



Fountain Lake Fire Protection District Board of Commissioners Monthly Meeting November 17, 2025



CALL TO ORDER:

6:00 pm

Rachel Peters (Chairperson) called the meeting to order.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

OPENING PRAYER

ROLL CALL

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: **QUORUM PRESENT**

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

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

- **The board went into executive session at this time.**
- **The board came out of executive session with no action to be taken.**

OTHER ATTENDEES: Chief Harry Baker, Assistant Chief Lyn Price, Captain Nate Lamb, Lieutenant Charles Collins, Jeff Abbott, Brady Smith, and Cici Collins.

PRIOR MONTH MEETING MINUTES:

Minutes from the October 20, 2025, meeting were presented by John.

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

Bank Accounts:

General -	\$ 60,515.18
Restricted -	\$ 15,263.55
Grant -	\$ 28.00
Chambers -	<u>\$ 32,367.74</u>
Total -	\$108,174.47

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

Training:

Harry read Jake's training report. Jake reported that we are continuing our training on transitional fire attack. We had a search and rescue training scheduled for November 18, but felt it was more imperative to train our firefighters using the tanker and supplying our engines. He is postponing the search and rescue training until he feels that we are sufficiently trained in pump and tanker operations. Our training recently proved effective by using an aggressive offensive attack on a structure fire and was able to save several thousands of dollars of property damage. Harry said they saved about 90% of the structure.

Training report was accepted as presented by Consensus

CHIEF'S REPORT:

Harry reported there were a total of 64 incidents during the month of August: 9 fires, 44 rescue & emergency medical service calls, 5 Agency Assist – Pafford, 3 service calls, 1 hazardous conditions, and 2 false alarms. Harry reported that we are having good response to fires and accidents. Joe commented that Pafford opened up another facility near the Boys and Girls club on Hwy 7 N.

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. He also said that he posted pictures and information about them being purchased from a FireHouse Subs grant. He also said he has been taking pictures of the training on Tuesday nights to post them to show training activity to our community. He is getting ready to post about the new air packs that came in.

Publicity report accepted by consensus.

MAINTENANCE REPORT:

- Engine 1
 - Harry said he is getting ready jack it up to check the front end see if there is anything we can do to make it better. .
 - John said that he 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
 - Completely serviced this truck.
- Tanker 2
 - Still doing good. Harry said he is getting ready to service this truck.
- Rescue 1
 - Completed the service on this truck.
- Rescue 2
 - Doing good.
- Brush 2 (Forestry)
 - Doing good.
- Station 1
 - Driveway Apron (John)
 - Tabled
 - Awnings. (John)

John said that he is waiting to hear back from Ed Clark on the awnings, rollup door, lighting in covered area, an opening into the bay, and proper outlets to plug in equipment. Lyn contacted Ed and he said he has been swamped lately..
- Station 2
 - It was reported that Matthew was going to install the shower at Station #2 at no cost to the fire department.

Maintenance report is accepted by consensus.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Audit – John**
 - The accounting company is working on 2023. John said he expects to have a report next month.
- **Grants – John**
 - John said the \$2,000 check came in from the Hot Springs Village Foundation for the landing zone lights.
 - Now that the government is open we can submit requests for payment for turnouts.
- **SCBA Funding (John)**
 - John said that after our Monday night Special Meeting on November 10th we wanted to look into paying off the \$35,000 loan for the compressor. Based on the check we recently received from the Tax Collector's office of \$32,000 we should have the ability to pay off that loan. The payoff should be near \$35,000.

Motion: Joe moved that we payoff the compressor loan based on whatever the payoff amount is.

Second: Lee Seconded

Passed: Unanimously

- John said that when he reported that we were averaging about \$12,000 a month in expenses, but there were some extraordinary expenses that had come in this year and our actual monthly expenses are \$10,000 per month.
- John said that he spoke to the gentleman with Community Leasing and he confirmed that the interest rate of 5.38% is fixed for the term of the lease/purchase agreement. The first payment will be due May 1st of next year.
- Joe said that if we need an appraisal we can get an appraisal for \$350. We would also have to pay for a bank appraiser too. Joe also commented that this will allow us to maybe refinance at a lower interest rate later.
- Everyone commented that the Community Leasing option is our best option.

Motion: John moved that we approve the lease/purchase agreement with Community Leasing Partners for the SCBAs for \$140,000 to be paid in annual installments of \$23,804.92 for seven years with the first payment due on May 1, 2026

Second: Joe Seconded

Passed: Unanimously

- **Drug Testing Program (John)**

- John said that he has been in touch with our attorney, Phil Montgomery. Phil is going to write a draft of a drug policy for us.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Sale of Cascade System (Harry)**

- Harry said he has been in touch with the Mountain Pine Fire Department and they have gotten approval from their board to purchase our cascade system for \$1,000. Joe asked if it was a good deal and Harry said it is a good deal for both departments. It gets the equipment out of our way and will help them as they have an antiquated system. John asked if they are aware of the problems with the compressor. Harry said they are aware that it will need repairs and the cost of repairs. By getting our system for \$1,000 it will allow them to spend the necessary funds for them to make the repairs.

Motion: Joe moved that we see our old cascade system to Mountain Pine for \$1,000 as is including 9 old bottles.

Second: Lee Seconded

Passed: Unanimously

- **Board Elections (John)**

- John reported that we have three board positions coming due for election this year. They are position numbers 3, 4, and 5 currently filled by John Brandt, Lee Coatney, and Rachel Peters respectively. John said he will be posting the notice online and that the paper already has the notice to be posted in their legal notices. Anyone who wants to apply for a position must send in a letter of application to either the board email or by mail to our address here. They must state specifically which position for which they will be running. The deadline for submitting applications will be Monday, December 1st and the election will be held on Monday, December 15th at 6:00 pm. Nate asked if the election is for the firefighters to vote on board members or how the election works. John explained that it is conducted just like any other election we use paper ballots instead of

voting machines and that anyone who is a registered voter living within our fire district can vote. Lyn asked about how the election works now that we are a district. John explained to him that because we are now a district and all board members are elected officials. Lyn said he was told that the Chief is also elected. John said the Chief is voted on and appointed by the board. The Chief is not elected by public vote.

- **Christmas Dinner**

- Rachel asked about our Christmas dinner. John recommended that we might want to do our dinner on Saturday, December 20, 2025. The question was asked if it is catered or pot luck. John said we have been having it catered in the past few years. Rachel noted that there was also a time in the past when it was a pot luck dinner. John said the cost of our dinner last year was \$1,040.00 and was provided by Melinda's. It was recommended that we shop around for catering. We can call Melinda's, Clampits, and SoulSistas.

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

- John was informed that we were having a pot luck next Tuesday. Jake has training scheduled for tomorrow night. As a result, we will forego a monthly meal this month.

- **Comments/Questions:**

- Kenny said that everyone needs to slow down a bit. We know you want to get to the incident, but we need to also be careful how we drive. The public is watching and we also want to make sure you make it to the scene and back home safely. Be aware of driving carefully through the construction zone and be careful when passing another vehicle. Do not force them off the road.

8:14 pm

Motion to adjourn: John moved that we adjourn

Second: Kenny Seconded

Passed: Unanimously

Meeting minutes submitted by:

John Brandt, Secretary/Treasurer