



Fountain Lake Fire Protection District Board of Commissioners Monthly Meeting February 16, 2026



CALL TO ORDER:

6:00 pm

John Brandt called the meeting to order.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

OPENING PRAYER

ROLL CALL

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: QUORUM PRESENT

John Brandt
Joe Turner
Kenny Kizer
Jack Fields (by telephone)

Lyn Price interrupted at this time to claim that we were breaking the law by having Commissioner Jack Fields on the phone and not providing the public the opportunity to call in as well. John told Lyn that our attorney had emailed him saying we can use Zoom or telephone for one of the board members to participate. Lyn then took his phone to Captain Ware as he was searching for the law he was citing.

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

OTHER ATTENDEES: Katrina Scott, Martha Scott, Traci Hill, Cassie Awana, Scott Wilkinson, Kenney Talbert, Rebecca Talbert, Gail Richner, Denise Babcock, Jeff Babcock, Karen Sawyer, Margaret Ledbetter, Lucy Moore, Chuck Ragsdale, Trecia Willis, Mark Willis, Jerry Vaughn, Brady Smith, William Norris, Jeff Abbott, Lenny Breshears, Amanda Vaughn, Edward Clark, Kason Clark, Samantha Maroiarel, Austin Sands, Harry Baker, Daniel Dellis, Jeramie Richardson, Nathaniel Lamb, Scott Foster, David Bradley, Mark McFarland, Loyd Hutzel, Brooke Bradley, Kayla Clark, J. Wilson, Kyla Bouser, Tammy Montgomery, Tammy Shepherd, Susan Wilpuy, Debra Shannon, Brian Shannon, Ray Kesterson, April Kesterson, Joey Virnig, Sarah Virnig, Kathy Redd, Roy Redd, junior Collins, Cici Collins, and Bear Williams.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

This is tabled until the March meeting.

PRIOR MONTH MEETING MINUTES:

Minutes from the January 19th regular board meeting and the January 20th emergency board meeting held on January 19, & 20, 2025, were presented by John. The January 2025 minutes were accepted as presented by consensus.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

John presented the P&L, Balance Sheet, and Statement of Cash Flow reports for the month of January 2025.

The January 2025 Financial reports were accepted as presented by consensus.

Training:

Jake reported that we have Intro and PPE coming up on Wednesday. We have a few people who need this training. Jake reported that training has gone well and everyone is performing well on scene..

CHIEF'S REPORT:

Jake reported that we had a total of 64 total calls for the month of January. There were 11 fires, 47 emergency/medical calls, 2 service calls, 2 false alarms, and 2 agency assist calls with Pafford. Jake said we have had good response for medical calls and fire calls have been up and down, but comparable to the past..

Chief's report was accepted as presented by consensus.

PUBLICITY REPORT:

John reported that he has posted the normal activity about our board meeting and road closures due to accidents, new equipment and training as best as he can.

Publicity report accepted by consensus.

MAINTENANCE REPORT:

Jake reported that we have no mechanic at the time. He said it is difficult to get a quote on repairs without a diagnosis. John asked which truck is most critical to get repaired. Jake said in his opinion, Tanker #2 is the most critical. Joe asked Harry his opinion and Harry said he believes that Engine #1 is most critical. Jake agreed with Harry that Engine #1 is most critical. Joe asked if they had anyone in mind to help with that. Jake

said that Brandon Palmer is good with these types of repairs. John said that Harry reported last month that he was waiting to hear from Shane who is with Banner about parts for the front end on Engine #1. He asked if Harry has heard back from him. Harry said he has not yet heard from him. John asked if they have any idea how much it will cost to diagnose each of the trucks. They did not know how much might be charged to diagnose the problems.

Motion: John made a motion that we have Engine #1 diagnosed and repaired.

