



Unicoi County Emergency Medical Services, Inc.

630 Oneega Avenue – Suite D * Erwin, TN 37650

Office 423-735-3315

Anthony Buckner, Executive Director/Chief

Fax 423-330-1347



Unicoi County Emergency Medical Services Board of Directors Meeting Monday, November 04, 2024 @ 4:00 pm ET

MEMBERS PRESENT:

✓	Kathy Bullen	✓	Roger Cooper	✓	Brian Delp		Garland Evely		Jennifer Harrah	✓	Andrew Harris
✓	Cathy Huskins		Michael Sutherland	✓	Glenn White		Todd Hull (**)	✓	Anthony Buckner (**)		

(**) = non-voting members

OTHERS PRESENT:

- Jimmy Erwin, EMA Director – Unicoi County
- Becki Gamage, Admin. Assistant – USEMS

ISSUE/TOPIC	DISCUSSION/CONCLUSION	RECOMMENDATION/ACTION
Call to Order	Chairwoman Bullen called the meeting to order at 4:00pm in the Meeting Room of the Erwin Town Hall.	
I. Invocation	Invocation was given by Chairwoman Bullen	
II. Roll Call	Chairwoman Bullen called the roll.	A quorum was present: Absent members were Garland Evely, Jennifer Harrah, Michael Sutherland and Todd Hull.
III. Recognition of Guests	All visitors were acknowledged & introduced	Board members acknowledged Jimmy Erwin, EMA Director for Unicoi County
IV. Announcement of Time for Public Comments	None	Jimmy Erwin announced that there would be a Thanksgiving dinner on Nov. 23 @ 2-5p at the Armory; All were invited to attend.
V. Minutes from Previous Meeting	The minutes from the September 03, 2024, meeting were unavailable for approval.	



Unicoi County Emergency Medical Services, Inc.

630 Oneega Avenue – Suite D * Erwin, TN 37650

Office 423-735-3315

Fax 423-330-1347



Anthony Buckner, Executive Director/Chief

<p>VI. Financial Report</p>	<p>Financial report for the period of Jul-Oct 2024 was presented. These figures included recovery expenditures & insurance reimbursement deposits through October 31, 2024.</p>	<p>Andrew Harris requested a copy of the FY2023 year-end financial report be sent out to board members prior to the next BOD meeting.</p> <p>Board member Andrew Harris motioned to receive the FY2023 year-end Financial Report prior to the December Board Meeting. The motion was seconded by board member Roger Cooper.</p>																				
<p>VII. Old Business</p>	<p>None</p>																					
<p>VIII. New Business</p>	<p>A. <u>Advancing the Salary Increase Date for Executive Director/Chief - UCEMS:</u> <i>Proposal: Immediately advance Anthony Buckner's salary to the promised \$74k, bypassing all waiting periods and step-ups outlined in his employment contract.</i> On September 27, 2024, during the devastating floods, Anthony demonstrated exceptional leadership while evacuating patients and staff from the hospital rooftop. His calm and composed demeanor, paired with his knowledge and steady guidance, proved to be invaluable, providing both life-saving support and reassurance to those around him. In the weeks that have followed, Anthony has consistently worked alongside medics to ensure tasks are completed. His colleagues quickly learned they can rely on his expertise and trust his guidance. Thanks to his extensive knowledge and network, I firmly believe that his leadership has played a pivotal role in ensuring UCEMS is functioning at its highest level of efficiency. Anthony has embodied the qualities and traits that we hoped to see over the coming months. If there was ever a moment for the Board, the town of Erwin, the County, and others to recognize and show appreciation for Anthony's efforts, it is now.</p> <p>B. <u>Recap of Events:</u> Lost 3 ambulances, 1 Chief's vehicle, all equipment on these vehicles. No injuries other than scrapes and bruises. Slowly getting back on our feet.</p>	<p>A. Board member Glenn White motioned that Anthony Buckner's salary be increased to \$74k, side-stepping the 'step-up' process, with the increase to be effective as of the next payroll date (Nov 11, 2024). The motion was seconded by board member Brian Delp. Chairwoman Bullen called for a rollcall vote:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="1312 703 1848 876"> <tr> <td>Bullen</td> <td>YEA</td> <td>Cooper</td> <td>YEA</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Delp</td> <td>YEA</td> <td>Harrah</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Evely</td> <td></td> <td>Huskins</td> <td>YEA</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Harris</td> <td>YEA</td> <td>Sutherland</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>White</td> <td>YEA</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>B. (intentionally blank)</p>	Bullen	YEA	Cooper	YEA	Delp	YEA	Harrah		Evely		Huskins	YEA	Harris	YEA	Sutherland		White	YEA		
Bullen	YEA	Cooper	YEA																			
Delp	YEA	Harrah																				
Evely		Huskins	YEA																			
Harris	YEA	Sutherland																				
White	YEA																					



