

HARTSVILLE/TROUSDALE COUNTY METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT

FIRST RESPONSE SERVICES COMMITTEE

Amber Russell, Chair
Judy Kerr, Vice Chair
Chris Gregory, Secretary

Shane Burton
Brian Crook

David Nollner
Steve Whittaker

Ex-Officio members by position, non-voting

Matt Batey, EMA/EMS
Tim Moore, Rescue

Mark Beeler, Vol Fire
Ray Russell, Sheriff

Wayland Cothron, Chief Dep
Dr. CM Tripp, MD Med Ex

MARCH 24, 2025 | 5:30PM | TC COURTHOUSE

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Review minutes from February 24, 2025
3. Monthly Reports
 - A. **EMA/EMS** – *Matt Batey*
 - B. **Fire** – *Mark Beeler*
 - C. **Rescue** – *Tim Moore*
 - D. **Law Enforcement** – *Ray Russell*
4. Discussion Items
 - A. Hazardous Duty Supplement
 - B. New Ambulance
 - C. Other Discussion
5. Public Comments
6. Adjourn

Monthly Reports:

- Personnel/Staff
- Vehicle Fleet
- Call Reports
- Training Activities
- Maintenance Needs
- Budget concerns/requests

FIRST RESPONDER COMMITTEE MINUTES

Meeting Date: February 24, 2025, 5:30 p.m., Trousdale County Community Center

Present: Amber Russell, Chris Gregory, Brian Crook, David Nollner, Judy Kerr, Steve Whittaker

Others Present: Bud Sutherland, Sheriff Ray Russell, Fire Chief Mark Beeler, Amy Thomas, Gina Duncan, Lonnie Taylor, County Mayor Jack McCall

Chairman Amber Russell called the meeting to order.

Minutes of the January 27, 2025 meeting were reviewed.

Motion to approve by Crook, second by Nollner. Motion approved.

Motion to set agenda by Nollner, second by Gregory. Motion approved.

Bud Sutherland presented Rescue Squad report. Update provided on cost of Tennessee Association of Rescue Squads membership, would be \$610 annual to cover all 17 members. Department has maximum of 20, per bylaws. One prospect currently in background check. Gregory asked where limit was mandated, apparently in their bylaws. Rescue also looking to purchase generator to replace on Rescue 1 vehicle. TARS grant for turnout gear has been submitted, expect to hear something by end of March

Rescue building has flooded recently with heavy rain, does worse every time. Water seems to be coming down from state garage area next door, some electrical outlets are sparking when plugged into, still no heat. Sheriff Russell estimated building is 30-40 years old. Sutherland said Rescue has been told all maintenance should be submitted to Public Works first and only then bid out. Mayor McCall said money has been budgeted for maintenance work previously and not spent. County has done about \$40K of improvements in recent years to building and mayor said money is in budget to make needed fixes. Mayor clarified that department head has the authority to seek outside work if necessary. Mayor plans to meet with Rescue, EMA, Public Works heads to review budget and get fixes done ASAP.

Sheriff Russell presented his department report. Has full patrol crew, just added one certified officer. One waiting to go to academy, probably in July. Still has three open dispatcher positions as one quit, one failed psychological testing. Ten deputies have gone through PIT training in Blount County. No January call report presented but sheriff said was similar to previous month.

Maintenance needs include new camera system added to jail, sheriff station, and courts. Engineer has looked at radio tower on Gravel Hill, should go to bid soon. Gregory asked if Gravel Hill tower will address radio issues on southern end of county; sheriff said it should. Sheriff also wants PA system for courts, lack of system makes it difficult to hear in holding areas.

Sheriff's budget concerns are mainly pay for staff. Received 2.5% the last two years, insurance went up 1.6% last year. Sheriff said three years ago Trousdale was even with nearby departments, now falling behind. Sheriff believes Lafayette will soon start \$5 per hour more than TCSD, Wilson is \$8-\$9 more hour, Sumner jail starts at \$25 per hour. Noted getting harder to find qualified people and that some staff may leave soon for better pay elsewhere.

