



Fauquier County Fire Rescue System

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

APPROVED

FIRE OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

09/04/2025 Minutes

Present: Committee Chair Chief Scott Ross, WVFR, Assistant Chief Jason Koglin, WVFR, Chief Buddy Lane, MVFR, Co-chair Chief Billy Boylan, TPVFR, Chief Jeremy Moore, CVFR, Chief John Kane, NBVFR, Chief John Kerns, OVFR, System Chief Kalvyn Smith, FCFR, Deputy Chief Dale Kidwell, FCFR, Battalion Chief Fred McEvelly, FCFR, Deputy Chief Chris Saykaly, WTC, 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. AC Koglin made a motion to adopt the agenda, and DC Kidwell seconded. It was unanimously approved.

III. Approval of the Minutes

The minutes from the August 7, 2025 meeting were presented to the committee. AC Koglin made the motion to approve the minutes, DC Kidwell seconded, and they were unanimously approved.

IV. Guest/Citizen

- a. **VFIS** – Paul Mauger, Scott Harkins, Chris Mabes from VFIS insurance and Jacob Hooghouse from broker Brown and Brown were on hand to share with the committee some information regarding our vehicle and property insurance in FCFRS. Scott Harkins began by explaining who VFIS is and what they do. He wanted to speak to the committee about the offset of costs using three things to address: driver trainings, checking driving records and developing driving procedures, and health of drivers utilizing physical exams. Driver training programs are offered through VFIS free of charge to VFIS clients. The intent is to provide and use them to make drivers a bit better over time. 40% of claims are back-ups/striking fixed objects, which can be preventable. These trainings can be set up as Target Solutions assignments. VFIS also passed out some resources available, including a brochure and QR codes that link directly to training and safety tips for drivers. There should be emergency vehicle response guidelines to follow (i.e., leaving the stations, backing, speeding, how you are responding). AC Koglin asked if there is a breakdown for the for 40% in Fauquier? Jacob Hooghouse spoke up to say Fauquier’s problem is striking mirrors, parked cars, and mailboxes. There is also the issue of intersections, too. The question was raised about reaching out to state departments to lobby against tight streets. Currently, Fauquier is in the process of passing an amendment to the ordinance to allow the Fire Marshal to ticket instead of towing. When it comes to enforcement within the Town of Warrenton, it was suggested to have Chief Ross and AC Koglin reach out to councilmembers. Chris Mabes did address that another county was having issues with residential, but a marketing campaign to the BOS using residents did seem to put the issue in the forefront. Our Fire Marshal’s office is also trying to work with VDOT to better mark fire lanes. Chairperson Ross did agree with checking driving records and possibly getting more

driving training. There are also train the trainer classes, which Scott Harkins said we could take in VA. Currently, all new volunteers are asked to sign a form that states if they are released as a driver, they will be susceptible to DMV record checks. Chief Smith did inform the committee that HR pulls these records each 6-8 months, using a list from Bobby Tarr. Chief Smith gets them, and he will forward to volunteer chiefs if something is wrong. Jacob Hooghouse also left a copy of the insurance schedules for chiefs to review.

- b. Gear Committee** – FCFR Tech II Jake Donahue and AC Jason Koglin presented the Fire Ops committee with the gear committee’s process and selection of a new gear specifications. The gear committee, made up of both FCFR members and volunteer system members, selected Globe Athletix PPE for their recommendation of the new specs. After a thorough demo period in which members tried four different types of PPE and turnout gear, the Globe Athletix was highly received and admired. The county can ride another contract and the total price would be about \$5145.00 per unit. All coats will have “Fauquier County Fire Rescue” on the back without using the back Velcro, as it would be difficult to maintain. Each jacket will only have the station patch on the arm. In order to switch the patch when a set of gear is moved to another station, Maryland Fire, who would supply our gear, can do along with maybe even the cleaning and repairs. Also, there is a quick turnaround with Globe’s rep Roger Lightner. The system would also have delivery in 10-13 weeks. The committee agreed it was a well thought out process and will table for 30 days for review and discuss at the next Fire Ops meeting. Lindsay will send a copy of the PowerPoint and survey results to the committee members to review for next meeting. Chief Smith thanked the committee for all of their hard work and dedication with this initiative. He also mentioned this is what County Administration is looking for and we are being good stewards of our money. AC Koglin did want to mention that while we are doing bulk purchasing, each station will be responsible for paying for their own company’s gear, and not Fauquier County. This was meant as a system-wide specification for gear purchases going forward as a Fire Rescue System.

