

**Emergency Services Committee**  
**Washington County Lifesaving Crew, Abingdon, VA**  
**6/8/2015**  
**6:00 p.m.**

**Members Present:**

Jason Berry  
 Bill Clark  
 Tim Estes  
 Jason Johnson  
 Theresa Kingsley-Varble  
 Freddy Lewis  
 Mike Mason  
 Phillip McCall  
 John McCormick  
 Randy Pennington  
 Dwayne Stanley  
 Jarren Strong

**Others Present:**

Nick Sturgill  
 Don Venable  
 Mark Venable  
 P.G. Widener  
 Joe Wilson  
 Greg Woods

Topic/Subject	Discussion	Recommendations, Action/Follow-up: Responsible Person
<b>Call to Order</b>	The meeting was called to order at 6:00pm by Mark Venable, Chair. Dinner was provided by Washington County Lifesaving Crew.	
<b>Welcome &amp; Introductions</b>	Mark Venable welcomed the committee and led introductions. Mark conducted a roll call for agencies. Brumley Gap Fire Dept., Green Spring Fire Dept., and Washington Co. Fire Rescue were not present.	
<b>Approval of Previous Minutes</b>	Meeting minutes were not provided for the meeting and will be approved during the next meeting.	
<b>Old Business</b>	<p><b>Grant Match Requests:</b> Jason Berry discussed three grant match requests received from Green Spring Fire Dept., Goodson-Kinderhook Fire Dept., and Damascus Fire Dept. All three forestry grants requiring a 50/50 match. They total is just over \$9,300.00. These will be forwarded to the Board of Supervisors for review.</p> <p><b>Solar Panel Training:</b> Freddy Lewis reported training was set for June 27<sup>th</sup> or June 28<sup>th</sup>. It will be held at the Bristol Life Saving Crew. Theresa Kingsley-Varble will forward information on the training to committee members.</p>	

**Members Present:**

**Others Present:**

**Insurance Opportunities:** Jason Berry discussed information regarding worker's comp insurance opportunities. There are approximately 425 volunteers in the county. The quote received would be for approximately \$69,615; agencies currently pay approximately \$88,000 for workers comp insurance coverage. Estes asked if this is just for volunteers and whether it would include paid personnel (which some agencies currently have). Berry asked for feedback from the group on whether to continue exploring this possibility. Randy Pennington stated that he feels it is worth looking into in order to reduce costs and cover some volunteers who are not currently covered. John McCormick noted that Abingdon Fire Dept is currently covered by the Town of Abingdon, but they are currently looking at other options. The Committee recommended pursuing this further by general consent.

**ATL & RTL Carryover Funds:** Theresa asked that agencies be sure to spend ATL & RTL funding. If not spent, it does not roll over to the next year. Submission policies were changed due to reporting requirements, but she stated that the process has been streamlined.

**New Business**

**Grant Match Request:** Glade Spring Fire Department requested matching funds in the amount of \$2,500 for a forestry grant. Berry noted that he is going to ask that they be included with the others for consideration by the Board of Supervisors. Pennington asked why this was not included in the budget request. Joe Wilson noted that the grants are released after the budget request deadline. Berry noted that it is difficult to find additional funding at the end of the year. Theresa suggested putting an estimated placeholder in budget requests in anticipation of requests that will be made. Berry stated that he is going to ask to realign personnel funds for the match. Estes suggested that all departments plan to apply and include estimates in their budgets.

**EMS Agency Sign On Procedure:** Theresa noted that sign-ons have almost stopped. This creates issues for dispatch. She asked that agencies be sure to follow the sign-on procedure. Freddy asked if they could sign on for 24 hours. Theresa said that was fine; they just need to be sure to tell dispatch the period for which the sign-on will apply.

**Washington County Life Saving Crew Request:** The agency made a request to suspend EMD assists for this agency. Crew revenue has been cut in half since last year. Some patients must be transported four times before they meet their deductible. Many calls were cancellations, and they result in no revenue. Others involve ALS assists. Agencies can bill for ALS service, and the ALS agency can bill the assisted agency, but this is not happening. EMD is creating more unreimbursed expenses for the agency. Dwayne asked what would happen if EMT-enhanced were recognized as ALS under EMD protocol as it relates to ALS assists.


Greg Woods noted that it would likely be possible to modify EMD protocols to allow Enhanced to cover some calls; however, he noted that while Enhanced is considered ALS, there are different levels of care. For serious calls, an Enhanced would not be able to provide the needed level of care. Estes noted that a solution is to get more trained ALS providers. He noted that the EMS Council is offering an Enhanced to Intermediate class. Woods noted that an option might be for members of all agencies to

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**Others Present:**

	<p>become associate members of other agencies. This would make it possible to bill ALS for those calls and receive the highest return. Pennington asked if the county could do billing for all agencies and distribute to them. Woods said that it could happen, but there would be some logistical issues. Estes noted that if you save administrative costs, it could mean more return. Berry said that this might be advantageous if we can benefit from economies of scale.</p> <p><b>Truck Rotation:</b> There was a motion led by Joe Wilson to put the truck rotation back in perhaps by the points. Dwayne said they favored this system. Woods noted that while there are some issues with the current system that need to be worked out, there were some issues with the previous system. Multiple agencies appeared at RSAF meetings and noted that they did not need a new ambulance but it was their turn in the rotation. The point system might solve that. Lewis asked if the committee could recommend pursuing a meal tax as mentioned by Pennington. McCormick said that until you get a system to have more money, neither system will be effective. Mark Venable asked if Joe would withdraw motion to see what happens. The motion was withdrawn.</p> <p><b>Committee Formation:</b> Mark Venable, Chair, assigned subcommittees to look at apparatus and training. Estes noted that we need to determine what is needed in terms of apparatus. Theresa asked if the fire study addressed this issue. Vehicle and training committee to assess needs. Mark handed out committee list. Designee of agencies will represent agency of sub-committees.</p> <p>There will be a public meeting at Abingdon fire station on June 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:00.</p> <p>Greg Woods mentioned the annual EMS awards program and encouraged agencies to make nominations.</p> <p>There were no public comments.</p>
<p><b>Public Comments</b></p>	
<p><b>Next Meeting</b></p>	<p>The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, July 13<sup>th</sup>. This meeting will be held at the Government Center at 6:00 pm.</p>
<p><b>Adjournment</b></p>	<p>There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.</p>

Respectfully submitted by:

  
Gregory Woods

07/13/2015

DATE OF APPROVAL