

FIRST RESPONSE SERVICES COMMITTEE MINUTES

Meeting Date: January 27, 2025, 6 p.m., Trousdale County Community Center

Present: Amber Russell, Chris Gregory, Brian Crook, David Nollner, Judy Kerr, Shane Burton, EMS Director Matt Batey, Sheriff Ray Russell, TCSD Chief Deputy Wayland Cothron

Others Present: Bud Sutherland, Fire Chief Mark Beeler, Timmy Moore, Amy Thomas, Ken Buckmaster, Lonnie Taylor, David Thomas, County Mayor Jack McCall

Chairman Amber Russell called the meeting to order.

Minutes of the November 6, 2024 meeting were reviewed.

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

Motion to set agenda by Crook, second by Burton. Motion approved.

EMS Director Batey reported his department is fully staffed with five PRN, three paramedics, two EMTs. New ambulance has been delivered and was parked outside for inspection if desired. Batey said his department will need to remount new ambulance box on old chassis or purchase new ambulance in near future as two vehicles have over 200K miles. Batey estimated \$200K to remount, \$290-\$320K for new, with 15-18 months delivery time either way. Nollner asked about reselling old one but is unlikely to get anything for it, per Batey.

EMS is doing 32 hours in-person training to qualify for \$800 state pay incentive. Building needs some lighting replaced, otherwise it is okay right now. Chairman Russell asked about new supply system mentioned previously, said didn't go through. Batey said department may reexamine in 2025-26 fiscal year.

Discussion held on one hardship waiver granted for ambulance. Crook asked about previous resolution saying committee should not review hardship waivers. Chairman Russell noted waivers should be signed off by committee chairman or EMS director. Gregory suggested committee only receive number of hardship waivers granted without personal information, noted that committee members could review personal info on their own if desired.

Nollner motion to review hardship procedures in February, second by Crook. Motion approved.

Kerr asked about private contracts in EMS budget. Amy Thomas noted Vanderbilt for medical director, one for credit card payments. Batey said \$Vanderbilt about \$10K annually, credit card varies monthly.

Chairman Russell asked about any budget concerns from current fiscal year. Batey noted repairs to building running slightly over but thought internal transfers could handle that.

Fire Chief Beeler presented his department's report. Once old brush truck is returned after repair, all bays will be full and one vehicle will have to be outside. Fire has gotten preliminary quotes from Kentucky Steel Buildings on 30x60, five-bay unit at \$52,265 and 30x80, six-bay unit at \$56,285. Quotes do not include concrete pad, insulation and adding utilities. Gregory asked about total cost, Beeler said he did not have any figures yet as department had no authorization to get quotes. Beeler also noted project might have to be engineered. Taylor estimated overall cost at around \$200K.

Motion by Gregory to authorize fire chief to obtain specific quotes and report to committee, second by Nollner. Motion approved.

Chairman Russell asked about Vector Solutions training. Beeler said company provides online training courses that can be done individually or in groups and qualifies toward state certification. Batey noted his department is using Vector now.

Gregory asked about TDCI grant for fire departments/rescue squads and if Trousdale had applied. Beeler said HTVFD did not apply in 2024 as no needs qualified for the state grant and noted complexities of state grant process. HTVFD did apply in 2023 and was rejected.

Timmy Moore presented Rescue Squad. Russell asked about building maintenance, Moore noted repair requests have been turned in to Public Works but not done yet. Russell said list existed a year ago for repair needs and if any had been done. Moore said some but when water comes in, mold returns. Russell requested to have Public Works Director Cliff Sallee at next meeting to discuss plans to fix rescue building.

Moore wants new generator for rescue truck at estimated \$700-\$800 cost. Committee noted rescue budget has plenty of money in line items to do so, Batey offered to handle purchase order. Kerr asked if Rescue Squad could move to new building if county purchases fire department's requested steel add-on, Gregory said that might be good idea.

Moore said Rescue wants to apply for grant of up to \$300K through Tennessee Association of Rescue Squads to purchase turnout gear but must be TARS member first at cost of \$25/month. Rescue also plans to send three members to swift water training in May/June at cost of \$200 each. Russell asked if all members have turnout gear. Moore said they do but some are old.

Sheriff Russell presented his department's report. Russell presented proposed ordinance to ban use of jake brakes in town, noted multiple complaints of these occurring in middle of the night. TDOT says Trousdale will be responsible for placing signs noting banning of jake brakes, Highway Department can place them.

Motion by Kerr to recommend approval of ordinance, second by Crook. Motion approved.

Sheriff Russell also requested authorization to surplus two vehicles to Blount County.

Motion by Gregory to recommend approval, second by Nollner. Motion approved.

Sheriff Russell also discussed request to adjust speed limits. County has 35 mph on Highway 25 near high school, 45 mph on other side of second traffic light. Sheriff wants to make 35 throughout. Also wants both school zones to be 15 mph. Currently high school is 15 mph, elementary 25 mph.

Motion by Nollner to recommend approval of speed limit changes, second by Kerr. Motion approved with Gregory voting no.

Sheriff Russell discussed TCSD positions, one deputy spot open and set to be filled, one deputy in training at jail while waiting on academy, one deputy just graduated academy and going through field training. Two dispatcher positions open, both have applicants waiting on psychological exams. One female position at jail open, set to be offered to applicant.

Discussion turned to TCSD vehicles. Sheriff Russell says needs four in next budget.

Cothron presented Dec. 27, 2024-Jan. 27, 2025 department stats. 54 inmates booked at jail, 118 warrants entered, 132 warrants cleared, 1,018 complaint cards entered in that span.

Sheriff Russell discussed need for new radio tower on southern end of county to improve communication. Money has been allocated for tower, but engineer was supposed to come look at site in September-October 2024 and hasn't yet. Kerr asked if new engineer might be needed. Sheriff Russell noted radios are spotty on 231 South, have been 20+ instances in last month of officers being out of communication range.

Next meeting scheduled for Tuesday, Feb. 27 at 6 p.m. Gregory suggested moving meeting time up to accommodate department reports. Meeting moved to 5:30pm.

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