

HARTSVILLE/TROUSDALE COUNTY METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT

FIRST RESPONSE SERVICES COMMITTEE

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

Linda Bruce
Shane Burton
Brian Crook

David Nollner
David Thomas
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

NOVEMBER 13, 2025 | 6:30 PM | TC COURTHOUSE

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Review minutes from September 22, 2025
3. Officer Elections
 - A. Chair
 - B. Vice Chair
 - C. Secretary
4. Discussion Items
 - A. Other Discussion
5. Public Comments
6. Adjourn

FIRST RESPONSE COMMITTEE MINUTES

September 22, 2025 | 6pm | Trousdale County Courthouse

Members Present: Chairman Amber Russell, David Nollner, Judy Kerr, Steve Whittaker, Linda Sue Bruce, Brian Crook

Others Present: Chief Wayland Cothron, Fire Chief Mark Beeler, Ken Buckmaster, Lonnie Giese, David Thomas, Gina Duncan, Attorney Branden Bellar

Chairman Amber Russell called the meeting to order.

Minutes of the Aug 25th meeting were reviewed.

Motion to approve by Nollner, second by Whittaker.

Motion approved

Set Agenda

Motion to set agenda by Kerr, second by Nollner.

Motion approved

EMS Director Matt Batey presented EMS report. Batey discussed the need for a remount of their ambulance that currently has over 200 miles on it. Batey had an estimate of \$190,000 for the work to be done. Russell asked what the cost of a new ambulance would be. Batey said he believed it is around \$300,000. Nollner questioned what would happen to present ambulance once it was taken offline. Batey said most likely it would be posted to govdeals.com.

Nollner made a motion to send a favorable recommendation to finance to purchase new ambulance, Whittaker seconded.

Motion Approved

Russell asked if there was another ambulance that was in similar shape. Batey explained yes there is one more with almost the same amount of miles on it. Russell asked Batey if a new ambulance could be covered by their own budget. Batey said yes.

FIRE Fire Chief Mark Beeler presented fire report to committee. All vehicles are up and running. Beeler noted there has been an increase in brush fires recently. Fire department currently has 20 members. Beeler said they now have members of the department that can teach the 16 hour required course for fire department and the 64 hour. Nollner asked if there had been any contact with the engineer for the quote on a building to house extra fire vehicles. Beeler said there had been no further contact.

RESCUE There was no representation for rescue squad

SHERIFF Chief Wayland Cothron presented department report. There are currently four positions open. Regarding Gravel Hill radio tower, there has been no further movement lately. The tower's specs have been made to mirror a tower already in place in Hartsville. Cothron explained the radio system has very poor signal on the west end of town and that not only affects them but any first responders in that area. Cothron noted that the 911 board has money already set aside for tower to be built and asked the body if they would show support for the tower being completed. Russell agreed to mention the tower during her report at the county court meeting. Nollner asked if we still had a lot of calls out to the prison and Cothron said there has been less recently. Cothron said he had recently met the new warden out to the prison.

Cothron presented call report for last 30 days. 1,422 calls, 10 crashes, 115 citations, 57 booked into jail, released 53 people from jail, 226 warrants entered, 246 warrants completed.

OTHER DISCUSSION.

BURN PERMIT ORDINANCE Chief Beeler explained new need for burn permit ordinance and that there had not been one up to date. The state burn permit was in use. A citizen recently complained that a fire was being burned in the front yard of their neighbor's new house being constructed. Kerr said at the codes and zoning that there was a \$20 fee attached to any burn permits. Kerr also said anyone needing to get a permit must do so 24 hours prior. Bruce asked how that would work with Rita Crowder's office hours. Beeler said the fire permit would have to be purchased during Rita's hours, and anyone not adhering to that would be in violation.

Commissioner David Thomas was asked to approach the podium and explain how meeting went with this ordinance in front of them. Thomas said they worked on it but that there were more things to be discussed and that's why it was presented to FRC. Kerr suggested the permits do not need to cost anything.

Nollner agreed and made a motion to send on to main body with no fee attached. Motion Passed

Russell explained to Beeler they would soon run into a problem with all construction sites having a small fire in the morning to warm the workers hands. Beeler said if a neighbor calls it in, the fire department would come put it out and possibly ticket them. Beeler made mention of all the materials prohibited from being burned which include refuse, garbage, trade waste, flammables, combustibles, wood scraps, materials from construction or salvage operations. Russell asked if a burn barrel is permitted on a job site for burning and Beeler said yes the burn barrels have never been an issue. It was decided that Chief Beeler would take the ordinance back and make changes discussed in meeting and then put into packet for next month.

Next meeting scheduled October 27 at 6pm.

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

Minutes presented by Amber Russell.