



Fauquier County Fire Rescue System

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*Chief Scott Ross, WVFC, Chair
Chief Billy Boylan, TPVFR, Co-Chair*

APPROVED

FIRE OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

08/07/2025 Minutes

Present: Committee Chair Chief Scott Ross, WVFR, Assistant Chief Jason Koglin, WVFR, Chief Buddy Lane, MVFR, Vice President Eddie Payne, MVFR, Chief Jeremy Moore, CVFR, Assistant Chief Jonathan Moore, CVFR, Chief John Kane, NBVFR, Chief John Kerns, OVFR, System Chief Kalvyn Smith, FCFR, Deputy Chief Dale Kidwell, FCFR, Battalion Chief Fred McEvilly, FCFR, Communications Director Joell Kight, Executive Assistant Lindsay Flippo

I. Call to Order

Chairperson Ross called the meeting to order at 1900 hours.

II. Adoption of the Agenda

The agenda was presented to the committee. Chief Kane made a motion to adopt the agenda, and Chief Kerns seconded. It was unanimously approved.

III. Approval of the Minutes

The minutes from the June 5, 2025 meeting were presented to the committee. Chief Kane made the motion to approve the minutes, Chief Lane seconded, and they were unanimously approved.

IV. Guest/Citizen

There were no guests present.

V. Communications Report

Communications director Joell Kight updated the committee regarding radios. She said the holsters and the management equipment were shipped today, and the fire mics should be delivered mid-August. The co-plugs and text programming are currently being spearheaded by Chuck Kuhler. It looks to be a mid-October install with Wireless Communications, as their previous contract has run over its schedule. Deputy Chief Kidwell also informed the committee that the bulk of the order has been delivered and training has begun for county programmers. A work schedule for our installs will be coming out as soon as we know more. As far as the new CAD update, we are currently in contract negotiations. There are also 3 open positions.

VI. Volunteer Coordinator Report

Coordinator Bobby Tarr was unable to attend, however passed along that all physical lists are due by August 15th. The names were emailed to the Chiefs on Tuesday the 5th, and he is waiting on two stations. There are 24 applicants in the process, 27 new members year to date, and the total number of A, B, and C members is 506. The physical number since January 1 shows that there are still only 2 members who completed physicals at Marathon and 2 from other jurisdictions that were approved by Marathon. Chief Lane said he participated in April and is not counted. He will let Bobby know, so Bobby can check with Marathon.

VII. Uniform Rank Oversight Group

This was addressed under Old Business.

VIII. Apparatus Committee

Chief Ross wanted to follow-up on the Rescue Engine discussions. What we want REs to do and the equipment they carry, with reference to capabilities for an incident. The apparatus committee asked what we would want and so Ross wanted to update them. A RE list being created and should be brought before the Fire Ops soon. It was re-iterated that companies can always exceed the necessary equipment, but there should be minimum equipment on each piece. It was also asked could they mark up as a Rescue, or an Engine? This might cause a problem at communications, so we need to make sure they are ready and equipped to respond appropriately. Also, either Apparatus or Fire Ops should take a look at how Rescue Engines are dispatched, and what they are dispatched as for incidents. Once the list is approved, it should be implemented as soon as possible, with stations purchasing what they need to be in compliance. As a command officer, it shouldn't be up to them to decide what is coming and what they have available during a working incident. Chief Ross asked for possible call notes, to review what they are responding to and what types and will come back to this committee to discuss next month.

IX. Special Operations Committee

Chairperson Eddie Payne was on hand to discuss the Special Ops meeting last month. Captain Woodward inquired about using the foam we have. We can still use what we have, but just be aware of waterways, and please notify DEQ and the State. It is also important to have personnel fill out exposure forms if they handle it. Also, the ropes have been ordered and Captain Woodward is working towards dissemination.

Chief Ross then addressed the committee regarding the Water Rescue program. He had a few recommendations, including establishing a water rescue work group to report to Fire Ops. Short term goals include getting us back to being prepared with what we normally respond to, holding trainings and maintaining less technical equipment that we have (reach, throw, row) before we put people in the water. We also need to inventory what we have regarding equipment and people. The long-term goals are sustainability, can we keep it up, and getting the boats back up to par, with a timeframe of about 12 months. Chief Smith approved a water rescue work group, who will start working immediately. Chief Ross will be program manager, and DC Kidwell has tasked BC McEvelly, Lt. Baer, and Captain Latham from FCFR to assist. Chief Brill, Chief Woodburn, and Chief Jonathan Moore will round out the interested parties for this work group. If any other companies are interested in sending people, please let Chief Ross know.

