



Fountain Lake Fire Protection District

Board of Commissioners Monthly Meeting

March 17, 2025



CALL TO ORDER:

6:00 pm

Rachel Peters (Chairperson) called the meeting to order.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

OPENING PRAYER

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: QUORUM PRESENT

Rachel Peters (Chairperson)
John Brandt (Secretary/Treasurer)
Joe Turner
Lee Coatney
Kenny Kizer

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

OTHER ATTENDEES: Chief Harry Baker, Lyn Price, Brady Smith, Lieutenant Justin Covey, and Stephanie Covey.

PRIOR MONTH MEETING MINUTES:

Minutes from the February 17, 2025 meeting were presented by John.

The February minutes were accepted as presented by consensus.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

John presented the P&L, Balance Sheet, and Statement of Cash Flows reports for the month of February 2025 and Year to Date through the month of February 2025 along with an Actuals vs Budget through February 2025.

Bank Accounts:

General -	\$62,188.33
Restricted -	\$ 2,659.01
Chambers -	\$32,267.74
Grant -	\$ 92.00

February's Financial report was accepted as presented by consensus.

Training:

Lee reported that we did maintenance one night, pump operations, SCBA training, and one night a combination of pump operations, SCBA, and hose training.

Training report was accepted as presented by Consensus

CHIEF'S REPORT:

Harry reported there were a total of 66 incidents during the month of February: 6 fires, 57 rescue & emergency medical service calls, 2 false alarms, and 1 service calls. Harry said he has been having good response from our firefighters responding to incidents.

Chief's report was accepted as presented by consensus.

PUBLICITY REPORT:

John reported on posting about our board meeting as well as posting about highways being closed due to accidents. Also announced Lyn Price's promotion to Assistant Chief. John also sent flowers and a sympathy card to the family of Eddie Culpepper. John posted about high winds a couple of days to let people know not to burn during the high winds. John reported that he is limited when posting on Facebook because not everyone is on Facebook, and there is no alert to notify people when a message is posted. He is hoping reach more people once our signs are working.

Publicity report accepted by consensus.

MAINTENANCE REPORT:

- Engine 1
 - Harry said he is still waiting to find out about the title from the City of Hot Springs. John said he has an answer for him. John spoke to his contact at the revenue office. She looked up the VIN and said nothing showed up. She recommended that we apply for a bonded title. By doing that, the state can make sure the vehicle has never been stolen or been used in any criminal activity. They will then be able to issue us a title in our name. John also reported that we now have this apparatus insured and, as a result, it can be placed in service. The one thing we need to provide to the insurance company is a value for which to insure this apparatus. He said in his research, the value for these types of vehicles of this age ranged from \$15,000 to \$50,000. Joe recommended that we insure it for the upper limit of \$50,000 and the other board members agreed.

- Engine 2
- Tanker 1
- Tanker 2
- Rescue 1
- Rescue 2
 - Had to fix a hose fitting
- Brush 2 (Forestry)
 - Has a broken door glass.
- Station 1
 - Driveway Apron (John)

John apologized for not getting the ad requesting bids done. He presented the board members with the draft of an ad to post. John will contact the paper to have the ad posted in the paper. All bids must be in by the end of business on Friday, April 18th and bids will be opened at our next meeting on Monday, April 21, 2025.
 - Awnings. (Scott)

Scott Greene told John that he will be needing surgery. Joe asked if we had paid Scott yet for the awnings. John said we have only paid Scott for the doors. Scott has the materials for the awnings, but we have not yet paid anything to him. It was suggested that maybe we can get the materials from Scott and hire someone else to put the awnings up. Scott said that he has most of the materials needed. John will talk to Scott.
 - Enclose open area under roof

It was discussed about possibly moving the air conditioner outside. Joe said that we have to make sure we are meeting codes regarding equipment being in an enclosed area. Joe will check with his guy to see if he can help us with completing the enclosure of this area.
- Station 2

Joe said that the guy he contacted said it will be better for him to do the work on a weekend, maybe even a Sunday. John said that if it is a Sunday afternoon, he may be able to get them access to the building as his Sunday afternoons are usually open. We have the drain pan for the shower. We just need the shower stall.