V. Communications Report

Communications director Joell Kight was not on hand to update the committee; however DC Kidwell did give an update on the CAD negotiations. Current date is September 18th, where we will decide what we want for the prices they are giving us. We hope to have it done in one meeting. Communications workgroup is planning on meeting on September 29th, with coordination with BC McEvelly. AC Koglin asked what kind of fire rescue training to dispatcher get? DC Kidwell informed the committee that Allison and Joell teach NENA guidelines, but he does not know if they filter in county information, too. We have asked to be a part of the training in the past but have not yet been able to be involved. Workgroup is going to help out with getting them up to our level. Chief Smith is also communicating with Sheriff Falls regarding the ECC to start a dialogue since they are considered FCSO employees. He hope to push the message. Chairperson Ross brought up the 5 w’s that Joell wants to address immediately.

VI. Volunteer Coordinator Report

Coordinator Bobby Tarr was unable to attend, however passed along that there is an open house event scheduled for 10/5 at Warrenton VFC and 10/11 at New Baltimore VFRC, where he will be bringing the smoke house. There are 22 applicants in the process, 31 new members year to date, and the total number of A, B, and C members is 498. DC Kidwell did note that 109 volunteers have been deleted year to date. From Jan. 1st to Sept. 1st, 173 physical cards have been mailed out from HR. Chief Moore spoke about his company’s physicals, and said 3 people have gone but he has not heard anything about them. He would like Marathon to send the clearances to the Chiefs. Clearance letters are supposed to be going to a few people, but there isn’t any policy in place. Going forward with a start date of January 2026 to get a policy out and all system members and Marathon on the same page.

VII. Uniform Rank Oversight Group

Chairperson Ross has created a template for helmet compliance and will send out to the chiefs.

VIII. Apparatus Committee

There needs to be more participation with that group, so please send your representatives. A follow-up to the Rescue Engine, there should be a communications guide for what REs do and what is their intention when they get there. Chairperson Ross asked about recommendations. Inquired about Co. 19 specifying ladder vs. engine and keeping Communications updated with staffing of units. There was also discussion on the terminology ECC is using vs what is actually meant or said. There was also the question of in-service but understaffed. DC Kidwell said the system should start using a staffing board, so everyone can see staffed and available units within the system. Members should try to figure out a way for all the companies to see this information. There was also the note of a lot of chitchatting on the radio that is not necessary, and command decisions regarding responses and unit resources.

IX. Special Operations Committee

There needs to be more participation with that group, as well, so please send your representatives. The water rescue workgroup is making progress and moving forward. The discussion and decisions are being made at the Special Operations Committee before moving up to the Fire Ops committee.

X. Support Services Updates

- a. Radio demos to a select few in order to work our programming issues, and then the programmers can make edits to them regarding buttons and coverage. A target solutions survey is out, so everyday a person who uses it please update the survey. At the last radio group meeting, they will start bulk programming on September 22nd and are looking at an October 14th start date for mobiles programming and installation, but these are tentative, not set in stone.
- c. Airpacks – Scott representative said they are currently scheduled for a September 22nd delivery week. Once they arrive, they will be at the armory along with MES techs for assembly. The evaluation group will go over trainings and then work on replacing them on rigs.

XI. System Updates

- a. Recruit graduation is currently scheduled for September 10th, 6 PM at Kettle Run High School, and all system members are invited. We also hope to hold a December recruit school, as we have been approved for 15 positions. Still waiting on SAFER awards for 24 new hires.
- b. Taylor Huff – she has replaced Laura as our IT specialist. Her first order of business is to work with BC Rob Smith and IT to get iPad replacements purchased with carryover funds. Now that we know what CAD we are going with, it should be easier. A lot of iPads are failing, and since there are no spares, the recommendation is to shift iPads from secondary vehicles to primary response until we can get the new updates. Taylor will keep system members informed of any changes at the stations.