X. Support Services Updates

a. Training – Fall EMT starting August 16th, with 16 registered students. The Volunteer Fire Academy will be starting September 3rd, with all WVFC members. The recruit school will be attending Mayday class in Stafford August 18th-21st. There are spots still available for volunteers, please contact training. There will also be vehicle training on August 25th-26th and low angle ropes on the 27th-28th, with 10 openings in each class. DC Kidwell also asked both Chief Moores if they had spoken with Captain Latham regarding the use of the Mayday House and props located at Catlett shop. The suggestion was maybe to obtain a container to house it. The system hopes to hold EVOC soon, too. Warrenton Vol. will have upcoming training classes in house and will open it to other system members. Chief Lane asked about the Hasty Straps training, which has already begun. Chief Ross then asked if the committee could get a copy of that train the trainers list, and send it out to other volunteer members. A Firefighter CPR in-service training for FCFR members will be held August 25-27. To accommodate volunteer system members, please reach out to BC McEvelly to figure out dates for evening classes. That also applies to all trainings, if you wish to scheduling nights for volunteers to attend, just reach out to the coordinator on the information bulletin or general order.

Chief Moore and Chief Brill informed the committee that Remington's tanker will go in service soon, it's about 95%. With that, Chiefs Jeremy and Jonathan Moore will conduct rural water training at Co. 2, starting at 0900 hours on Saturday the 16th, and it is open to all. Deputy Chief Kidwell will send something out. Chief Ross also mentioned that August 16th there will also be Water Rescue Awareness at Co. 1 at 0900 hours. Also, just for everyone's FYI, every third Saturday Warrenton will have a training. He also encouraged all system members to attend.

- b. SCBAs – the packs should be here by the end of October. We are working with Scott, including trainings before they are placed in service (November/December). There is a possibility to combine trainings for airpacks and radios, DC Kidwell will look into it along with timeframes.
- c. SCBA Compressors – Six weeks, with deliver 1 each week. Delray Industries in Winchester, they works with Bauer products. The PO has been cut and the vendor is working with logistics for specifics on power supplies to ensure the correct units. Will be replacing them in this order, Catlett, Upperville, Marshall, Lois, The Plains, and then Remington. DC Kidwell will let stations and personnel know the installation schedule as soon as possible.
- d. Radio Updates – covered under Communications.

XI. System Updates

- a. Recruit graduation is currently scheduled for September 10th, and all system members are invited. We also hope to hold a December recruit school, as we have been approved for 15 positions. The Lieutenant promotional assessments will be held August 25-26, in order to establish a list.
- b. FRF 913s – Chief Smith presented Warrenton's Chief Scott Ross and Lieutenant Dale Minks, as well as Catlett's Assistant Chief Moore, with commendations in response to their performed duties during the July 16th floodings. Chief Ross was recognized for assisting in a rescue of a vehicle stuck in high water, while Lt. Minks and AC Moore were recognized for assisting with a water rescue where a truck was swept off of a bridge and the occupant was stuck in a tree in the rushing water. Both incidents highlighted the best of our system members, and it is important to recognize a job well done. These three individuals will also be nominated for life saving awards at the Fauquier Chamber of Commerce Valor Awards.

XII. Old Business

- a. Uniform Rank Policy Implementation – There is still some issues with the helmet identifiers for unqualified people. Station need to be getting a good handle on it, as there are some people who are not wearing the correct ones. It is a safety issue, and only a handful are grandfathered, so please make sure your people are wearing the proper helmet identifiers per policy. It was acknowledged that there have been some ordering and backorder issues, but please continue to work on it. Chief Smith asked that with this policy in place, is there another reason to police it? Chief Ross will send out an email for status updates from the Uniform Rank Oversight Committee, to include a list/spreadsheet for inputting qualifications, and then asking them to report back to Fire Ops Committee next meeting.

XIII. New Business

- a. Dispatch Concerns and Uniform Fire Officer – Chief Ross raised concerned regarding communications during the July 16th supercell. DC Kidwell decided to head to ECC to help once it was apparent that it was just so overwhelming. Radio discipline and too much talking from everyone, so we can't get an idea of what was happening and who goes where. The problem on July 16th was that the resources were unavailable and dispatched did not know what to do, as well as being so overwhelmed by call volume. It was suggested that there should be a re-focus at the dispatcher level, and processing what is priority and not worry about the BS calls, they just needed

to get back to the groove. A few days later, there was another incident where issues were present with that one, too. Chief Ross asked for solid recommendations for addressing said issues, some of which he listed in his after-action report. It was asked if we should get a list of command officers together that can sit in ECC for assistance and helping to clear radio traffic with less talking on big incidents. There was also discussion on ECC conditions and incident commanders knowing things like that they can move to a different channel, and that if we don't need dispatch to listen, let them know so they can focus on other incidents. FCFR has discussed UFOs in the past, but with big scale incidents so few and far between, it's hard to justify the position. Chief Smith said they have discussed using EMS Supervisors as the resource to send to ECC during these incidents. On July 16th, Joell was not able to make it to the ECC, but was in constant communication with the center. She also reminded the committee that 75% of the current ECC staff has less than 2 years on the job. She would like to continue utilizing uniformed fire officers during big incidents and believes it is hugely beneficial.