Fire Chief Mark Beeler presented his department report. Contract has been signed with Vector Solutions for online training, will cost \$3,211 annually for three years. Modules being set up for volunteers to train with. Beeler met with Wayne Oakley to examine request for new storage building, believes it will need to

be designed as it would be essential services building. Beeler hopes to have preliminary site plan by committee's March meeting.

Chairman Russell presented current EMS write off policy set in 2023, already allows department head to handle as needed. No action is required from committee.

EMS - Director Matt Batey was not present but submitted report to be reviewed by committee. 166 total calls in January.

Next meeting scheduled for Monday, March 24 at 5:30 p.m.

Motion to adjourn by Nollner, second by Gregory. Motion approved.

Minutes presented by Chris Gregory.



Hazardous Duty Supplement Benefit for Public Safety Officers

News Date 01/15/2025

A new law taking effect on January 1, 2025, will provide a hazardous duty supplemental benefit for public safety officers in Tennessee, offering additional financial support alongside their regular retirement allowance. The law defines a public safety officer as a full-time, salaried employee of a local government who serves as a sheriff, sheriff's deputy, police officer, chief of police, or other law enforcement officer focused on crime prevention and offender apprehension. It also includes correctional officers and firefighters.

To implement this benefit provision, local governments must pass a resolution authorizing an actuarial study to determine the financial liability and accept responsibility for the study's costs. After receiving the study, a second resolution must be passed to approve the benefit and accept the liability. Resolutions to implement the provision will be provided by TCRS upon request.

The hazardous duty benefit can only be established if the local government's retirement system remains at least 70% funded after implementation. Governments may cover the additional pension liability through a lump sum payment, increased employer contribution rates, or by amortizing the liability over a maximum of 10 years. The effective date of the benefit will be the date the governing body passes the resolution, and it will apply to both current and future retirees who meet the eligibility criteria.

To qualify for the hazardous duty supplemental benefit, public safety officers must have at least 20 years of creditable service in the Tennessee Consolidated Retirement System (TCRS) in a qualifying public safety role and must retire through service retirement or early retirement. Only service with a local government that has adopted the supplemental benefit will be included in the calculation. For example, if an officer has 15 years of service in a qualifying local government and five years elsewhere, the benefit would be calculated based on the 15 years of qualifying service. **The benefit is equal to 0.375% of the officer's average final compensation multiplied by the years of qualifying service, with adjustments made annually for a cost-of-living allowance.**

The supplemental benefit begins on the later of the officer's retirement date or the first day of the month after turning 60. It ends on the first day of the month after the officer's death or upon reaching Social Security full retirement age, whichever occurs first. This new law recognizes the dedication and service of public safety officers, providing them with enhanced financial security as they transition into retirement. Local governments now have the opportunity to adopt this benefit and show their support for those who have risked their lives to protect their communities.

If you have questions, or are interested in implementing the new Hazardous Duty Benefit Supplement for Public Safety Officers, please contact your Tennessee Department of Treasury Outreach Representative:

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Replace Medic 12 with Remount vs New Ambulance cost...

F-450 4x4 Diesel 84"CA w/ Liquid Spring	~\$179k
F-350 4x4 Diesel 84"CA w/ Liquid Spring	~\$176k
Chevrolet K3500 4x4 Diesel (no LiquidSpring)	~157k

Items we discussed:

- Paint Cab Granite Crystal Metallic
- All new warning lights
- All new scene lights
- New Handles/Hardware
- New Vanner Inverter
- New Plexiglass
- New Brake/Tail/Turn/Reverse
- New HVAC unit with Auxiliary bottom mount condenser
- New Backup Camera
- Install Anti-Theft Device
- New LED Dome
- New Floor Covering
- All new exterior trim (Rubrails, Rockguards, Rear bumper, Fenderette, Running Boards)
- New thru-bumper speakers
- New Front Console & Front switch panel
- Re-use upholstery
- Re-use module paint/stripe