



Fauquier County Fire Rescue System

30 John Marshall Street
Warrenton, Virginia 20186
Phone (540) 422-8800 Fax (540) 422-8813
<http://www.fauquierfirerescue.org>

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

APPROVED

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

07/17/2025

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, County Administrator Janelle Downes, Deputy County Administrator Mallory Stribling, Chief John Woodburn, GVFR, Treasurer Joe Saffer, WVFR, Executive Assistant Lindsay Flippo

I. Call to Order

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

II. Adoption of the Agenda

Butch made a motion to adopt the agenda. Dale seconded the motion, and it was approved.

III. Approval of the Minutes

Lorenzen made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from June 26, 2025. Kane seconded the motion, and it was approved.

IV. Agenda Items

A. Guest/Citizen – no guests.

B. Sub-Committee Reports

- 1.** Budget and Finance – the committee met on July 9th, and discussed financial planning, asking each volunteer company president to come back with short- and long-term goals for their organization. Short-term would include things needed now, and the focus on larger categorical needs would be long-term. The committee also discussed the rope replacement with Special Ops budget. Deputy Chief Kidwell will touch base with Captain Woodward for bids and to place orders. The next meeting is scheduled for August 13th.
- 2.** EMS Ops – Dr. Jenks was in attendance, and Co. 19 inquired about releasing their EMS providers with 10 calls. It was discussed that 19 will reach out to system members for patient contacts and ride-times. Deputy Chief Kidwell asked if the committee could also be in charge of releasing provider list periodically for informational purposes, so that the system can know who can staff, e.g., football game coverage, with a breakdown to include AIC vs. Aid, as well as release levels. Chief Grimsley also said he will meet with Chief Weeks to discuss coverage at the Liberty games. Deputy Chief Lorenzen also informed the committee that the video laryngoscopes have been ordered today. The next meeting is scheduled for August 5th.

3. Fire Ops – The July 3rd meeting was cancelled; Hasty straps have been ordered and are in, training will begin at the end of the month, across a few days. Once you are trained, they can train others for easier teaching. The next meeting is scheduled for August 7th.
4. Health and Safety – The ESOguard screenings went really well, with 86 participants over the three days. The representative from ESOguard has already reached out to see about making this an every other year opportunity, only without the \$0 out of pocket costs. Captain Shields wanted to thank everyone who made this possible, with a specific shout out to Logistics Manager Mary Tarr, Technician II Dave Wood, and Technician Dylan Hall. Kane wanted to also remind everyone about yearly physicals for Class A members in OP 607. Smith has asked what is keeping people from getting these, but he hasn't gotten responses that make sense. Trying to get the Chiefs to be involved, but they can only do so much. Bring up at the Fire Ops meeting.

5. Sub-committee Updates

- a. Recruitment and Retention – Vol. Coordinator Bobby Tarr is currently recruiting at the Fauquier Fair, so any interested volunteers who would like to help please let him know. He did also want to pass along that the total number of A, B, and C members is 507, with 26 new members year-to-date and 21 applicants currently in the process. For physicals, since January 1st there have been 114 cards sent to volunteer members from HR, and 2 member physicals have been completed at Marathon Health and 2 other jurisdictions have submitted. If there is any question regarding career in other jurisdictions, Dr. Chou reaches out to Lorenzen. Here is a number breakdown of each station:

<u>STATION</u>	<u>CARDS SENT PER STATION RQ:</u>	<u>NUMBER THAT PARTICIPATED:</u>
1	29	0
2	11	0
3	8	0
4	11	1
7	10	0
8	5	0
10	31	3
11	1	0
13	8	0

- b. Special Ops – will be meeting on July 23rd, and topics for discussion will be the rope replacement and the water rescue program.

C. System Updates

1. Fauquier Fair - currently ongoing, we have a recruitment tent set up with Bobby Tarr, too.
2. Lieutenant Process – this will begin at the end of August. There are currently 5 vacancies.
3. Hiring process – this will be starting up later this year, with a recruit class that will hopefully start late this year, early next year.

4. Current Recruit Class – they are doing well, with firefighter class moving right along.
5. Laurel Ridge Paramedic Program – there were a few registration hiccups, but everything is still moving forward with a start date in September.
6. Night EMT – 14 have signed up, most of these from Company 1. Chairperson Kane wanted to remind people that if they are in the process of joining a company, it is possible to sign up.

D. Old Business

1. New President Selection – The administrative committee will be meeting Thursday, July 24th, but President Kudla has been nominated and said he would take the position if voted in.

