for the new system. An RFI (Request for Information) has been sent to six different software vendors to determine if they can provide a solution. The project team has also consulted with surrounding jurisdictions to find out what solutions they are using to support their public safety systems. Speaking on behalf of the FRA, Tom Marable, suggested bringing in an outside consultant to ensure that fire and rescue needs are met. The FRA has budgeted funds to pay for this position. Chief Stevens and Supervisor Butler concurred with this suggestion, citing the highly technical nature of this process. As not to delay the CAD replacement any longer, Mr. Marable suggested this consultant be hired quickly. Donna Cason advised she will research a suitable consultant to assist.

**6. Radio System Update**

Chuck Kuhler of the Sheriff's Office advised that some progress with Harris Corporation has been made in the past few months. Not all the radio system issues have been resolved but he believes there is a better commitment from Harris to do so. He encouraged users to continue reporting radio problems through the [sheriff.radio@fauquiercounty.gov](mailto:sheriff.radio@fauquiercounty.gov) email so they can catalog them for follow up. Testing for the fail soft operations continue with the assistance of Loudoun County. Harris Corp. has agreed to repair volume controls on all units and replace vehicle chargers with new ones that have an improved battery. They will install updated firmware which should help with the random radio rebooting. Harris will also provide routine patches and system security updates. Supervisor Butler reiterated his concerns for the safety of first responders that must use a system with so many issues. He also suggested that Harris provide a dedicated technician to our system.

Mr. Kuhler indicated that he is aware of other jurisdictions who are experiencing similar problems with Harris products. Sheriff Falls suggested that stakeholders and County Administration begin the discussion of total system replacement and the implications of such. Supervisor Butler requested further discussion on this matter at the next Public Safety Committee meeting.

**7. 1100 Designation Discussion**

Kalvyn Smith speaking on behalf of the FRA, provided background on the conversion to the 1100 radio system designation that occurred approximately four years ago. At that time, they agreed to pilot the change for six months. They have since voted three times to discontinue the practice, citing confusion when dispatching the various fire and rescue apparatuses using this designation. Mr. Smith advised they have requested numerous times to return to the former method but have not been permitted to do so. Therefore, they are asking the B.O.S. to make a determination in the matter. Supervisor Butler encouraged all parties to share their concerns in this forum to come up with a solution. Further discussion on the subject ensued with differing opinions from both career and volunteer personnel. Supervisor Butler stressed the importance of the volunteer organization in Fauquier's public safety system. Both he and Supervisor Gerhardt agreed that this decision should be made by FRA and DFREM personnel rather than the B.O.S. They encouraged all parties to work together in the near future to come up with a solution that works for everyone.

**8. Handle With Care Initiative**

Chief Stevens summarized a program he would like to implement called "Handle With Care". This will be a collaborative effort with first responders, the schools, and other collateral agencies to assist minors who may have experienced some sort of trauma associated with a fire or other public safety incident.

**9. Adjournment**

Hearing no further business, Supervisor Butler called for adjournment at 7:52 p.m. Generally concurred.

*Given under my hand this 11<sup>th</sup> day of October 2022.*

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*Thomas S. Pavelko, Staff to the Public Safety Committee*