

Emergency Services Committee
Washington County Administration Building, Abingdon, VA
2/9/2015
5:20 p.m.

Members Present:

Jason Berry
 Tim Estes
 Pokey Harris
 Jason Johnson
 Theresa Kingsley-Varble
 Phil McCall
 Randy Pennington
 Mike Starr

Others Present:

Mark Venable
 Greg Woods

Topic/Subject	Discussion	Recommendations, Action/Follow-up; Responsible Person
Call to Order	The meeting was called to order at 5:20 by Mark Venable, Chair.	
Welcome & Introductions	Mark Venable welcomed the committee and led introductions.	
Approval of Previous Minutes	A motion was made by Tim Estes and seconded by Jason Johnson to approve the January 12th, 2015, meeting minutes as presented. The motion passed.	
General Discussion Old Business	<p>The current Replenishment Plan recommendations spreadsheet was provided for inclusion in the minutes. Harris noted that there have been no changes since last meeting.</p> <p>County Administrator Jason Berry noted that some members have asked about different types of vehicles being funded in the future (such as the Greenspring rescue boat) in addition to replacements of existing apparatus. Pokey Harris stated that there was a plan and process in place to consider new vehicles in addition to replacements. Randy Pennington said that help could be offered if other new funding initiatives are explored. Philip McCall said the vehicle would only be used twelve times, so that is a high cost for a minor use. Harris stated that the committee is extending an offer of help to pursue funding opportunities.</p> <p>Tim Estes noted that the committee was tasked with looking at existing apparatus initially to develop a plan for replenishment. Jason Johnson asked whether there was a mechanism to consider additions such as ambulances. Greg Woods stated that he believed the process for any new apparatus was to include the request with the budget request to be considered.</p>	

Members Present:

Others Present:

Estes stated that with the boat request there was a question regarding the drag of the boat. Johnson asked if one of Washington County Lifesaving Crew's boats could be stationed there. Theresa Kingsley-Varble noted that there was a 15-year-old drowning victim where response could have been improved by having a boat located on the lake. Pennington stated that he had asked how close the boat would be able to get especially when the lake is drained, but that had not be answered. Estes asked if they could use ATL funds toward the project.

Harris noted that Goodson-Kinderhook's request for funding to repair their ambulance will have to go to the Board. There was some confusion on that at the last meeting. The repair quote is about \$2,800. Mike Starr said his best estimate for repair would be \$6,000 due to complexity of the repair, so the price is reasonable. Berry noted that both the ambulance repair and fit tester are on the Board agenda. If funded as requested, funds would have to be taken from the reserve. Testing is an OSHA requirement.

Pennington asked whether the fit tester would be able to be used by all agencies. Estes said there would have to be a different attachments for each agency. Starr said that for some things you need a third party, so they pay someone to conduct their testing. Pennington said that this committee did vote not to spend money on a fit tester in order to see how to help Goodson-Kinderhook. Berry noted that the \$7,000 could not be used for Goodson Kinderhook for their operational assistance. Harris stated that the City Of Bristol loans out their equipment. She noted that policy development concerning fit testing and requirement to use masks (such as facial hair prohibition) should come first. Berry Estes said that there would probably need minimum training policies established. Pennington asked if someone would have to be trained to conduct the testing. Estes said the manufacturer will conduct training. Kingsley-Varble said that several steps are needed prior to this.

New Business

Mark Venable turned over the meeting to Jason Johnson. Venable noted that some equipment could not be provided by the manufacturer, so their appropriate included other amount for tools. Venable wanted to clarify and enter this into the minutes for clarification. Pennington asked whether that would require additional money. This would not change the amount allocated by the County.

The budget process and requests were discussed. Estes asked what direction were given to agencies regarding increases/reductions. There were no specific directions. McCall said that hopefully there would be level funding. The Board has directed Jason Johnson to start at a zero dollar budget. Berry said some revenues look like they are increasing. The State is not cutting K-12, and it is looking more positive. Pennington stated that it would be inappropriate for Board members to make recommendations since they will be voting on the requests. Agency requests were reviewed and approved by consensus as follows:

Members Present:

Others Present:

Abingdon Fire Department—The request was discussed. Committee recommendation: \$70,000.

Bristol Life Saving Crew—The request was discussed. Kingsley-Varble stated that the agency has cut bak to two staffed ambulances. Committee recommendation: \$20,000.

Brumley Gap Fire Department— The request was discussed. Pennington said that \$7,000 of request was concrete. Committee recommendation: level funding.

