

HARTSVILLE/TROUSDALE COUNTY GOVERNMENT
EMERGENCY SERVICES COMMITTEE
JANUARY 29, 2024 | MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT

Amber Russell, *Chair*
David Nollner, *Vice Chair*

David Thomas, *Secretary*
Brian Crook

Lesley Overman

MEMBERS ABSENT

Richard Johnson

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS BY POSITION, NON-VOTING PRESENT

Matt Batey, *EMA/EMS*

Kirk "Bud" Sutherland, *Rescue*

Mark Beeler, *Fire*

Meeting was opened by Chair Amber Russell. A quorum was determined with five of six members present.

Minutes from November 8, 2023 had been passed out prior to meeting and were read for corrections or amendments. A correction was noted that David Thomas made the second motion on the approval of the August 9th minutes. David Nollner made the motion to approve with corrections; Brian Crook seconded the motion.

Minutes were approved with corrections.

REPORTS FROM DEPARTMENTS

EMA/EMS – Matt Batey

- EMPG (Emergency Management Performance Grant) paperwork has begun.
- The Sheriff has asked about constructing an emergency shelter under the Sheriff Station/old fire hall at 210 Broadway for inclement weather such as storms or tornados. Chief Batey and Sheriff are researching the process and costs.
- Hardship waiver application – one was presented to the committee. Committee members reviewed the application.

Motion was made by Brian Crook to approve the waiver application; seconded by David Nollner.

Application approved w/ opposition.

- New ambulance is estimated to be delivered in the spring – possibly March/April 2024.
- Batey began the discussion of a potential remount of an older ambulance to a newer chassis. It is a 2018 model with 216,000 miles. Over 200K miles, state requires additional maintenance. This "box" was previously remounted in 2018 for \$96,000. The current costs would be estimated at \$160,000 – 190,000 depending on the chassis. It will be a 18-24 month turnaround.
- New supply tracking system to streamline the management of medical supplies. Found a program with initial cost of about \$2,500 and a recurring annual cost of \$1,875. This would be the same program that Macon County uses and recommends. Thomas asked how they are tracking now. Chief Batey - The current program is not efficient and not user friendly.
- Chair Russell asked about wrapping the orange/white ambulance to coordinate with other vehicles. Chief Batey said it would need to be painted due to it already being painted and wraps do not last long on painted vehicles.
- EMS has been approved for the annual training stipend through the state.

Fire Dept – Mark Beeler

- Turn out gear follow up – will need 17sets, have 12 on order. Some items have started arriving in recent weeks. Estimated delivery was 100 days from date of order.
- Commission approved the breathing air compressor. That purchase was made at under \$32,000. Should be at the station within the month. Thomas asked about the issues with the current compressor. Beeler said it is the start switch and a compressor valve. Technician is looking for parts that would fit the 27 yr old compressor. The current will become a backup. Beeler says there is room in the storage area for both.

Rescue – Kirk “Bud” Sutherland.

- Training was scheduled for November 2023; however it will need to be rescheduled for another time due to lack of emergency units available. Completed the Vanessa K driving certification in January 2024. An extrication course is being considered from Smith County. Lebanon/WEMA may be offering an advanced extrication course soon. Russell asked if any fees are associated with trainings. With the advanced classes through TARS, there is a \$150 per participating member. Other trainings depend on the vendor used.
- Repairs to the building are needed. Damage from the windstorm in the fall, bathroom walls, insulation in the bays. Priority needs to be on the mold issues in the bathrooms. A heater has been donated to the building and installed in the main office. The heater in the back has been fixed recently. Public Works director Sallee has been over to evaluate the issues. Volunteer Pool and Hardware has also offered solutions to remedy the mold issues. The building is not insulated properly, pictures provided to show the concerns.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Incentive training Program for Fire and Rescue – Program offered by the state to certify Firefighters. Beeler stated that locally there is no advantage. It is a cumbersome process. You must use certified instructors, keep impeccable records, and then a small stipend is awarded. If the County is aiming to pay the volunteers more, consider raising the per diem. Currently the rate is \$30 per call. Russell asked the volunteers in attendance if they were interested in the training. Members have already been through the program. The program is for newly enrolled volunteers to the department. Beeler offered there are two courses supplied by the state. Together they have 80 hours of training. This training is included in standard operating requirements. Members must have this training within 3 years of joining the department.
2. Fire/Rescue Evaluation Update – information is not ready for distribution. Chief Batey will be meeting with the consulting service in the coming week. The report will be released when the analysis is complete.

Public Comment

None presented.

Motion to adjourn by Thomas; seconded by Nollner

Adjourned at 6:32pm

*Minutes submitted by
David Thomas*