Unicoi County Emergency Medical Services, Inc.

630 Oneega Avenue – Suite D * Erwin, TN 37650

Office 423-735-3315

Anthony Buckner, Executive Director/Chief

Fax 423-330-1347



	<p>C. <u>How UCEMS Has & Will be Affected Without Having a Local Hospital as Transport Destination</u></p> <p>D. <u>Status of UCEMS Insurance Claim for Lost Equipment & Proceeding w Replacement</u></p> <p>E. <u>Status of UCEMS Insurance Claim for Vehicles & Proceeding w Replacement</u></p> <p>F. <u>Discuss Purchasing New Trucks</u></p> <p>G. <u>Recap of UCEMS-specific Donors</u></p> <p>H. <u>Scheduling & Staffing Updates in Anticipation of Increased Out-of-County Transports and Call Volume</u></p> <p>I. <u>Proposed Outstanding Service Awards (to be presented at next meeting)</u></p> <p>J. <u>Discussion on State RFA and Gary Sinese Grants Applied for</u></p> <p>K. <u>Discuss Next Step for Medic 5 (2006 Chevy Express Van) – Selling vs. Possibly Donating to Coroner’s Office</u></p> <p>L. <u>Quick Brief re Donated Ambulances – in addition to Unit from New Glarus Area EMS, we are receiving two additional ambulances: one from Broadway Emergency Squad and the other from New Market Volunteer Fire and Resue</u></p>	<p>C. With losing the hospital, we are going to see a spike in out-of-county transports. It’s going to cause delays in getting crews to other calls. We are developing plans and ideas on how to minimize this going forward; however, this will be an issue that we want you to be aware of. Transport from Erwin to JCMC is 19 miles; Erwin to Sycamore Shoals (Elizabethton) is 20 miles. Wait times at the hospitals is also increasing day-by-day.</p> <p>D. Insurance Claim has been filed & full reimbursement has been received. Total amount filed/rec’vd for Durable Equipment = \$422,622.12; Total amount filed/rec’vd for Personal Belongings (on behalf of the employees on hospital rooftop) = \$3,061.00. NOTE: The Personal Belongings reimbursement checks were made payable to each individual and have been distributed to the appropriate employees. There was no deductible withheld from the reimbursement amount(s) due to no prior claims in the last three years</p> <p>E. Insurance Claim has been filed for Med #2, Med #3, Med #4 & Chief’s Vehicle. Total amount field for Vehicles = \$441,800; There will be no deductible withheld from the reimbursement amount(s) due to no prior claims in the last three years. Reimbursement is still pending. Reimbursement monies should be placed into interest-bearing account when received.</p> <p>F. New built ambulance will cost us approx. \$276,000 and will have a lead time of 8-9 months (with UCEMS being put on a priority list). We have applied for a grant that will be awarded in December. We are hoping to be awarded grant money to use towards the purchase price of the new ambulance. In the meantime, we would like approval to purchase 1 ambulance, 3 power cots, 3 cardiac monitors and 3 ventilators. Board member Glenn White motioned to give Executive Director/Chief Anthony Buckner permission to purchase these outlined items. The motion was seconded by board member Roger Cooper. Chairwoman Bullen called for a rollcall vote:</p>
--	---	--



Unicoi County Emergency Medical Services, Inc.