Clinch Mountain Fire Department— The request was discussed. Pennington said \$15,000 was for paved lot. Harris said it was a transfer from another project. Estes questioned Workman’s Comp insurance. Committee Recommendation: \$40,000.

Damascus Fire Department— The request was discussed. McCall asked what was the extra money for. Theresa said that ATL will be used for nine sets of gear. Committee Recommendation: level funding.

Damascus Rescue—The request was discussed. Estes asked about the capital project. Bill Clark said that money is for building upkeep. Committee Recommendation: as presented.

Glade Spring Fire Dept.—The request was discussed. Harris anticipates an increase is due to PPE and suggested prioritizing increases for necessities. Committee Recommendation: level funding.

Glade Spring Life Saving Crew—The request was discussed. Pay is for their 3 full time employees. Estes asked what are gifts and education expenses. Committee Recommendation: \$60,000.

Green Spring Fire Dept.—The request was discussed. Estes asked if we pay mortgage off would there be any ownership by the county. He noted that the figure for fire supplies seems high. Kingsley-Varble noted that the financials show discrepancies of a significant amount that are not explained. Committee Recommendation: level funding.

Goodson-Kinderhook- The request was discussed. They are trying to add 2 ALS people to provide 24/7 coverage. Four are paid and one is currently a contract employee. Harris asked what is the uniform and apparel expense. Freddy Lewis stated this is for turnout gear, air bottles, etc. \$2,000 is for gloves, etc for EMS. Harris noted that \$25,000 includes air helmets, etc. Berry clarified that the \$100,000 was for 2 paid people. \$41,000 for building payoff, the remainder for personnel. Lewis said that he hoped the difference will help stabilize finances. Estes inquired about the difference between the 577 total EMS calls and 305 transported. Kevin Leonard noted that if they had personnel, they would have transported 400 calls. Theresa said \$60,000 would be for two positions. Estes suggested that the agency look at moving to ABC shift scheduled. Committee Recommendation: level fund operating, increase personnel

Members Present:

Others Present:

to \$120,000 with a stipulation that they be ALS providers. Woods suggested that billing income/expenses be reviewed at six months.

Meadowview Fire Dept.—The request was discussed. Venable noted that air Bottles need to be replaced. Estes had a question regarding medical equipment and medical supplies. Committee Recommendation: level funding.

Mt Rogers- The request was discussed. Harris said that the call response has continued to decline. Wood asked for percent of calls they answer. Harris said there had been a plan one year ago to replace them. Theresa said they had answered one out of eight calls for two months. Johnson asked if tones would still be set. Harris said the agency would no longer be DERA. Committee Recommendation: no recommendation, defer to Board.

Valley Rescue Squad—The request was discussed. Johnson said that 90% of the time Paramedics staffed @ \$7 per hour. Johnson noted their vehicle construction would be a county owned building. Committee Recommendation: \$80,000.

Southwest Virginia EMS Council- The request was discussed. Committee Recommendation: as requested.

Washington County Fire Rescue- The request was discussed. Harris said that agency has been diligent in pre-planning. Committee Recommendation: level funding with the stipulation that if County increases personnel budget to look at these to ensure they are comparable.

Washington Co. Life Saving Crew—The request was discussed. Committee Recommendation: level funding.

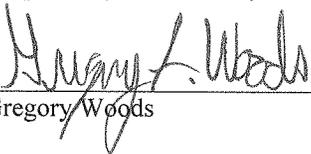
Fireman’s Association—The request was discussed. Harris discussed history of fire training funds. In 2015, money was transferred to education budget to support both fire/EMS. Fletcher has requested returning money to the program itself to fund the fire program. Harris stated there was a high drop rate and that funds had been used to cover out of County (and sometimes out of state) personnel, not just County personnel. Berry said that Mr. Fletcher ran into him and enquired about funding, so he was encouraged to put in a request. McCall stated that he prefers reimbursement basis upon completion of training programs. Committee Recommendation: do not fund.

Mark Venable told Pokey Harris that they all wished her luck. Theresa Kingsley-Varble is the new contact.

Members Present:**Others Present:**

	McCall noted that the purpose of the committee, authority, etc., is on the Board agenda for review.	
Next Meeting	The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 9th, 2015. This meeting will be held at the Brumley Gap Fire Dept.	
Adjournment	There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:16 p.m.	

Respectfully submitted by:



Gregory Woods

April 13, 2015

DATE OF APPROVAL