



Marion County  
Board of County Commissioners

Fire Rescue

2631 SE Third St.  
Ocala, FL 34471  
Phone: 352-291-8000  
Fax: 352-291-8098

Marion County Fire Rescue Emergency Services  
Advisory Board Meeting-Budget Review  
March 8th, 2011

I. Call To Order- 3:04 by Chairperson Pat Gabriel

II. Members Present:

Dr. Frank Fraunfelter, Medical Director, MCFR EMS  
Paul Clark, C.O.O, Munroe Regional Medical Center  
Rex Etheredge, C.E.O Ocala Regional Medical Center  
Pat Gabriel, Chairperson  
Thomas Lorio  
Adam Woods

Members Absent:

Butch Verrando

Others in Attendance:

Chief Stuart McElhaney, Chief David Cooper, Chief Hall, Chief Nevels,  
Rob Graff

Attendance taken by: Felicia Grasty

A. 3310/3355

- Handouts provided: MCFR Org Chart, Budget Compilation Proposed FY 11/12.
- 6 unfilled firefighter positions cut out of the budget
- 6 Battalion Chief positions were cut from the budget. 4 of them were demoted to Captains with a 6% cut in salary. 2 became Division Chiefs, at the same rate of pay.
- The Deputy Chief position was cut.
- 4 mechanic positions cut from Fire Fleet.
- There will be no raises this fiscal year. The tech ladder is on hold. The union reached a tentative agreement. This will be a savings of \$1.5million between both budgets.
- A cut of \$1.8million is cut from personal services.

*"Meeting Needs by Exceeding Expectations"*



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- Due to the consolidation of Fire Fleet and County Fleet, \$418,299 has been cut from the Fire budget in repairs/maintenance and moved to the Fleet line item.
- Tom Lorio asked if it is necessary to break down the detail of operating a Fire Station. Chief McElhaney explains that the breakdown gives clarity and believes it's beneficial to show the detail.
- Adam Woods questioned the water testing. Chief Cooper explains that we have a contract with County Utilities Department to inject chlorinators and to do water testing. This currently is being done at 25 of the Fire Stations. This keeps down the bacterial buildup.
- Adam Woods questioned the amount of the annual physicals for our firefighters. Chief Cooper explains that the physicals are not the normal annual physicals. Firefighter physicals encompass stress tests, labs, testing for arsenics etc.
- Chief Cooper explains that the bottle life of the SCBA (Self Contained Breathing Apparatus) is 10 years and they are recertified every year.
- Under contract services (Operating Expenses): Chief Hall explains that InterMed is a service that certifies and calibrates all of our equipment on our engines and ambulances.
- Chief Hall explains the cost of medical supplies with a one-time use. Such as: bandages, band aids, gloves, tubing, dressing, canuloa's, certain blood pressure cuffs, c-collars, etc.
- A collection agency was voted on by the BCC. The company bills us upfront. However, the staff is doing the majority of the work. The patient is referred back to us. Chief Hall has begun to track progress of the collection agency.
- Chief McElhaney explains breaking down the illegal burns ordinance and false alarms fee to reflect the charges/fines, which is also a part of collection. Chief Nevels explains that citations are issued for illegal burns and false alarms. He explains false alarms versus bogus calls.
- Chief Nevels shares that the hydrant books are updated every 2 years. These are for the units. They are used to help provide locations. Every truck does not have GPS.
- Chief Hall explains to Adam Woods how the wireless laptops are used. They are used in our units for patient info; they also provide a direct/secure link to the hospitals with the patient's info.
- Utility Services: Electric is a very large line item. All cost cutting efforts are utilized such as; Electric Company surveys, energy efficient materials, etc.

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- Rentals/Leases Equipment: Bids are done every 3 years by our Procurement department. Adam suggests using a company that his bank uses for copiers and toner. He will provide Cindy Marihugh with the name of that company.
  - Office Supplies: We have a contract with Staples and Office Depot. This was bid through our Procurement Department.
  - Printing/Binding-Cost savings of \$8,368 are due to production in house, going digital, etc.
  - Rentals/Leases Buildings: The only space we rent/lease is at West Marion Community Hospital.
  - Pat Gabriel asked about gas and oil, Chief McElhaney explains that this cost will fluctuate.
  - Adam Woods asks "Why are items like flashlights and shovels so expensive?" Chief McElhaney explains that non-fire specific items are not as costly as a fire specific item. Example Fire specific items like a shovel, would have a mark up in price compared to a shovel you would get at a Lowes or a Home Depot.
  - Cleaning Supplies is broken down per cleaning item, per station. Total items are 1328. Cleaning supplies are purchased through Resource One.
  - \$6,000 has been cut for uniforms for office staff and The Career Academy.
  - Education/Training: This is a reduction of \$199,600 for recertification, and renewals for Paramedic/EMT's, Inspector 1&2 recertification, and 2 Officers attending FFCA versus 7 Officers.
  - Chief Nevels shares that the NFPA puts out all of the codes and standards for prevention. It's available by hard copy and CD rom.
  - Chief McElhaney and Chief Cooper explain the life of a pumper. It is 10 years front line, 5 years high call station, 5 years low call station, and 5 years reserve.
- B. Capital Expense
- A total of 4 refurbishments in 3355 are split. 65=units, and 35= equipment
  - \$28,000 reduction for computer software \$14,000 from 3310, \$14,000 from 3355.

Board members: Pat Gabriel, Chair, Paul Clark, Rex Etheredge, Tom Lorio and Dr. Fraunfelter move to accept the proposed budget. Adam

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Woods says that he would like to review the budget in more in detail since this is the first time being on the board. Butch Verrando is not present for comment.