Maintenance report is accepted by consensus.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Audit – John**
 - This will be tabled until our next meeting. John will be in touch with David Cleveland near the end of tax season and should be able to report a date as to when our audit will begin.
- **Grants – John**
 - John reported that he will be filing our application for the Firehouse Subs grant next month. John reported that he had a meeting with Lexipol and reported on other possible grants that Lexipol emailed to him. He reported on all the other grants available from Lexipol. John then reported that our contract with Lexipol will be coming to an end this fall. He wants everyone to think about renewing our contract with them when the time comes as they have filed the SAFER grant for us which we were approved for funds. They have also filed the AFG for purchasing new SCBAs. They have also reviewed other grants which we wrote and submitted ourselves.
- **Signs (John)**
 - John reported that the sign at Station #2 is operational and the one here at station #1 should be getting connected soon. Once both signs are connected they will put the software on our computers. John is going to have the software put on his computer and the chief's computer rather than the computer at the Station. That is because we can change the messages on the signs from home and not have to drive to the station to make any changes.
- **Checks (John)**
 - John said that he only put this on the agenda to report to the board that even though the checks did cost \$700.00 as approved by the board, the total came to \$748.00 due to a \$48.00 shipping charge.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Damage to Justin Miller's Truck (John)**
 - John reported that a couple of weeks ago the strong winds blew some of the metal siding against Justin's truck and damaged it. He called our insurance company and was told that is considered an act of God and is not covered by our insurance. Just has presented two appraisals to repair the damage to his truck and is asking the board to cover the cost of repair. Once quote is from Lone Wolf Auto Body and Paint in the amount of \$1,174.61 and a quote from Class Action Auto in the amount of \$1,274.02.

Motion: John moved that we approve payment to repair Justin's truck for up to \$1,274.02 and Justin can decide which shop he wants to use.

Second: Joe Seconded

Passed: Unanimously

- **Radio Batteries (Harry)**

- Harry said that he wants to get some extended life batteries. Joe questioned about recently purchasing batteries and asked if we bought them from Amazon. John said that we purchased batteries from Interstate Batteries. He said we spent \$2,200 on 6 8000 batteries and 16 1000 batteries. Lyn said that he checked with Motorola and they have the extended life batteries we need at \$190 each. Kenny asked about having chargers in vehicles to charge the batteries. Lyn said that the problem with using the battery and the recharging for a short period of time, is that it ruins the memory in the battery. Joe recommended that we get pricing on 12 batteries and come back next meeting. We agreed to table it until next meeting and have Harry and Lyn get more information. Kenny recommended that we might want to consider

- **Project Funding (John)**

- John reported that he took it upon himself to check with David Wooldridge about funding for projects. He said that David recommended that we look into getting a line of credit. He said that during the work being done all we have to do is pay the interest. Once the project is completed, it will then become a loan and he said he can give us the same interest rate of 5.5% as we have on our truck loan. Joe said that because of our money coming from the public, we should make sure that we do not put the department in any more debt than necessary. We must be good stewards of the public's money.

- **Mower (Harry)**

- Harry said that they checked with Caldwell's and looked at the Stihl mower they have. Lyn mentioned that having a larger 61" mower will put more of a strain on the components and may not last as long. Kenny said that he may know someone he can check with if necessary. His contact is in Mena AR. It was recommended that we get a couple of quotes for us to consider next month. Joe said that we can consider that Phillip at Caldwell's has a financing plan too.

- **Generators (John)**

- We have not had our generators maintained in quite some time. John checked with McGrew Electric and they will service the generators at both stations for the following prices: Station #1 \$625.00 and Station #2 \$399. This includes new batteries because the generators have not been maintained in over a year. Moving forward Station #1 will be \$475 and Station #2 will be 245.

Motion: John moved that we approve McGrew to come out to maintain our generators and begin an annual maintenance contract.

Second: Lee Seconded

Passed: Unanimously

- **Invoices from All Pro Plumbing (John)**

- Joe presented him with invoices for work he did previously. One invoice is for the disposal in the kitchen sink at Station #1, the flush valve on the urinal in the men's restroom, the sprayer on the kitchen sink, and pulling the metal off the side of the building outside of the men's restroom to repair a broken pipe that had frozen. The total for that invoice is \$625. The second invoice is for digging the trench and laying the electrical wire for the sign here at Station #1. The total for that invoice is \$3,023.90.

Motion: John moved that the board approve him to pay these invoices to All Pro Plumbing.

Second: Kenny Seconded

Passed: Unanimously

- **Firefighter's meal (John)**

- The firefighters wanted to do fish and chicken tenders, but after calling around the fish was a bit too expensive. They then decided they wanted Pizza from Amore's Pizzaria.

ADJOURNED:

7:15 pm

Motion to adjourn: John moved that we adjourn

Second: Lee Seconded

Passed: Unanimously

Meeting minutes submitted by:

John Brandt, Secretary/Treasurer