There was then discussion regarding condition levels and giving dispatchers the authority to tell people to shut up. These stem from trainings and teaching moments. Chief Ross recommends coming up with solutions to work towards, and bring back to the next meeting, maybe even tasking a few people from Fire Ops and ECC to brainstorm and review, and then put into a policy or procedure for system to follow. DC Kidwell, Joell and BC McEvilly will get together to review and bring back to the next meeting. Chief Moore also informed the committee that Prince William puts out a "storm mode" from communications, which means operating incidents and responses by limiting dispatches, radio traffic, and resources. It's a signal to get everyone to change how they respond and act. The possibility of sending out a message to our system users in First Due, as a prompt. BC McEvilly is working towards a CAD buttons draft policy, but there is also the possibility to modify the IWRAP policy/condition 1,2,3. The current NOVA manual recognizes condition, as well as updating ECC policy with their input. With the new CAD system, we will also work to utilize and make all of this simpler for dispatchers.

XIV. Company 1 Brief/Discussion

Chief Ross let the committee know that a Water Rescue Awareness will be held on August 16th at Co. 1 at 9 AM. Also, the new Engine will be on its final inspection in September, with the hope to have it here in Virginia in October.

XV. Company 2 Briefs/Discussion

Nothing

XVI. Company 3 Briefs/Discussion

Chief Lane updated the committee that Rescue is in the final painting stage, hope to get it back to Marshall for re-equipment and mounting.

XVII. Company 4 Briefs/Discussion

Nothing

XVIII. Company 7 Briefs/Discussion

Chief Moore had questions regarding the Volunteer Incentive policy. First, it is in place right now, but since we are in the middle of a recording year, can we continue to do what we have been doing until next January, and that's when recording hours will start. DC Kidwell said yest. Also, benefits for members include personal property, but what else? The foundation for benefit eligibility is the hour requirements and personal property, but there has been discussion regarding more benefits/incentives to be offered in the future. On top of who qualifies and for what they qualify for is still determined at the Company level, to be confirmed by Station Chief each year. The biggest change went from a point system to hours logging, and it is at the discretion of the station chief whether someone truly qualifies and for what. By January, you should be tracking hours. AC Moore also wanted to update the

committee that Catlett has now receiving its Paratech equipment, and it should all be in by mid-August. Looking to have it in service by September/October.

XIX. Company 8 Briefs/Discussion

Nothing

XX. Company 10 Briefs/Discussion

Chief Kane wanted to say thank you for supporting the company during the loss of member George Doolin. Currently, Chief Kane is working with Sam Neglia to set up more EMS trainings and will be assisting with putting on trainings. Chief Ross would also like to discuss with them CE hours and credentials. Also, Sam Neglia is up for cross-staffing with cleared/released EMTs across the county, as well as working as a preceptor to get others released. Just let him know.

XXI. Company 11 Briefs/Discussion

Nothing

XXII. Company 13 Briefs/Discussion

DC Kidwell informed the committee of the station update, including the completed install of cabinets, as well as painting. Electric, HVAC, and plumbing are also complete. There is a bit soffit and trim work to be completed, but a full completion date is scheduled for Labor Day weekend.

XXIII. Good Intent Roundtable

- a. Chief Kane asked about a vendor list for the county - There is a current list on the county website, but there are some equipment and services that are unique to Fire Rescue that isn't included, so be aware of the Volunteer Financial Policy regarding purchases.
- b. ISO review is coming up, we are just waiting on the visit.
- c. Chief Kerns asked about the insurance and deductible increases. Vehicle accidents are \$3,000 and other equipment and incidentals are \$5,000. Chief Kane also wanted to remind the committee that drivers can also get a ding on personal insurance, too, for at fault accidents.

XXIV. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made at 2045 hours by Chairperson Ross. The motion was seconded by Chief Lane, and it was unanimously approved.

Next meeting is scheduled for September 4th, 2025, at 1900 hours at the Warren Green Building, 2nd Floor.