



# Fountain Lake Fire Protection District Board of Commissioners Monthly Meeting April 21, 2025



## CALL TO ORDER:

6:00 pm

John Brandt (Secretary/Treasurer) called the meeting to order in the absence of Rachel Peters.

## PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

## OPENING PRAYER

## COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: QUORUM PRESENT

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

## COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

Rachel Peters (Chairperson)

**OTHER ATTENDEES:** Chief Harry Baker, Assistant Chief Lyn Price, Brady Smith, Lieutenant Justin Covey, Jake Landes, Captain Scott Foster, Johnny Arnold, and Brian Shannon.

## PRIOR MONTH MEETING MINUTES:

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

The March 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 March 2025 and Year to Date through the month of March 2025 along with a report of Actuals vs Budget through March 2025.

### Bank Accounts:

General - \$46,658.80  
Restricted - \$ 1,669.45

Grant - \$ 84.00  
Chambers - \$32,267.74

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

## **Training:**

Lee introduced Jake Landes as a new instructor for the department. Jake reported that trying to setup an EMR class with Neil with the Hot Springs Village Fire Department or LifeNet. Lee interjected that the EMR class is a 60 hour class. Jake is also setting up Intro, PPE, and Communications classes. He will also be looking at a Forcible Entry Class too. Lee also reported that he has been conducting SCBA and Search and Rescue Classes. Jake said that he is certified to do instruction to get everyone certified up to Firefighter 1 status. Jake also said that he is setting a goal to get everyone to Firefighter II status in 2026.

Training report was accepted as presented by Consensus

## **CHIEF'S REPORT:**

Harry reported there were a total of 84 incidents during the month of February: 20 fires, 54 rescue & emergency medical service calls, 6 service calls, 2 hazardous conditions, 1 false alarm, and 1 good intent. Harry said we need to try and have people turn out more for medical calls. Harry said that sometimes the calls come in when we have no one available and other times there is no response because the call is for an illness.

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. John reported that the signs are both working and he has learned how to change the messages. He has had positive responses from some in the community about the signs.

Publicity report accepted by consensus.

## **MAINTENANCE REPORT:**

Harry reported that all apparatus are running good and there are no maintenance issues with any of them.

- Engine 1
  - John reported that he went to the Department of Finance office to inquire about the title for this engine. He was not able to do anything while there, but they did give him a form to be completed and sent in to the State Police. He went to the Sheriff's department on Ouachita and was told we

needed to contact dispatch to get a deputy out to view the vehicle. John will contact dispatch to get a deputy out to clear the engine for us.

- Engine 2
- Tanker 1
- Tanker 2
- Rescue 1
- Rescue 2
- Brush 2 (Forestry)
  - Harry reported that he just found a door glass. He needs to pick it up and then install it.
- Station 1
  - Driveway Apron (John)

John reported that he and Joe Turner met with a contractor at Station 1. Joe reported that he lined out what he had in mind and they said they can bid the entire job. He said they told him they would prefer to go from ditch line to ditch line for the french drain.
  - John presented the one bid that was presented. It was in the amount of \$40,000. He had everyone take note of their bid of \$3,000 for providing the labor only for the french drain. Everything after that number is for them to provide all materials for the french drain. John said he does not know what it might cost us to provide the materials for the french drain. Joe said that he can look into what it might cost us to provide the materials. John expressed his disappointment that we did not get in any other bids. Kenny Kizer suggested that we should try and get more bids. It was discussed and agreed that we should hold it open for another month and publish that we are requesting bids for this work.
  - Awnings. (Scott)

Scott Greene told John that he has most of the materials for the awnings. We have not yet paid anything to him for the materials. He said we can get them from him along with receipts to reimburse Scott.
  - Enclose open area under roof

Joe said that he has not yet talked to Alejandro.

- Station 2
  - Joe said that he has not yet been in contact with Alejandro.

Maintenance report is accepted by consensus.