Adjournment-5:12

Next Meeting will be held April 12th, 2010 4pm, Fire Rescue Headquarters

Minutes submitted by Felicia Grasty  
Approved:

Date:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Pat Gabriel, Chairperson

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### Marion County Fire Rescue Emergency Services Advisory Board Meeting January 11, 2011

I. Call To Order- 4:10 by Chairperson Pat Gabriel

II. Members Present:

Dr. Frank Fraunfelder, Medical Director, MCFR EMS  
Paul Clark, C.O.O, Munroe Regional Medical Center  
Thomas Lorio  
Pat Gabriel, Chairperson  
Butch Verrando-New Member  
Adam Woods-New Member

**\*\*New member welcome and thank you to previous board members\*\***

Members Absent:

Rex Etheredge, C.E.O Ocala Regional Medical Center

Others in Attendance:

Chief Stuart McElhaney, Deputy Chief Dan Azzariti, Chief David Cooper,  
Karl Oltz, Miranda Iglesias, Chief Hall, Chief Nevels  
Attendance taken by: Felicia Grasty

III. Minutes

October 11, 2010 adopted

Staff Items:

A. Draft 5 Year Plan Status

- Not approved by board, but reviewed bottom line per Chief McElhaney.
- Breaking ground for new fire station.
- Chief McElhaney explained the difference of 911 fire response protocol for the City of Ocala and the County. The City will send every unit to a call, which the County did in the past. However, Operations has evaluated the calls in detail to determine the best resources needed for the call. This is done by the dispatcher.

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- In the case of an MVA, medics on an engine respond to ensure scene safety, determine if there is need for fire fighting and begin life support prior to the arrival of the medical transport if they arrive on-scene first.
  - Chair Patricia Gabriel suggested that new members Adam Woods and Butch Verrando arrange to visit the Communications Center with Public Safety Communications Director Karl Oltz and to arrange with EMS Division Chief Hall to do ride-alongs.
  - Chief explained how the 6 positions per shift were eliminated. Close down 1 fire house and combine 4 people per shift.
  - Chief noted that he is very comfortable with eliminating the renovations of Weirsdale and East Marion stations.
  - Chief explained that the fire assessment remained level, as did the millage rate.
  - Chief his meeting with Chief Williams of OPD regarding efforts to combine dispatch. However, OPD recently spent over \$2 million on dispatch communications, but Chief Williams is willing to discuss consolidation in the future.
  - Butch Verrando questioned how Fire came up with the \$2 million budget cut. Chief explained that the County Administrator chose that dollar figure.
  - The board voted 3-2 to move forward with the Draft Five Year Plan. Adam Woods and Butch Verrando dissented, expressing a need to familiarize themselves with the department and the budget prior to voting for the plan.
  - The Board voted to meet on March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2011 @ 3pm to do a budget review before the budget is presented to the County Administrator on March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2011.
- B. Blue Ribbon Consolidation Work Group
- Chief McElhaney presented a letter from Blue Ribbon Consolidation Work Group Chairman Jim Payton to the Board of County Commissioners with findings and recommendations of the group.
  - The potential savings was estimated to be approximately \$900k.
  - There was no identifiable improvement or decline in Fire Rescue services if the consolidation was approved.
  - One option that seemed feasible to the group would combine Fleet & Dispatch.
  - Patricia Gabriel mentioned "Charter Government" and was requested to explain the term. She explained that Charter Government is where the citizens are in control of the vote, salaries, etc.

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- Chief McElhaney also shared that consolidating Fleet with Fire Fleet would save over \$360K.

#### C. Quarterly Report-Chief Azzariti

- Handouts were provided to board members.
- Butch Verrando asks about the number of interfacility transports? Dr. Fraunfelter stated that there may be 9 per day, which is a very low percentage. It is also a revenue generator.
- Ambulance billing brought in \$13.6 million last year.
- Each Commissioner appointed 1 person.
- Chief Azzariti discussed a hospital turnaround time of 30 minutes, which consists of arrival in the ER, updating the ER staff, securing the patient in a bed and the crew leaving the facility. A time delay is shown as 19.59.
- Charts were discussed that depict the relationship between transported patients, bills sent and revenue received.
- Butch Verrando asked about the collection percentage and bad debt.
- Chief McElhaney explained the payor mix and that 20-25% are self pay patients.
- Collection techniques include courtesy calls, payment plans with a minimum payment of \$25 towards bill and on-line bill payments.
- Chief McElhaney explained that when the Ambulance Billing department was acquired, billing was behind by 2 months. Now the billing is so consistent that the bill reaches the patient before the hospital invoice is received. These positive efforts are successfully bringing in \$1.5 million per month in revenue.
- Paul Clark discussed that many patients qualify for charity waivers and others may ignore the bill because they know they just can't pay it due to foreclosures, lay-offs, etc.
- Chief McElhaney shared that the BCC chose a collections company that requires an upfront fee. They currently have 2,500 accounts, but the billing department does the majority of the work. He would prefer to conduct in-house collections, but will monitor the statistics and progress of the collection agency.
- Chief McElhaney also suggested that the board members contact Chief Hall to see the operations of the billing department.

#### IV. Board Items:

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N/A

Adjournment-6:18

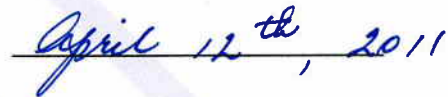
Next Meeting will be held April 12th, 2010 4pm, Fire Rescue Headquarters  
\*\*March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2011 Budget Review Meeting\*\*

Minutes submitted by Felicia Grasty

Approved:

Date:

  
Pat Gabriel, Chairperson

  
April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2011

"Meeting Needs by Exceeding Expectations"