



Fauquier County Fire Rescue System

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*John Kane, Chair
Natasha Lorenzen, Co-Chair
Dale Kidwell
Butch Grimsley*

APPROVED

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

06/26/2025

Committee members present: Chairperson Chief John Kane, Co-chair Deputy Chief Natasha Lorenzen, Deputy Chief Dale Kidwell, Chief Butch Grimsley

Others present: System Chief Kalvyn Smith, Volunteer Coordinator Bobby Tarr, County Administrator Janelle Downes, Deputy County Administrator Mallory Stribling, Executive Assistant Lindsay Flippo

I. Call to Order

Chairperson Kane called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

II. Adoption of the Agenda

Deputy Chief Kidwell made a motion to adopt the agenda. Co-Chair Lorenzen seconded the motion, and it was approved.

III. Approval of the Minutes

Co-chair Lorenzen made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from May 22nd, 2025. Deputy Chief Kidwell seconded the motion, and it was approved.

IV. Agenda Items

- A. Guest/Citizen – none were present.
- B. Sub-Committee Reports
 1. Budget and Finance – The volunteer contribution letters went out to the departments for a July 4th received date. The next meeting is scheduled for July 9th.
 2. EMS Ops – Precepting updates were approved and passed. County finance has allocated \$79,000 reserve funds for the purchase of the video laryngoscopes. The next meeting is scheduled for July 1st. Little Fork Vol. Fire and Rescue will no longer be following our county protocols, so a member inquired to DC Kidwell if there may be any major differences between Fauquier and Culpeper's protocols to be aware of for mutual aid assistance on EMS incidents. Our EMS officers will reach out to discuss this with Culpeper Emergency Services. Also, Chairperson Kane wanted to remind folks to select "Fauquier County" when affiliating as a new member or when updating membership affiliation.
 3. Fire Ops – At the June 5th meeting, Captain Ben Wilson from FCFR introduced Hasty Straps for Firefighter extraction. After approval from the Fire Ops committee, these have been ordered with FY25 funds. Chief Grimsley also spoke of Chairperson Scott Ross asking each company to bring goals and objectives from their departments for discussion. The July 3rd

meeting has been canceled and Lindsay will be sending out an email reminder about the cancellation.

4. Health and Safety – Peer Fitness reports no new injuries from the academy class which would indicate strength training is successful. Work performance evaluations have been created and approx. 40 people have run through the scenario. A reasonable time limit to complete the test has been decided on and a voluntary roll out is being developed for September/October 2025. Peer Support reported that this year’s Firefighter Safety Stand Down has just come to a close and information was disseminated throughout the organization. The Health and Safety committee would like to thank County Administration for sharing this information with constitutional officers and other county officials to better shed light on the mental health crisis in the fire service nationwide.

Regarding near miss reporting, it was unanimously decided that a near miss reporting process would be beneficial to our organization to help other learn from situations and to hopefully deter similar events in the future. Currently creating a draft document that can be completed by the company officer. OP 714 is being amended to reflect current apparatus availability for decontamination after fire ground operations as IS 1110 is no longer in service. Capt. Shields took a meeting with **Prenuvo** (a full body MRI scan for cancer detection and other abnormalities) cost is about \$1,424. They will be working on ideas for funding and the opportunity will be discussed further at the next meeting. We did not have any industry safe vehicle accidents (while in motion) to review for the timeframe March 4th 2025 to June 2nd 2025. Ward No Smokes installs have been completed and the UDS is scheduled for this October at Fire Station 1.

5. Sub-committee Updates

- a. Recruitment and Retention – Vol. Coordinator Bobby Tarr was on hand to update the committee. The sign board is back in service! HR has sent out physical birthday notices and a few volunteers are scheduled. Pub eds at Warrenton Town Limits and Fauquier Fair. Total 511, 24 new, 15 in process. Since Jan. 1, from 112 physical cards mailed out, only 1 has been returned, not including career in other jurisdictions.
- b. Training – Latham has sent out an EVOG notice, but only 2 people have signed up, so it will most likely be cancelled. Fall EMT looks to have enough people, with a start date in August.