Second: Joe Seconded

Passed: Unanimously

Jake then mentioned that he has three quotes for tires. He has a quote from Purcell in the amount of \$6,644.94, a quote from Southern Tire in the amount of \$7,416.54, , and a quote from Looney in the amount of \$8,168.27. These quotes are for tires for all three trucks. Joe asked if they had a preference. Harry said he prefers Southern. Nate Lamb asked to speak as to why they prefer Southern. He said that he used to work at Purcell and he was the only tech person. After he left, he does not know who they hired or if they can be trusted. Jason Curtis asked about the quality of the tires, the ply on the tires, and the dates on the tires. Jason said that we can get the tires for the tanker from the DOD for about \$11 each. Jason said that Harry should know how to get in touch with the DOD and we should do that because we can get tires from them for \$11 each.

- Engine 1
 - Harry said he talked to Shane Smith with Banner to find out about the front end parts so he can get them ordered. Harry said he has not yet heard from Shane.
 - The PTO is not engaging and cannot be put into pump gear. This truck is out of service until we can get it fixed.
 - John said that he still needs to get two appraisals or at least someone who can say at what amount this apparatus might be valued.
- Engine 2
 - Doing good.
- Tanker 1
 - Still has some trouble with the fuel filters. He had to change them again and reset the computers.
- Tanker 2
 - Is out of service because the pump motor is messing up.

- Rescue 1
 - This truck is good.
- Rescue 2
 - .Doing good.
- Brush 2 (Forestry)
 - Is out of service because there is something wrong with the transmission.
- Station 1
 - Driveway Apron (John)
 - Tabled
 - Awnings. (John)
 - Tabled
- Station 2
 - Tabled.

Maintenance report is accepted by consensus.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Agreed Upon Procedures – John**
 - John reported that the accountant has our 2024 records. The delay on getting this completed is that tax season is coming and they will be busy with tax work.
- **Grants – John**
 - John reported that we have no grants pending at this time. He will need to talk with Jake about the department's needs and what grants might be available to meet those needs.
- **SCBA Financing (John)**
 - John said the financing of the SCBAs has been completed and payment has been made to CASCO.
- **Drug Testing Program (John)**
 - John said our attorney said what is contained in the Suggested Procedures and Guidelines can be used for new applicants and for anyone involved in an accident. We will have to consider who we might use to do our drug testing.

- **Proposed 2026 Budget (John)**

- John said he failed to put this on the agenda for tonight. John asked Joe and Kenny if they have any questions as they wanted time from last month to look over the proposed budget. Joe said he had a concern about us having \$16,000 in the budget for tires. He thinks we need to move that money into Maintenance for any and all maintenance including tires. John said that can be done. Joe asked John to explain the rollover of money from 2025 to 2026. Joe said we had \$125,325 that rolled over to 2026. John explained that money was from three different accounts. The first account is our Act833 account for which we rolled over \$6,588 to 2026. The second account is our Grant account where there is money from FEMA payments in the amount of \$46,648 that rolled over to 2026. John explained that this money can only be used for new turnouts, training, and health exams. The third account is our General account in which we had \$72,089 rolled over to 2026.

- **Motion: John made a motion that we adopt the 2026 budget as changed moving \$16,000 out of a line item for tires and putting that \$16,000 into a general Maintenance account.**
- **Second: Jack Seconded**
- **Passed: Unanimously**

NEW BUSINESS:

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

- John explained to all attending that we provide a meal once a month to all firefighters and first responders. It is our way of thanking them for their service and recognizing their service.
- The firefighters present said that we can have chili again this month.

- **Tow Chains (Kenny)**

- Kenny asked how many of our trucks have tow chains that can be used to pull people out of a situation. Jake said we do not have any tow chains. Kenny recommended that we get some tow chains. Kenny recognized Austin Sands. He said they need some blood pressure cuffs. Austin said he recommends we get manual blood pressure cuffs because he was using automated ones and kept getting error messages. They said they need at least 10 blood pressure cuffs. John said they need to find out exactly what they need to order. Cynthia Collins said she gave John a list a few months ago. John said the problem is he had ordered AEDs last year and when they came in, he was told they were the wrong kind. He

needs to know exact information such as brand, model, and any other identifying information in order to get them the exact equipment they need. Kenny recommended we might check with Pafford about getting some of the medical equipment we might need.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS:

John asked Captain Ware if he had any comments before we begin.

Captain Ware said please do not curse, say your what you've go to say and use the time you are given. Say what you want, but do not curse.