E. New Business

1. VFIS Insurance – deductible has increased to \$5,000 across the board, but we are working with our broker Brown and Brown as well as VFIS to see if this can be updated. In order to combat this in the future, Deputy Chief Kidwell says we will need to do a better job with trainings, especially driver trainings. Chief Smith also would like to do a review of the insured amounts for each vehicle to re-assess those insurance valued numbers.
2. Water Rescue Program – in light of the recent weather events, the record storm on July 16th, and prior to discussion, Chief Smith wanted to speak. That night, we had a record storm in terms of the amount of rain in a short period of time. Fauquier's Swiftwater program is a big priority of Chief Smith's and always has been. When he was the Fire Chief at Catlett, they housed a swift water boat for many years, and he personally responded with it routinely. One of the problems with the program has been the housing of these boats. Some stations simply do not have the room for additional units. In June of 2020, DFREM was awarded a grant, and purchased new equipment to include a boat and other resources to help grow the program. For the years that followed, the system focused on training staff. There were two boats, one housed at Orlean and one housed at Catlett, which later transferred to New Baltimore. Over the last 2 years, we've hired in at least a third of our uniformed career staff which has shifted training focus to entry level. The goal has been to have a program with skilled operators who can safely rescue citizens while keeping themselves safe. It has become apparent not only in Fauquier but other jurisdictions a need to put a focused effort on Swiftwater programs. The plan is to build a key program with structure, adequate resources, and sustainable across the system. Chief Smith believes some companies have offered to house these boats. He would like to take them up on this offer. Chief Smith would also like the Special Ops Committee to take this on as an FY 2026 initiative. A reminder, any financial requests would be filtered through the Budget and Finance Committee.

Chief Ross commented that he has spoken with Capt. Rodney Woodward, and would like to extend an invitation to the Fire Ops Committee members to attend the Special Ops meeting next Wednesday, July 23rd. Also, Chief Ross and Deputy Chief Kidwell sat down and wrote up a plan for water rescues going forward. Some of our resources did not have PVDs and throw bags. Chief Smith would like to make an inventory of this equipment a priority to at least give the system an idea of what it has and what it needs in terms of a water rescue program. Kidwell will reach out to the station in the morning for a rundown, as well as reaching out to companies and task them with pre-planning in

problem areas. Captain Brian Latham and Lieutenant Nick Baer are certified instructors, and Deputy Chief Kidwell has spoken with both Capt. Latham and Capt. Billy Hayes to get some awareness classes set up for system members. Chairperson Kane inquired about looking at special pieces and staffing with water rescue trained personnel, but it's hard to predict events like the one on July 16th. Deputy Chief Lorenzen said Fire Ops should discuss sustainability and long-term training plans, because there was a drop off in interest due to heavy training and staffing difficulties. It is also important to focus on getting the right people who want to be there. The NOVA Ops Manual does give us a bit of say in how we run our program, and we do have volunteer system members who are trained with other jurisdictions. Chief Ross has volunteered to spearhead and rally people and resources, to give us a better chance for the next storm and get us back up to a higher-trained level. Warrenton will support in any way they can, as well, with heavy technical rescue trainings. Deputy Chief Kidwell with Special Ops, there might not be a water rescue guru, but Ross will reach out to system members to make sure we have people there at the meeting for discussion. Lorenzen also brought up getting some help in ECC during these events, as they are overwhelmed when it comes to big events like this, as prioritizing calls. Chief Woodburn also said he would reach out to his members about housing a boat

F. Roundtable

1. Beginning July 20th to July 26th, Deputy Chief Kidwell, Captain Latham and Lieutenant Nugent will all be out, so please forward training and logistics issues through Lorenzen.
2. Chief Grimsley – With the water rescue program, will there be a need for more trailers and trucks? Deputy Chief Kidwell said that there is a possibility of purchasing a new truck for logistics, so the original boat truck will go back to being a boat truck.
3. Chief Smith – Please go back to your members and let them know that if there is a problem or if they have any issues, please don't post about it on social media. It's hurting our mission, and we are working on some of these issues, so just let them know not to post and delete it please.
4. Chief Ross – wanted to say thank you to all who were involved on July 16th and please be cognizant of comments made in public.

V. Adjournment

Chairperson Kane made a motion to adjourn at 6:55 PM. The motion was seconded by Deputy Chief Kidwell, and it was unanimously approved.

The next Executive Committee Meeting is scheduled for August 21st, 2025, at 6 PM.