630 Oneega Avenue – Suite D * Erwin, TN 37650

Office 423-735-3315

Anthony Buckner, Executive Director/Chief

Fax 423-330-1347



		<table border="1"> <tr><td>Bullen</td><td>YEA</td><td>Cooper</td><td>YEA</td></tr> <tr><td>Delp</td><td>YEA</td><td>Harrah</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Evely</td><td></td><td>Huskins</td><td>YEA</td></tr> <tr><td>Harris</td><td>YEA</td><td>Sutherland</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>White</td><td>YEA</td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> <p>Board Chairwoman Kathy Bullen motioned to give Executive Director/Chief Anthony Buckner permission to purchase a second ambulance pending the grant approval & award that UCEMS has already submitted their application for. The motion was seconded by board member Cathy Huskins. Chairwoman Bullen called for a rollcall vote:</p> <table border="1"> <tr><td>Bullen</td><td>YEA</td><td>Cooper</td><td>YEA</td></tr> <tr><td>Delp</td><td>YEA</td><td>Harrah</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Evely</td><td></td><td>Huskin</td><td>YEA</td></tr> <tr><td>Harris</td><td>YEA</td><td>Sutherland</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>White</td><td>YEA</td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> <p>G. (intentionally blank)</p> <p>H. Looking ahead, due to the new transport demands and timing, we will need to add an additional truck/crew and change our scheduling. (2) 24-hour trucks & (1) 24-hour truck working a 12/12 shifts. In order to make up for this change we have hired 4-6 new medics.</p> <p>I. (intentionally blank)</p> <p>J. Applied for this grant to purchase swift water gear, life jackets, throw bags</p> <p>K. EMS is no longer using this unit and we would like to have Board approval to donate this vehicle to the Coroner's office. Board member Roger Cooper motioned that Medic #5 be turned over to Unicoi County in order to be donated to the Coroner's office. The motion was seconded by board member Kathy Bullen. Chairwoman Bullen called for a rollcall vote:</p> <table border="1"> <tr><td>Bullen</td><td>YEA</td><td>Cooper</td><td>YEA</td></tr> <tr><td>Delp</td><td>YEA</td><td>Harrah</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Evely</td><td></td><td>Huskin</td><td>YEA</td></tr> </table>	Bullen	YEA	Cooper	YEA	Delp	YEA	Harrah		Evely		Huskins	YEA	Harris	YEA	Sutherland		White	YEA			Bullen	YEA	Cooper	YEA	Delp	YEA	Harrah		Evely		Huskin	YEA	Harris	YEA	Sutherland		White	YEA			Bullen	YEA	Cooper	YEA	Delp	YEA	Harrah		Evely		Huskin	YEA
Bullen	YEA	Cooper	YEA																																																			
Delp	YEA	Harrah																																																				
Evely		Huskins	YEA																																																			
Harris	YEA	Sutherland																																																				
White	YEA																																																					
Bullen	YEA	Cooper	YEA																																																			
Delp	YEA	Harrah																																																				
Evely		Huskin	YEA																																																			
Harris	YEA	Sutherland																																																				
White	YEA																																																					
Bullen	YEA	Cooper	YEA																																																			
Delp	YEA	Harrah																																																				
Evely		Huskin	YEA																																																			



Unicoi County Emergency Medical Services, Inc.

630 Oneega Avenue – Suite D * Erwin, TN 37650

Office 423-735-3315

Fax 423-330-1347



Anthony Buckner, Executive Director/Chief

		<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Harris</td> <td>YEA</td> <td>Sutherland</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>White</td> <td>YEA</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>L. We will be picking up two more donated ambulances within the next two weeks. Our current ambulance fleet consists of: 4 indefinite loaners; 4 donated & 2 'original'. However, of the two "original" units – Med #5 is being donated to the Coroner's office & Med #6 is Out of Service (questionable on future). NOTE: These numbers do not include any units that we will be purchasing/having built.</p>	Harris	YEA	Sutherland		White	YEA		
Harris	YEA	Sutherland								
White	YEA									
IX. Executive Director/Chief Report		Performance & Operations Report for October was presented by Anthony Buckner								
X. Medical Report	Medical Director Sutherland was not present; no medical report was given.									
XI. Attorney Report	Todd Hull was not present; no attorney report was given.									
Adjourn	The decision was made to schedule the December UCEMS BOD meeting for Monday, December 02, 2024 @ 4p. Chairwoman Bullen asked if there was any other business.	The November 04, 2024 meeting was adjourned at 5:10pm.								