John had the list of people who had signed up to speak. He told everyone that he is going to go down the list and to please stand up and speak up so everyone can hear.

Before we started, Mike Rigsby had a question about the money budgeted for our grant writing service. He said we have \$5,000 budgeted. He wants to know who we pay that to and what do we get from them. John said the name of the company is Lexipol and they wrote the SAFER Grant that got us \$192,000 for four years. Each year, the first grant they write for us is free and a second grant is at a 50% discount.

Jerry Vaughn – Jerry said he is good.

Ed Clark – He stated that he recently filled out an application to volunteer and he was denied because of his past record. He asked if there are other members with a past record. John said he knows of one member who has a past record. He then said that hiring an unlicensed board member is criminal. John asked what he was talking about. He said that Mr Joe Turner ran an electrical line to a sign. Joe responded saying he did not run an electrical line to a sign. Joe asked if he was there and he said he was not, but he knows someone who was there. Mr Clark said you cannot even touch a wire nut without having a master electrician license. He claims that Mr Turner touched a wire nut and that he paid a firefighter \$50 to climb a

pole because he was afraid of heights. Joe said that is not true. Mr Clark then said that Joe charged for electrical work and Mr Turner said he charged for an electrical sleeve. Mr Clark then asked if we knew that talking about fire department business outside of a meeting that is not recorded or for the public to hear is a felony? He then claimed that when John gave Jake his background check that John told Jake not to hire him. He said that we think we are above the law. John said he did not tell Jake anything about hiring him. All he did was give Jake the background check. Jake said that he was never told to not hire him or anyone else. All that was done was he was given the background check.

Check Ragsdale – Mr Ragsdale said his question has already been answered.

Lyn Price – Lyn asked how much of the \$107,000 insurance check for the engine that was wrecked do we have left. John responded stating that the money was not set aside for a specific purpose. John said that we are carrying over \$72,000 to 2026. He asked if that was part of the \$107,000 and was any of that money used to pay for the sign at Station #1? John said that it is possible. He then asked why didn't we put some of the money into repairing Engine #1 that was donated by Hot Springs? How long have we known about the front end being bad? He then wanted to know why we retaliated against him and terminated him illegally because there is no documentation that has been presented to him. He said that we said he was terminated for lack of leadership and disrespect. Which is it? Joe Turner responded saying all of the above. Lyn then asked Joe if he has been sued lately? Joe said he has never been sued and Lyn said that he is about to get one. Lyn then said he has audio of Joe calling him a cancer during an interview. Lyn then said he is seeking legal advice and he is going to sue us. As he was walking away, Lyn asked when are you going to fix the trucks.

An unknown woman asked if we were not going answer his question about fixing the trucks. John responded saying that we addressed fixing the trucks tonight. Kenny Kizer then told her that we are getting Brandon

Palmer to look at the truck, but we have not received any quotes for estimates. She asked isn't it the boards job to get that done. Kenny said no ma'am. It is up to the chief and firefighters to get us the information we need.

David Bradley – Mr Bradley asked who the Treasurer is. John replied that he is the Treasurer. Mr Bradley asked how often he is at the fire house. John replied that he is there every week on Tuesday night when the firefighters are there doing their training. John said he is there for about 3 or 4 hours. Mr Bradley asked if I am only there once a week. John said no, he is there other times depending on what he needs to get done. Mr Bradley asked how often I was there last week. John replied that he was at the station last Monday night, Tuesday night, Friday, and sometime over the weekend. Mr Bradley then asked how long it had been since we purchased the property on W Glazypeau. John told him it was purchased November 2024. Mr Bradley asked why then this past weekend did that property magically get cleaned? Joe answered telling him that Jay Allen owned that property and sold it to the fire department. Joe told him it was brought to our attention at the last board meeting that the property was not cleaned up. Joe said he contacted Mr Allen personally and told him he needed to get it cleaned up. Mr. Bradley said he was curious as to why all of a sudden two days before our board meeting it was cleaned up. Mr Bradley then asked if the fire department spent any money on the cleanup. Joe told him the fire department did not spend any money. Another gentleman asked if Joe got paid to help clean it up. Joe said he did not get paid anything. He donated his time to help Mr Allen. Joe said that Mr Allen paid him for his fuel, but not for his time or labor.

