



Fauquier County Fire Rescue System

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*Kevin Swain, Chair
Natasha Lorenzen, Co-Chair
Dale Kidwell
Blane McGlothlin*

APPROVED

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

08/15/2024

Committee members present: Chairperson Kevin Swain, Co-Chairperson Natasha Lorenzen, Deputy Chief Dale Kidwell, President Blane McGlothlin

Staff members present: System Chief Kalvyn Smith, Executive Assistant Lindsay Flippo, Volunteer Coordinator Bobby Tarr

Guests present: Special Ops Chairperson Eddie Payne, MVFRD, President Butch Grimsley, RVFRD, Chief John Kerns, OVFRD

I. Call to Order

Chairperson Swain called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM.

II. Adoption of the Agenda

Deputy Chief Kidwell made a motion to adopt the agenda. President McGlothlin seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

III. Approval of the Minutes

Deputy Chief Kidwell made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from May 22, 2024, with typo corrections, and to approve the meeting minutes from June 17, 2024. President McGlothlin seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

IV. Agenda Items

A. Guest/Citizen

President Butch Grimsley presented the committee with the proposal for the Volunteer Fire & Rescue Administrative Committee, to serve as a standing committee under the Executive Committee. This would be comprised of a president or VP from each volunteer company as well as a chief or other operational officer from each volunteer company and would serve as a working group. The committee would hold quarterly meetings on the fourth Thursday of the month, with President Grimsley serving as Chair, and Lois' President John Goldthrope serving as Co-Chair. There was no objection to the formation from the Executive Committee, and the administrative committee was approved.

B. Sub-Committee Reports

1. Budget and Finance - the committee held a meeting on 8/14/24. Committee members reached out to different localities surrounding Fauquier, to see how they distribute contributions. There was no consensus, every locality was different. There was a bit of

discussion on Fauquier Volunteer Companies and their contribution allotments, who gets what. There will be future discussion on how to best distribute funds to the volunteer companies and the budget and finance committee will continue to look into this.

2. Recruitment and Retention - Bobby Tarr informed the committee that since January, there were 48 new volunteers, with 25 in the process. That brings the total number of volunteers to 591. July through September physical lists we sent to HR and those volunteers on the lists should receive cards in the mail reminding them about physicals. A question was raised asking about EMS affiliations regarding new volunteers. Bobby explained that he and BC Rich Cluff are currently working through issues, but please let them know if anyone has problem, have them reach out. There was also a reminder that if you get a bill for any part of a physical, please pass it along, so we can get it taken care of quickly.
3. Training - DC Kidwell informed the committee that there are enough students for both fire and EMT classes. The fire class starts 9/9, and EMT starts 8/24.
4. EMS Ops - The protocol committee has been formed, with Lieutenant Jordan Highland as Chair. The biggest push has been to prepare for the pharmacy overhaul due in November and laying down the foundations for a successful transition of our drug distribution system. Lifepak 35s are also close to order, there is a quote and a purchase order in the works.
5. Fire Ops - There has been a snag with procuring new gear, so the purchases are currently on hold. Apparatus committee has been discussing current driver release policy as well updating the list of equipment needs for rescue engines in the County. As far as placement of equipment on rigs is concerned, the apparatus committee is working to place it in similar places and positions so that it is as uniform as possible throughout the county. That's challenging given the different makes and models of rigs in the stations.
6. Special Ops - Jim Jones from Orlean VFR came to talk to the committee about the possibility of purchasing electric vehicle plugs. These plugs are used on calls involving electric cars, and are utilized by sticking them into the charging port, to keep the vehicle from starting and moving, keeping first responders safe on the scene. Jim Jones will be contacting Deputy Chief Kidwell for quotes to bring to the committee for discussion.
7. Health and Safety - the committee will be meeting August 29th.

C. Old Business

1. System Committee Reporting Structure - the structure document presented to the committee is a working document, in hopes of finding a way for everyone to receive relevant, important information and reports from the Chapter 9 committees and sub-committees. The Executive Committee will continue to discuss and revise the document.

D. New Business

1. VFRA Meeting Minute Review - the committee was asked to approve the last minutes of the Volunteer Fire Rescue Association, as a way to finalize the association since its dissolution. DC Kidwell made a motion to approve the minutes with correction of Chuck Kuhler instead of Chuck Thompson, under "Communications/Electronics". Co-chair Lorenzen seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

2. Marathon and Physicals - this was discussed during the recruitment and retention, as there were questions regarding volunteers, physicals, and bills.
3. Chapter 9 Re-Evaluation - the one-year mark is approaching, and the committee would like to discuss any updates or changes regarding the Chapter 9 Ordinance. Chairperson Swain suggested a work session in lieu of a Sept. meeting. The committee will make the determination soon.
4. Health and Safety Committee Chairperson - Currently the department requires a battalion chief to chair the committee, however, opening the position to Captain or above will alleviate stress on the battalion chiefs. The committee was asked to discuss updating the requirement. Deputy Chief Kidwell make a motion to change the committee chair requirement from BC to Captain or above, President McGlothlin seconded, and the motion passed.

E. Roundtable

1. Victoria Moore has left the EMS billing coordinator position. There is currently discussion on replacing her, but no word on when that will take place. Currently, if there are any EMS billing questions and inquiries, they will be directed to the billing company, Digitech.
2. Discussion on a new data center in Remington is currently set for a public meeting. The BOS did also approve a battery storage facility, but there isn't a lot of details.
3. Town of Warrenton approved new apartment building unit with parking garage with EV charger in the middle. Chief Swain did not approve of this fire safety hazard and has asked the town to reconsider its placement.
4. There have been discussions on scheduling changes within Fauquier County Fire Rescue. A survey was sent to personnel to gauge their feelings on the subject, and 127 responded. Over 90% responded positively to a 42-hour work week. Preliminary numbers show it may lower overtime, however, there is a very, very long road ahead before any changes will be made regarding work hours.
5. There will be an offer extended to a retired Fairfax Co. Firefighter for the behavioral health specialist at Marathon. The hiring panel thought it would be better for public safety members to have someone to talk to that has been there and understands first responders.

V. Adjournment

Co-Chairperson Lorenzen made a motion to adjourn at 7:53 PM. Motion seconded by President McGlothlin, and it was unanimously approved.

The next Executive Committee Meeting is tentatively scheduled for September 19, 2024, at 7 PM at Warrenton Vol. Fire Station.