



Fauquier County Fire

Rescue System

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*Kalvyn Smith, System Fire Chief
Dale Kidwell, Chair
Jim Kudla, Co-Chair*

BUDGET & FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES

**Thursday, February 27, 2025
Warrenton Volunteer Fire Company
Basement Level Classroom
6:30 PM – 8:30 PM**

Committee members present at the meeting were: Fire Rescue Systems Chief Kalvyn Smith, Deputy Chief Dale Kidwell, Jim Kudla, Co-chair, Orlean VFD, Dana Park, Accounting Manager.

Other Fauquier County Government staff members and guests present were: Trish Jackson, Volunteer Accounts Coordinator, Captain Rodney Woodward, Special Operations, Belinda Deal, Finance, Joe Saffer, Fire One. Cathy Richards, Administrative Specialist.

Volunteer company members present were: Debra Kuhn, Treasurer, Remington VFD, Butch Grimsley, President, Remington VFD, Eddie Payne, Marshall VFD/Special Ops Chair, Brenda Payne, Secretary Treasurer, Pat Koglin, President, Warrenton VFD, Mary Iuliano, Marshall VFD, Brian Baxter, Goldvein, VFD, Owen Sproles, The Plains VFD. Noah Portugal Accountant representing The Plains VFD.

I. Call to Order

Committee Chairperson Dale Kidwell called the meeting to order at 1830 hours.

II. Adoption of the Agenda

Jim Kudla motioned to adopt the agenda and Dana Park seconded the motion.

III. Approval of the Minutes

Minutes motioned to approve by Jim Kudla and seconded by DC Kidwell. Minutes approved.

IV. Agenda Items

A. Funding Review

1. Station costs were discussed. If the county gets a cost-of-living increase, funding for the volunteers is increased by that amount. There was discussion to have all volunteer funding divided equally. If one station needs more funding for operating, the stations need to come to the table to discuss increases and decreases to each station using current funding. It was suggested all the volunteer stations have a meeting to discuss funding issues and assess each station's needs and identify what is critical. If stations have major operating repairs and need funding, there are hardship forms that can be submitted for review. There was also discussion on procurement and county contracts as paths to saving money. Some of the county contracts have discounts up to 20% available.
2. VFIS Life Insurance was discussed. Currently there are 55 members who do not have updated beneficiary forms. It was discussed removing members who cannot be reached to update beneficiary forms. For current members that have old or no beneficiary forms, each member will be given 30 days to update their beneficiary form. For members who cannot be contacted, a letter will be sent to the last known address before members are removed. A question arose about county employees that are volunteers, questioning whether they should qualify for benefits as a volunteer since they already have benefits through Fauquier County employment. Age limits and possible payouts were discussed as another way of saving money. Currently a policy is being established to determine VFIS life insurance benefits for lifetime members with active or inactive status.
3. Belinda Deal discussed upcoming audits. Station audits begin March 10. Make sure you have all your records in a box/tote with a secured lid. A receipt will be issued when you drop the boxes off on or before March 7. Questions were raised regarding paperless submissions and Belinda Deal can be contacted to establish an online link for paperless submissions.
4. Belinda Deal spoke about procurement thresholds and went over the changes in amounts and quotes needed. An updated Volunteer Financial Management Policy, regarding procurement thresholds, will be completed before the next meeting.

B. Logistics

1. Stryker maintenance is coming up soon.
2. The pharmacy is now up and running.
3. Lifepacks are completed.
4. The SCBA compressor at Company 1, Warrenton, had to be replaced. The cost was \$46,000. The door frame had to be widened to fit it into the facility. Total cost was about \$50,000.

C. New Business

1. The committee needs to identify objectives for the next six months. A request made to all committees to gather their objectives and thoughts for this period and report back.

D. Roundtable

Jim Kudla:

- Responded to question regarding point of contact for emergency on vehicles for Richmond, VA, VDFP. The person to contact is Deshawn Watson.

Trish:

- Membership list due March 5. Please utilize her list when making changes, additions or deletions.
- Personal property tax benefit forms are due back March 21.
- Four For Life reimbursement receipts are due soon. For this submission it will be for invoices dated March 1, 2024 through February 29, 2025. A formal Four for Life request for each station will be sent in the coming week.

Dale Kidwell

- Radio replacement assessment. A survey will be sent to all stations for comments and issues. Please send them back as soon as possible.
- BOS approval for exhaust removal devices for stations that don't have them.
- Funding to replace iPads. Working on pricing. The current ones are so old we will have to replace the cradles/hardware as well.

Chief Smith:

- The proposed budget kickoff is Tuesday, March 4. SCBA replacements will be included. Presentation on radio system that is probably going get attached for FY26. Fire Rescue's presentation is on March 13 and will be televised. Proposed 3% increase.

V. Adjournment:

Meeting was motioned for adjournment at 1936 hours.