Keith Hill – Mr Hill said he has read much of what has been posted on Facebook and a lot of it has concerned him. Not only what has been posted on Facebook, but also by personal experience. A lot of people know him and he was in EMS for 30 years. He took emergency vehicle operations courses and drove an ambulance for a lot of that time. He said a lot of people are complaining that firefighters are driving at high rates of speed and running people off the road. In speaking to the firefighters, he said to

them that their personal vehicles are not emergency vehicles no matter how many lights and sirens they have on them. He told them that if they have a wreck and kill somebody, it is on them. He said that all the years he worked on an ambulance, they were always told if you cannot get there to help someone, then what good are you? Safer is sometimes faster. He said a first complaint on a firefighter should be a warning. A second complaint should be they cannot respond using lights or sirens any more. They will be banned from running with lights and sirens. He said they are supposed to obey all traffic laws.

Traci Hill – Ms Hill said she has a couple of questions about personnel files. She wants to know why personnel files are not kept in a secure location so no one cannot break in and possibly steal files. After all she has read on Facebook from firefighters and spouses, she is wondering if we have a code of ethics. She then asked if training is open to the public or closed to the public. Joe answered her last questions stating that training is closed to the public. No one should be there while they are training to distract them. John responded about the files. He said that personnel files are kept in a locked file cabinet. John said when he got on the board, all personnel files were in the locked file cabinet. Only certain people such as the chief, assistant chief, and himself have access to the office. John said he would love to have a safe, secure location to store the files. The code of ethics is contained in the department's Suggested Policies and Procedures. She said that someone should go over that with them because some of them do not know how to conduct themselves on social media.

Katrina Scott – She started by referring to the files and Lyn Price supposedly being banned for life, and that documentation was supposed to be in a folder. Do we know anything about that? Someone mentioned about brakes and repairs to the trucks. Whose job was it to bring it to the board and was the work completed? She said she has seen a lot posted on social media, but nothing about what happened at the school inspection last year. She would like to know about that and she thinks the public should know about it. She then asked, how many active firefighters we now have? Joe said it looks like we have 17 active as of now counting all

who are at this meeting. Who is in charge of reprimanding the firefighters? Who makes the call on who gets on the fire department? Is it not the chief who determines who gets to serve on the fire department? John said that regarding Lyn's file we were asked at our December board meeting by Mr Jason Curtis why Lyn Price was on the fire department as he had been fired and banned from the department by himself and the board. We looked for any documents to that effect but have not found any. Jason Curtis explained that several years ago, Lyn got on the radio and was cussing out Alan and Susan Ault on the radio. Jason said it is the job of the chief and assistant chief's job to reprimand the firefighters. It is not the job of the board. The chief's job is to do the best he can with the money he has to run the department. If the chief is getting written up because he did not write up someone, that is not right and he should be given time to do what is needed. The board should also give him the ability to take care of business and that cannot be done within one year. Jason said it took him several years to learn what he needed to be an effective chief. Getting back to Katrina's questions, John asked to what she was referring when she mentioned brakes. She said something was mentioned about brakes needing to be worked on for Engine #1. John said that is a new issue. John said he knew that last year the brakes on Rescue #2 needed to be replaced and Harry replaced them in a timely manner. John then said regarding her question about the school that during an inspection of the school last year a few of the firefighters were seen on the school's cameras taking drinks, candy, and milk from the rooms of some teachers. John said that was brought to the board's attention and the board discussed it with Harry after reviewing the school videos. Harry took care of that problem. Jow commented that some of the firefighters involved are still on the fire department and the fire department now must be escorted around the school during an inspection. Captain Ware said that the school has their own police department and the sheriff's office has nothing to do with it. Jerry Vaughn explained that Harry told the board about the problem and the school had told him that the fire department could not be back on campus without supervision. Jerry said that he, John, and Rachel went to the school to view the video.

7:35 pm

Motion to adjourn: Joe moved to adjourn

Second: Kenny Seconded

Passed: Unanimously

Meeting minutes submitted by:

John Brandt, Secretary/Treasurer