## OLD BUSINESS:

- **Audit – John**
  - John reported that he has a meeting scheduled with David Cleveland of the Cleveland Accounting and Consulting Firm on Thursday of this week. He requested John bring out latest financials to the meeting. They will discuss having David's firm do the Agreed Upon Procedures for the fire department.
- **Grants – John**
  - John reported that that he submitted our Firehouse Subs Grant for extrication equipment. We just have to wait to hear from them. John also reported that FEMA received an email requesting information per their new regulations.
- **Signs (John)**
  - **John reported that both signs are now operational.**
- **Radio Batteries (Harry)**
  - Lyn Price reported that he has been in touch with Motorola. He said that the batteries from them have a chip in them that will tell the charger what it needs to do. The batteries that we got from Interstate do not have the chip in them and that is why they have gone bad on us. Lyn said that Dean from Motorola has not gotten back to him to confirm the price of \$190 per battery. Lyn also reported that the batteries from Motorola are on back order. Lyn will get pricing for our next board meeting so we can make a decision.
- **Mower (Harry)**
  - Lee said the Bobcat dealer at Piney Junction has a Hustler mower the MSRP is \$15,410 but we can get it with a cash price of \$11,249 with the 27% discount for being a fire department. There was discussion about other brands of mowers and commercial versus conventional mowers. After further discussion, Kenny Kizer recommended that we table it until next month and if we need to have the grass cut we can hire someone to cut it.

- **Generators (John)**

- John said that when the gentleman came out to do maintenance on the generators, he told John that neither of the generators had run in over a year. He was able to get the generator at Station #1 working, but needed to order a starter for the generator at Station #2. He told John should discuss the location of the generator along with us enclosing that area with our insurance company. He told John that even with one side open, it may be viewed by the insurance company as being indoors and the exhaust fumes can present a hazardous condition. We may have to consider moving the generator outside of the building along with the air conditioner. He also recommended to John to weekly turn off the circuit breaker to the stations to make sure the generators run and power the buildings.

## NEW BUSINESS:

- **Hoses (Harry)**

- Harry said that he thinks we need about 8 of the inch and a half hoses. Kenny Kizer said that someone might contact Ed Davis of the Hot Springs Fire Department because they sometimes have extra old hoses we might be able to get some. Kenny told Harry that he has three hoses if they need a few. Harry said the hoses cost about \$169 each and we got them last time from Banner. It was suggested that they might want to look at other vendors and get pricing so we can make a decision at next month's meeting.

- **Glazypeau Property (John)**

- John reported that he received a call from Mrs. Connie Partain. He said that she told him that she and her husband did not get along with Jay Allen. They were under the impression that when the church owned the property there was supposed to be a clause giving them first right of refusal. She said that even though she much rather we own that property than Jay Allen, she is offering to purchase it from us for \$15,000. John stated his opinion that we keep the property and asked for opinions from the other commissioners. Everyone agreed that we should not sell the property to the Partains. We have a need for a station in that area, and it will not be possible to find property that will be as affordable to us in that area.

- **Shipping Containers (Lee)**

- Lee said he wants to get a couple of shipping containers that we can set up for search and rescue training house with doors and windows cut into it

along with some furniture. Lee did not have a price on them. Joe Turner said he thinks they are about \$3,000 each. Lee said he would recommend starting out with two of them. It was suggested that we talk to our insurance company to find out how that might effect our insurance rates. Joe Turner said he is willing to drive to Memphis to pick them up at the docks and we might get them cheaper by trailering them ourselves. Joe said that there are 45' shipping containers that are now obsolete and we might be able to get them cheaper.

- **Homeowners Insurance Information (John)**

- John said that he recently received the renewal policy information for his home owners insurance. He noticed a line item that read Fire Service Charge \$500. He called State Farm, his insurance company, and they told him that is not subject to the deductible on the policy and is there to pay fees charged by the fire department. The fire department will have to make a claim with the insurance company. There was discussion as to how the community will view us making a claim when they are already paying their assessment. After much discussion it was suggested that we check with other fire districts to find out what they do. During this discussion it was mentioned that there was some discussion in the past about billing insurance companies

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

- The firefighters wanted to do Popeyes chicken with biscuits, mashed potatoes and gravy, red beans and rice, and cole slaw..

## EXECUTIVE SESSION:

- At this time, the board broke to go into executive session.

The board came out of executive session with no action needed to be taken.

### Comments and Questions:

There was discussion with the firefighters about watching their language when on the scene of an accident or fire. Many people will have their phones out recording what is being said and done. They were reminded to act professionally at all times as it is a reflection on the entire fire department.

There was also some discussion about driving in a responsible manner when responding to an incident. They cannot help anyone if they have an accident responding and cannot show up to the scene.

ADJOURNED:

**8:00 pm**

**Motion to adjourn: Lee moved that we adjourn**

**Second: Kenny Seconded**

**Passed: Unanimously**

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**Meeting minutes submitted by:**

**John Brandt, Secretary/Treasurer**