



## Fauquier County Fire Rescue System

30 John Marshall Street  
Warrenton, VA 20186  
Phone (540) 422-8800 Fax (540) 422-8813  
[www.fauquierfirerescue.org](http://www.fauquierfirerescue.org)

*Ret. Chief Eddie Payne, Chair  
Jeff Morrow, CVFR, Co-chair*

**APPROVED**

### SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

#### **07/23/2025 Minutes**

Present: Committee Chair Eddie Payne, MVFR, Rodney Woodward, FCFR, Jeff Morrow, CVFR, Jim Jones, OVFR, Scott Ross, WVFC, Butch Grimsley, RVFR, John Woodburn, GVFR, John Kerns, OVFR, Jimmy Weeks, LVFD, Fred McEvilly, FCFR, Nathan Helsley, FCFR, Kalvyn Smith, FCFR, Dan Gregory, WVFC, Executive Assistant Lindsay Flippo

- I. **Call to Order**  
Committee Chair Eddie Payne called the meeting to order at 1900 hours.
- II. **Adoption of the Agenda**  
The agenda was presented to the committee. Chairperson Payne made a motion to adopt the agenda. The motion was seconded by Jim Jones and unanimously approved.
- III. **Approval of the Minutes**  
There were no minutes from the June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2025 meeting, so no approval was needed.
- IV. **Guest**
  - a. There were none present.
- V. **Old Business**
  - a. **Rope Replacement update** – All rope will be replaced, and the budget is complete. For Co. 3, the decision will need to be made as to whether the rope will go on the Rescue or the Rescue Engine. Rescue Engine 4 and Rescue Engine 13 will also be getting rope compliments, Rodney Woodward will be getting with Chief Weeks to discuss Co. 13's needs. There will be some changes regarding the kits, but our system will handle them, as everything else has already been taken into account.
  - b. **Supplies** – Rodney Woodward has ordered replacement supplies for wreckers, along with more pig putty. If you are need of new pad supplies, just give Rodney Woodward a call. For absorbent, please reach out to Lt. Nugent with Logistics. There is a small stock at Co. 3, Rodney Woodward will need to go through it for inventory. There is a planned propane training this fall, and the committee is currently working with Blossman Gas, along with Loudoun and Prince William Couties, to discuss and determine how fire rescue should approach these types of calls. The offloading that occurred on the last gas leak incident went well, but there are a lot of underground tanks reaching their limits, so don't be surprised if our system starts running more calls. And remember to reach out to Rodney for any HazMat needs, as he is the HazMat Officer.
  - c. **Foam** – Rodney informed the committee system members can still use class A and B foam, but there is still trying to figure out the Green foam, as it doesn't work well enough. If you use foam on an incident, please fill out the HazMat form as well work to keep it out of waterways by using booms. There is quite of a bit of class B within the county and enough for transfers.

## New Business

- a. **Water Rescue Program** – Chief Ross wanted to touch base on where the system will be heading regarding this program. On July 16<sup>th</sup>, a supercell brought flash flooding to our area, so now system members need to decide where we want to be in terms of readiness, and how do we want to get there to be prepared. There were some points presented to Executive Committee at their last meeting, along with conversations with Chief Smith. For long term goals, the system needs to place the boat program back in service. To do this correctly and safely is about a 6-12 month process. In the short term, the system needs to take a look at a few factors, including who are our trained people and are they interested. We also need to inventory equipment, to see what we have, what shape it is in, and look towards what we need in the near future. The system also needs to place awareness level equipment on first out staffed rigs and specialty pieces. Also, an awareness refresher training for personnel would be useful. Chief Ross connected with FCFR Lieutenant Baer, who gave a rough list of career technicians as well as a rundown of the awareness training from PA, broken into different classes, including practical's, swim tests, ropes, and boat trainings.

Chief Ross also asked about the standard training the system would utilize, VDFP or PA? We already have PA trained instructors, so we could start classes right away. Assistant Chief Jones asked why not VDFP, as we already use them for everything else. Chief Grimsley inquired about the swim test, and Chief Ross informed the committee that the PA curriculum follows the Coast Guard's swim test. Currently Warrenton Vol. has Nick Mastri and Chirs Cubbage, along with Orlean Vol.'s John Jeniec, who have agreed to help with training, but can't really commit to responses. Captain Woodward reminded the committee that about 6 years ago, the Special Ops Committee purchased and gave each station 2 bags with awareness supplies, and where they ended up was the responsibility of the stations. Deputy Chief Kidwell has asked station for inventory, and he is awaiting their responses. Battalion Chief McEvilly discussed how Cumberland marine serviced both boats about 2 years ago, but we will need to make sure the boats and motors are ready and available before they go back in service.

Chief Ross also addressed equipment for the immediate future. PFDs were discussed, and if they should contain blow out devices from now on, as they weren't available. All vests should be the same across the System, with trainings included, so people know how to use it. The system should also have a go pack per person, but the decisions would need to be made as to what do we want to be carrying on our rigs. As far as equipment on first rigs, PFDs, throw bags, and ropes, and specialty pieces should include inflatable boats and more sophisticated and heavier duty equipment. For the boats, we currently have 2 motored boats and 2 walk out boats, along with truck and trailer for transportation. Warrenton also has some banana boats for deployment. For extensive water rescues, we would need to address that, too.

Chief Smith again reiterated his comments from the Executive Committee, and reminded everyone that we are not, nor should be, deployed outside county and that any future boat program can't be sustained with just career personnel. When the program was discontinued last year, nothing was sold and everything is ours. The supplies are currently sitting at the Catlett logistics shop. We need people and interest from everybody in the system, and to make sure everyone knows this is not a knee-jerk reaction, bring the boat program back was in the works before July 16<sup>th</sup>. Future questions about the program, including where to put the boats and where to have staffing will depend on how the program progresses.

Chief Ross then addressed the sustainability of the program. He suggested the possibility of setting up notification through First Due or something similar, to put out a call for all hands-on deck for trained person, and to put a process in place. He believes we have the support, people, and training, and has offered to be a program manager, and doesn't mind taking this initiative head-on.

Chairperson Payne did mention that there was a career contact person before, and Chief Smith said if the program continues, there will be a BC tasked with it. The career system members are comprised of some young technicians that we can reach out to for interest. We will look into sending out a survey for interest in classes and trainings, those who are still interested in participating, and those who might be interested in participating.

It was decided that Chief Ross and Captain Woodward will work together to comprise a list of needs, including personnel and equipment, and will wait for survey results to continue. It was suggested that we do the refresher awareness course through PA since we are familiar with it and have instructors, but then we can decide later if we want to go to VDFP. Chief Ross wants to get things rolling to present at the next few committee meetings, both Fire Ops and Spec. Ops.

### **Roundtable**

- a. There was no discussion for roundtable.

## **VI. Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn made by Eddie Payne at 1945 hours. Kalvyn Smith seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

Next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 20th, 2025, at 1900 hours at EMS Station 1, 210 Hospital Drive, Warrenton, VA 20186.