**FITCH-RONA EMS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**

**Fitch-Rona EMS District**

**101 Lincoln St., Verona, WI**

**Thursday, July 17, 2025**

With a quorum present, the meeting was called to order at 7:01 PM. Roll Call Present: Jake Lepper, Derek Johnson, Stephen Fusco, Deb Paul, Sue Luginbuhl. Absent: James Roberts, Nichole Vafadari, Patrick Lytle, David Lonsdorf. Also present: Chief Patrick Anderson, Deputy Chief Jeff Dostalek, Deputy Chief Devon Anders, and Scott Yarbrough, Fitchburg FACTv.

**Public Comments:** None

**Pinning of Paramedic Intern Jazmine Garcia**

**Review and approval of meeting minutes from June 12, 2025**

Motion by Luginbuhl, Lepper second. *Motion carried*.

**Chief’s Report**

1. District Updates

Calls were down 2% last month, however the district is still at a 12% increase from last year. There were 24 times in June when all 3 trucks were out on calls. Mutual aid has been needed 26 times year to date when other districts had to come into the district to help out as all trucks were in service.

The Chief noted aging report is close to where we anticipated it to be. Cash on hand was discussed and the move of funds to WISC for post-retirement healthcare. Other purchases noted like the Oxygen Concentrator using FAP funds that was discussed previously.

July milestones – Dale Dow 28 years and today is his last shift. Many other milestones noted.

The Medicaid supplement program submissions for the years 2023 and 2024 were sent in. A rough estimate is a little over $20k from the state for each year to help recoup funds by the end of this year. This will be put into run income.

Shout outs mentioned and also noted that the Oxygen Generator is here, but onsite training is needed yet. A huge thank you to the firefighters who helped get the unit set up.

From Dale Dow’s retirement we went through the recruitment process and have hired Jessica Peters. She had been a previous LTE with Fitch-Rona and the Chief provided additional work background.

Union negotiations have started and we will see costs associated with negotiations/attorney fees soon.

The Chief answered and clarified questions regarding all trucks out and mutual aid.

1. Update to IGA discussions

The City of Verona did approve the document. The City of Fitchburg plans to vote on it August 12th. We have not heard back from the Town of Verona yet. There are some minor things that may be tweaked on the document.

**Review and approval of accounts payable checks authorized by Chief Anderson**

Question from Commission member Fusco regarding a double payment to Novair, which were correct as the Oxygen Generator was split into two payments. Further asked was what type of training was paid to Elevated Safety. The Chief provided an explanation of technical rescue training that was provided in this instance as well as the types of training provided (trench, from heights, from low to high, etc.).

Motion to approve by Fusco, Paul second, *Motion carried*.

**Resolution 2025-5 – Approval of GASB 54**

Chief explained the contents and changes to the report from last month.

Motion to approve Resolution 2025-5 GASB 54 by Lepper, Paul second. *Motion carried*.

**Presentation of the 2026 Operational Budget**

The Chief explained changes made from last month’s presentation. He also noted the apportionments for each municipality. The Chief noted and provided information on worker’s compensation budget. Overall expenses are up 5.2% as a best guess as contract negotiations and health insurance may make the budget go up or down yet.

Other big jumps is the cost of equipment and also seeing tariff charges show up.

Chief shared the apportionments from the Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA). Municipalities will be paying 47% of the operating budget for the district.

Chief also noted that the commission only approves the submission to the municipalities and they it goes through the normal budget process with each municipality.

Chief answered questions about some of the costs.

Chief also plans to submit the Peak Time staffing request to municipalities to put a 4th ambulance in service Monday-Friday 7am-7pm, which equates to 2.5 FTE which we plan to staff with part-time LTE staff. We’ve seen a 9% increase over the last 5 years and we are currently up 12% this year. The Chief went on to explain the costs and how they were arrived at. Starting LTE staff would cost $100K-$200 versus staffing with FT staff at a cost of $400K-$500K. This plan would help us take small steps to get to the permanent coverage we will eventually need. The budget asking to approve includes the concept, but not the numbers. That is separate.

In addition, the union has asked the district to look at a different staffing model. The Chief noted research supporting this type of schedule to allow more time off between shifts for mental health and overall well-being. This would require hiring 3 full-time staff at a cost of $364K. This would also require a contract negotiation as it would change staff schedules to a 36-hour work week. Deer Grove and Baraboo have gone to this schedule. Our current schedule has already impacted our recruitment as far as comments from candidates interviewed and their subsequent non-interest.

Questions asked and answered by the Chief.

Motion to approve the submission of the 2026 operating budget to the municipalities along with two staffing requests made by Luginbuhl, Lepper second. *Motion carried.*

**Other Business:**

None

**Adjournment:** Motion Lepper, Paul second to adjourn at 7:57 PM. *Motion carried.*

The next meeting will be held on August 14, 2025, at 7 pm.

Approved:

Derek Johnson, Chair