C. System Updates

1. Laurel Ridge Paramedic Program – Board of Supervisors has authorized 7 personnel to attend with tuition payment. Registration will be starting this Fall. Thank you to everyone who helped bring this program to fruition.
2. EMS Billing/ARR Updates – County Attorney reviewed our current practice and we found we are behind in billing amounts and what we bill for when compared to surrounding

jurisdictions. The county presented the board with updated billing amounts, and it was approved. These new rates are now in effect per our billing company Digitech.

3. ISO Update – still waiting for paperwork from three departments. Also, please make sure to have your training hours updated, it is heavily weighed by ISO. Chairperson Kane asked about tracking the training hours, and currently the System’s best option is for all system members to utilize Target Solutions. It is also the preferred tracking software of ISO. Also, with regards to live burns, it becomes harder for training, as the need for compliance and certain certified members who need to be present can cost in overtime accrued.
4. SCBAs – Scotts’ contract pricing is back, and the team has made their selections. Shortly after July 1 we will start the purchases. Air compressors are also included in this purchase and will replace all of the ones in the county, with the exception of the new one at Company 1.
5. Radios – Motorola Next radios were ordered as portables, and the 8500e were ordered as mobiles. We should be getting the delivery next week, estimated at about 30 pallets. There is also a meeting scheduled with Wireless Communications on July 10th, but they may not be able to start with programing and installs until mid-August. At this meeting, we hope to be able to move that date up.
6. Other updates - Met with insurance to update the new yearly policy. Chief Smith will have a report to present at the next meeting regarding a 2024 breakdown of insurance claims and payouts. The SAFER grant is in final submissions, and we are asking for 21 FTEs. Hope to hear something by 30th of Sept. Please practice fireworks safety, with tips from the Fire Marshal’s office, as there are a couple of events coming up. We are also heading towards the ending of our drought, but WSA says we are not quite there yet.

D. Old Business

1. Uniform Rank – There is still some discussion regarding helmet identifiers and working towards compliance. However, there are system members who are not complying with the operating procedure and releasing firefighters who are not certified properly. There were some changes at the state level that some of our fire class did not meet at the time but were given the opportunities. Co-chair Lorenzen brought up the oversight group, and how it should be their responsibility to provide this oversight, but Deputy Chief Kidwell said the group is usually just two people and hard to maintain. He also said he wants to push the compliance issues back to Fire Ops. Chief Grimsley informed the committee that Remington is having issues getting their shields, but they are on order. Chief Kane inquired about a member who is a released driver prior to operating procedure and is missing one certification. Chief Smith informed him that as a system, we are not too concerned about those who have been doing it for a while, this is geared towards those new or newer members, and chief officers in stations placing people who are not qualified or simply do not know, in positions where safety of the crew and fire ground could be in jeopardy. This procedure is our command officers’ way to quickly identify the right people on an incident.
2. Establishment of Committees – The suggestions and updates from system members have now been included. There are numerous committee members who are identified

as “DFREM”, which is no longer the case. Deputy Chief Kidwell will update the operating procedure to reflect “FCFR”. Co-chair Lorenzen then made a motion to adopt this operating procedure, along with changes. Chairperson Kane seconded and the motion unanimously passed.

3. Volunteer Incentive Policy – the suggestions and updates from system members have now been included. Chairperson Kane asked about whether this policy could override station by-laws, but it does not. This procedure is only a minimum foundation for system companies. Chairperson Kane also asked if the committee wanted to vote on it tonight, or wait until after the July meeting of the Admin committee. Chief Grimsley, who is also the chairperson of the Administrative Committee, informed that he had presented it at the last meeting, but had not received any feedback. Chairperson Kane then inquired about bringing the number of hours required by administrative system volunteer members to 8, as it may be hard to get 10 hours a month. Deputy Chief Kidwell believes there are other opportunities to get more hours, and Chief Grimsley brought up system and department meetings both count. Deputy Chief Kidwell then made a motion to adopt this new procedure. Chief Grimsley seconded and the motion passed.

