Fauquier County
Fire Rescue System
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Battalion Chief RJ Arft, Chair
Michael Moore, CVFR, Co-chair

APPROVED

HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE

02/07/24 Minutes

Committee members present: Battalion Chief RJ Arft, FCFR, Michael Moore, CVFR, Captain Matthew Shields, FCFR, Lieutenant Matthew Nugent, FCFR, Lieutenant Jonathan Frinks, FCFR, Lieutenant Kenneth Neam, FCFR, Technician II Kevin Landman, FCFR

Staff members present: Executive Assistant Lindsay Flippo

I. Call to Order

Arft called the meeting to order at 0900 hours.

II. Adoption of the Agenda

The agenda was presented to the committee. Matthew Shields made a motion to adopt the agenda. The motion was seconded by Jonathan Frinks and unanimously approved.

III. Approval of the Minutes

The minutes from the December 5, 2023, meeting were presented. Matthew Shields made a motion to approve. The motion was seconded by RJ Arft and unanimously approved.

IV. Sub-Committee Reports

Peer Fitness – Kevin Landman updated the committee on the Peer Fitness group. Facebook stays up to date with new information. Fitness challenges seem to be facing mixed reviews. The group is currently working with current recruit school's PT and developing ways to work with the newer school or schools. The group has added two team members, but still need a few more people. The group procured a trailer and will work to get it filled with fitness equipment. New flyers need to be made to reflect the changes, too.

Peer Support – Kevin Landman updated the committee on the Peer Support group. The group is creating new flyers to reflect their newest members. About 6-10 personnel have sent in interest, interviews will take place Friday, February 9th. There is hope to have another class this fall. There haven't really been any high acuity calls that need addressing. The King George Firefighters Local reached out in hopes of partnering with surrounding jurisdictions to bring Travis Howell for a presentation. There is the possibly of also partnering with peer support.

Logistics – Matthew Nugent updated the committee on logistics. Gas meters are budgeted for FY26, Lt. Nugent has done inventory. Special Ops recommended MSAs, which is what the system currently uses. That would also help with costs, as we currently have extra replacement pieces. DC Kidwell is looking into a grant to help pay for costs to replace 3 MES Cascades in the county. For the SCBA purchase process, also planning on having SCBA Tech I and II classes from SCOTT for certification. If anyone you know is interested, let Nugent know. SCBA fit testing scheduling went out in an informational bulletin for the rest of the year.

V. Old Business

a. **Driving/Accident policies** – Driving manual is currently being updated/worked on with Apparatus committee. Mike Moore is also on that committee, and he will keep this committee

up to date with changes. Accident review/grievance and appeal process is also under review, Mike Moore will partner with Lt. Zachary Flinn to get update on what's been worked. BC Arft will make clarification on who is doing what from each committee.

b. PPE/Uniform – The leather helmet policy was presented for review. A member of the committee will check each helmet at least once a year and will need to be inspected prior to wearing. There was discussion of making this policy system wide, with agreement that is should be, but the undertaking to include the volunteers will be huge. It was decided that the System Chief should be the determining factor in scope of this policy. The department is also transitioning to purchase uniforms through Galls. This way, each employee can order what is needed for their rank through the store. Pricing will need to go through County procurement before it is finalized.

c. Dr. Chou Station Visits – RJ Arft and Matthew Shields wrote questions received from the visits and presented to Dr. Chou for clarification. His answers were sent to Administration, who has forwarded to HR for review. Once that is complete, it will return with types of medications listed as well as recommendations. Remember, the physician has the final say.

d. Ward Diesel Exhaust – RJ Arft will look into getting more information regarding this initiative.

e. Work Performance Evaluation List – Kevin Landman is working on a modified CPAT with gear for a few employees at Company 3 for beta testing. The hope to go countywide at a later date.

VI. New Business

a. Fire Marshal visits – still working with Russell Baker to coordinate.

b. Air Monitoring – needing to run a meter prior to doffing gear. We will need to create a policy through committees. Polling the executive committee members to see what they think.

c. O2X Human Performance – reviewed materials sent, however the needs are being met through the Peer Fitness group, so no need to pursue.

d. PPE and Beards – Multiple system members with beards on fire scenes. FCFR policy states that you can't be fit tested with full beards, system policy only states to follow OSHA. Will get clarification from DC Kidwell.

e. IndustrySafe – PSTrax will suffice when equipment breaks, you don't always need IS report. Frinks will put together a SB for dissemination to system on differences and what/when to report. Needle stick exposures should be an IndustrySafe report, as it is an injury, but the report should NEVER include HIPPA information.

Committee reviewed accident/injury reports and will reach out to those parties who were involved to discuss findings.

VII. Action Items

a. RJ Arft will get clarification on who is updating the driving manual vs driving policy with DC Kidwell.
b. Mike Moore will work with apparatus committee and report back to health and safety.
c. Lindsay will add air monitoring to the executive committee agenda for discussion.

d. RJ Arft will contact DC Kidwell to get clarification about beards and PPE.
e. Jonathan Frinks will create a safety bulletin on exposure/incident reporting.

VIII. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn made by Jonathan Frinks at 1127 hours. Matthew Shields seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

Next meeting is scheduled for April 10, 2024, at 0900 hours at Station 5, Upperville.