

FIRST RESPONSE COMMITTEE MINUTES

Meeting Date: February 23, 2026, 6:30 p.m., Trousdale County Courthouse

Present: Amber Russell, Judy Kerr, Chris Gregory, David Nollner, Shane Burton, Steve Whittaker, Linda Bruce, David Thomas.

Others Present: EMS Director Matt Batey, Fire Chief Ken Buckmaster, Sheriff Ray Russell, Timmy Moore, Gina Duncan

Chairman Amber Russell called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Minutes of the January 5, 2026 meeting were reviewed. **Motion to approve by Gregory, second by Burton. Motion approved.**

EMS Director Matt Batey presented department report. December 2025 numbers trending up on call volume, payments trending as normal. Department is fully staffed, Teresa Turner is helping two days per week with billing.

Chamber of Commerce has reached out about grant to pay for new ambulance. Maintenance needs include resurfacing floors. Budget - department running 7-8% below budget for the year.

State EMS grant received was \$30,000 instead of \$20,000, EMS is purchasing stairlift chairs and will have some funds left over.

Gregory noted 2025 budget request for remounted ambulance, asked if similar request in 2026 budget. Will depend on if EMS gets Chamber grant. Thomas asked if ambulance would have to be bid out, will depend on if one can be ordered from state collective.

Kerr asked about patient transports to Trousdale vs. other hospitals, asked who decides. Patient decides unless unable to, then "most appropriate" to meet patient needs.

Chairman Russell commented on hospital EMS proposal, saying looks like hospitals are looking to purchase smaller rural EMS units. Thomas added that Ascension St. Thomas does appear to be looking to buy Lifepoint hospitals in near future.

Timmy Moore presented Rescue Squad report, has 21 members and is fully staffed. Rescue 2 is in shop for recall services under warranty. Rescue answered 24 calls from December 1 through February 12. Two members are in EMT class, hoping to send six to swift-water training in May. Extrication class coming up as well. Rescue wants to add cameras outside its building. Also seeking grant, should hear in May at the earliest.

Thomas and Whittaker both extended personal thanks to Rescue Squad, fire department for efforts during recent ice storm. Multiple citizens have reached out to express thanks as well.

Fire Chief Ken Buckmaster presented department report. Six companies responded to RFQ for fire building, three look to be likeliest. Meetings scheduled for March and will then start bid process. Buckmaster said fire building would not interfere if county decided to put new jail on other Broadway property.

Thomas asked that fire stay in touch with mayor's office to make sure fill being brought in for other property would not divert water toward fire hall. Buckmaster said those conversations have already taken place. Fire hall is already elevated outside flood zone by 18 inches.

Motion by Gregory to approve fire resolution for declaring surplus property and to defer discussion of burn permit ordinance until next meeting, second by Thomas. Motion approved.

Motion to adjourn by Kerr, second by Bruce. Motion approved.

Minutes presented by Chris Gregory.