E. New Business

1. New President Selection – Butch Grimsley now the Fire Rescue Chief of Remington, which now makes him unable to serve on the Executive Committee as the elected Volunteer President. Fauquier County Ordinance Chapter 9, (b), (1), (ii) states, “Volunteer President, elected at the annual meeting of volunteer companies and shall not be from the same volunteer company as the Volunteer Chief outlined in (i);”. The Administrative Committee must now elect a new Volunteer President to sit on the Executive Committee. Deputy Chief Kidwell said he would like to push out this out to the system for nominations, and in the July Administrative Committee Meeting, to see if there is any interest. Chief Grimsley will discuss with the Admin Committee, as someone else from that group should be the one nominated for Executive. Co-chair Lorenzen asked if there is no interest, could the committee decide to allow Chief Grimsley to stay on until a replacement is found? All of the committee members voted they should, but to table the decision for 30 days to allow the Administrative Committee and the volunteer system members to nominate a President.

F. Roundtable

1. **ESOGUARD** – The esophageal cancer detection is scheduled for June 30th - July 2nd at EMS 1. Materials will arrive by mail on Wednesday, June 25th. Please share the information that sign-ups will be between 1200 and 1600 all three days. On-duty personnel will be routed through between the hours of 0800 and 1200 and all battalions have been made aware so they can plan a truck routing schedule for the morning they are on duty. There are still appointments available through the Safety Bulletin link.
2. **Code-messaging** – AT&T/FirstNet are now telling their users in order to receive the code-messaging pages, they must download an app. As it stands right now, no one with AT&T are getting text messages from CAD. Deputy Chief Kidwell is currently working with Communications Manager Joell Kight for a fix or work around, as well as more information from AT&T regarding the app.

3. **Standard Administrative Policy** – This policy will need to be reviewed at the Administrative Committee and then presented to the Executive Committee level to see if it can and should be updated. Chief Grimsley will present it for review.
4. **Substance Abuse Policy** – with the release of OP 606, there was some confusion. This policy is an extension of a currently policy, OP 701, that is included in the risk management series. That policy has been in effect since 2017 and references this exact thing. The problem was that policy was too vague, so this new Substance Abuse Policy is an update and clarification for 701.
5. **Junior membership program policy** – will need to be reviewed by the County administration. Chief Grimsley will talk about it at the next Administrative Committee meeting and ask each company to bring their junior membership policies to the next Executive Committee meeting.
6. **Swift Water** – Chief Ross has inquired about the possibility of restarting the program. It is a lot of money and a lot of training that the county just cannot afford. This will need to be discussed, but will there be enough participation from volunteer members? The Fire Ops Committee should be the one discussing, to include the Special Ops Committee, too.
7. **IT** – Company 10 is still having issues and is not receiving information or responses through email correspondence. Deputy Chief Kidwell will send Chief Kane updated contact info as well as speak with Battalion Chief Smith, so these issues can be addressed.
8. **Drug Storage during Extreme Temperatures** – there are issues with some ambulances and the possibilities they are unable to keep temperature-controlled drugs on the rigs. Co-chair Lorenzen reminded everyone to be cognizant of monitoring and to please bring forth a solution, as it is expensive to retrofit ambulances or apparatus bays. Chairperson Kane will address these issues at the next EMS Committee. It was also suggested to possibly reach out to the state for solutions.

V. Adjournment

Deputy Chief Kidwell made a motion to adjourn at 7:15 PM. The motion was seconded by co-chair Lorenzen, and it was unanimously approved.

The next Executive Committee Meeting is scheduled for July 17th, 2025, at 6 PM.