

FIRST RESPONSE COMMITTEE MINUTES

Meeting Date: August 25, 2025, 6 p.m., Trousdale County Courthouse

Present: Amber Russell, Chris Gregory, David Nollner, Steve Whittaker, Linda Sue Bruce, Shane Burton

Others Present: Sheriff Ray Russell, Chief Deputy Wayland Cothron, EMS Director Matt Batey, Fire Chief Mark Beeler, Gina Duncan, David Thomas, Ken Buckmaster, Lonnie Giese, Lane Hardin of TN Homeland Security

Chairman Amber Russell called the meeting to order.

Minutes of the June 23, 2025 meeting were reviewed. **Motion to approve by Bruce, second by Gregory. Motion approved.**

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

EMS Director Matt Batey presented department report. Department is fully staffed; have been couple of large maintenance items on ambulances but all are in service now. In-house training being done in coordination w/ Ascension St. Thomas. No budget issues at present. Batey introduced Lane Hardin, new agent with Tennessee Homeland Security for Trousdale County.

Gregory asked about presented revenue numbers for July, which showed less than half collected of what was billed. Batey cited bad debt, contracted write offs, late pay by insurance; numbers should look better down the road.

No fire department report presented.

Lonnie Giese presented Rescue Squad report, chart with 2025 calls to date and broken down by sort, few more motor vehicle accidents. Eight members will soon have completed Swiftwater training. Squad approved to buy new RAM and one new jack, funds from state grant received. Enbridge grant being used to buy turnout gear, upgrade radios. Most turnout gear arrived, some lost in shipping and waiting to locate. Squad is now full member of Tennessee Association of Rescue Squads. Dues for TARS were \$100 for squad and \$30 per member, may not be enough in that budgeted line item. All vehicles are in working order.

Chairman Russell asked about building repairs for Rescue Squad. AC has been replaced. Public Works working to address mold issues. One wall is rotting out.

Sheriff Ray Russell and Chief Deputy Wayland Cothron presented department report. Currently seven officers short after one left for Lebanon last week. Getting few applicants and those are mostly unable to pass background checks, from out of state or have other issues. Two vehicles are on order at present: detective truck and workhouse truck.

Cothron presented July call report: 1,593 cards over last 30 days, 66 booked into jail, 203 warrants served.

Sheriff Russell said all officers have undergone retraining on new TASERs from Axon, and old TASERs have been discontinued. Cothron said new bodycams have also arrived and will be issued soon to deputies, 25 cameras total. Eagle Eye surveillance system has been installed at courthouse, jail, sheriff's office, both radio tower sites. Plans are to provide method to allow public to view in real time. One officer

has completed drone training class and has FAA pilot license. Drone has been ordered, funding from sex offender registry fund at \$9,500. Block safety cameras have been ordered, awaiting permits from TDOT.

Department still needs radio upgrade, especially on west side of county. Sheriff Russell said new Gravel Hill radio tower should be out for bid shortly.

Chairman Russell asked about TCRS retirement survey for bridge program. State should be conducting that survey shortly, no timeframe received yet.

Cothron said TCSD had discussed with Fire Chief Mark Beeler about dispatch paging fire calls, fire seems to be OK with how handled at present.

TCSD has talked to TVA about demolition of nuclear tower, public being advised to stay away from area. Pictures of demolition will be published, no date announced yet. TCSD plans to have public viewing area.

Sheriff Russell noted increase in out-of-state prisoner transports, 60 cases from Trousdale prison expected for September. Over 250 indictments have come down in prison-related cases since January 2023.

Committee discussed County Hazard Mitigation Plan to be voted on by full Commission. Batey said FEMA approval process started in 2024, plan requires updating every five years. Plan evaluates potential natural hazards; weather is primary concern under plan in Trousdale.

Next meeting scheduled for Monday, September 22 at 6 p.m.

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

Minutes presented by Chris Gregory.