XII. Old Business

- a. Nothing for old business.

XIII. New Business

- a. Water Supply – There have been a few incidents of water supply issues in the county. One was the Opal Road fire with a not-so-happy citizen regarding using his pond usage. Another was using too much water in Remington, draining their town's supply, even though a tanker task force was called for the Elkwood fire. Chief Smith and DC Kidwell had a meeting with WSA, and they were supposed to be sending updated maps with areas that have hydrants and their GPMs. They do NOT recommend using a lot of the hydrants in Fauquier except for a truck load or two. Chief Smith and DC Kidwell will reach out again to WSA for an update. Chairperson Ross said this was something to discuss, so the system can anticipate water

sources for working incidents. WSA also needs to mark their hydrants better. AC Koglin asked if there should be plans made for each area, since it seems many are unreliable.

- b. Policy Change Review Process – there is a need for better communication between system members. Committees’ policy shows how the flow of information is supposed to work. Departments need to have representation, so the information gets moved up through the committees AND through the system, so that by the time Executive Committee votes on it, everyone is aware of them. It seems that representatives are not bringing the information back to their station officers. Chairperson Ross is not asking to approve them before the Executive Committee, just asking to review. Chief Smith reminded everyone that each committee is given 30 days to review, at that point the representatives should be taking these changes and updates back to their officers’ meetings for review and approval at the company level. Regarding the incentive policy, there was still questions after the reviews, and they did not seem to be addressed during the discussion phases. Chief Kane reported that at the EMS Ops Committee, Op representatives did say they were reporting back to their stations, so there are several steps happening. The apparatus committee still working on Rescue Engine list, and that seems to be stuck at that committee level. Chairperson Ross wants to be included on all the emails, so he has an idea about what is going on. Lindsay will send minutes that she receives for committees through the Executive Committee emails for better transparency.
- c. Apparatus preventative maintenance program – AC Koglin inquired if companies have an apparatus prevention maintenance program. Some companies do, some do not. AC Koglin believes that it would be beneficial to the station rigs to set one and will forward Warrenton’s program details to interested chiefs.

XIV. Company 1 Brief/Discussion

Chief Ross let the committee know that the new wagon should be in by October with a November/December in-service date. Also wanted to let system member know co. 1 is holding Instructor and Officer I classes at their station.

XV. Company 2 Briefs/Discussion

Chief Grimsley thanked Catlett for their tanker training and that the new tanker has already seen a lot of action. He did also mention courtesy dispatch is supposed to happen, and is still an issue at ECC.

XVI. Company 3 Briefs/Discussion

Chief Lane updated the committee that Rescue is still being painted. The carnival is scheduled for October 2nd through 5th.

XVII. Company 4 Briefs/Discussion

Nothing

XVIII. Company 7 Briefs/Discussion

Nothing

XIX. Company 8 Briefs/Discussion

Nothing

XX. Company 10 Briefs/Discussion

Nothing

XXI. Company 11 Briefs/Discussion

Nothing

XXII. Company 13 Briefs/Discussion

DC Kidwell informed the committee of the station update, including that the alerting system is up and running. The temporary occupancy permit was approved today, and they have started to order furniture.

XXIII. Good Intent Roundtable

- a. Chief Grimsley said he was going to talk with the Executive Committee regarding the Administrative Committee and participation.

- b. AC Koglin brought to the committee's attention two types of incidents that he believes need to be assessed. For lock-outs where there was not life/fire hazard, system members should not be doing these. Also, Engines dispatched to open doors for a barricade situation, that should not be happening either. The Sheriff's Office should be calling the on-duty BC during SWAT situations, but sometimes that doesn't happen. DC Kidwell will work towards discussing this with members. AC Koglin suggested a policy, so he will draft something up.

XXIV. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made at 2126 hours by AC Koglin. The motion was seconded by DC Kidwell, and it was unanimously approved.

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