FITCH-RONA EMS ANNUAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
Fitch-Rona EMS District
101 Lincoln St., Verona, WI
Thursday, October 15, 2026

With a quorum present, the meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM. New commission member Allison Kirk introduced herself and was welcomed to the commission.

Attendance:

EMS Commission: Daniel Trickett, Jake Lepper, Mary Wienkers, Patrick Lytle, David Lonsdorf. Absent: Allison Kirk, Stephen Fusco.

Fitch-Rona EMS District: Chief Patrick Anderson, Deputy Chief Jeff Dostalek, Deputy Chief Devon Anders, Office Manager Michelle Wachter.

City of Fitchburg: Mayor Julia Arata-Fratta

City of Verona: Mayor Luke Diaz

Town of Verona: Supervisor Deb Paul, Supervisor Mike Duerst

Others present: Dr. Mancera, UW Medical Director and Scott Yarbrough, Fitchburg FACTv.

Public Comments: Town of Verona Supervisor Mike Duerst mentioned the upcoming Farm Safety Training for firefighters and paramedics at Mystic Valley Dairy on Saturday, March 13, 2026 from 8am-1pm with lunch served.

Welcome – Commission Chair David Lonsdorf

Review and approval of meeting minutes from October 10, 2025
Motion Lepper Second Lytle *Motion carried with a change to strike a partial sentence as noted by David Lonsdorf that was not finished just above "other business".*

Employee Recognition – Length of Service Recognition
Big milestones noted were Gary Salmela and Ryan Dockry who recently retired. It was noted that Deputy Chief Dostalek will retire in November after 11 years with the district. Also noted was paramedic Brandon Ryan (FT) with 15 years, Eric Anderson (LTE) with 5 years and Amanda Hollis (LTE) with 5 years.

Chief's Report
Chief Anderson noted that the district now services 55,574 residents across three communities. He expects calls to increase 2% over last year and noted that continual growth has exceeded local peers in the last six years. The Chief noted that the district is continuing to look at how the community is supported and focus on preventative care.

The Chief went on to breakdown the types of calls, response times and provided a heat map of where calls are concentrated. He spoke about peak time hours and the extra ambulance on the road as well as times when neighboring services needed to cover the district.

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Deputy Chief Dostalek Report
Deputy Chief Dostalek reported on the fall prevention and outreach done by the district. He discussed events and speaking engagements that have happened in the community and plans moving forward.

Deputy Chief Anders Report
Deputy Chief Anders reported on the training held with district staff over the past year and plans for ongoing training. He explained what some of types of training are and how often held.

Medical Director Update
Dr. Mancera explained his role with the district and the group of colleagues that are all involved through the UW Health system. He talked about interactions on calls with crews and the take aways for training and guidance.

Presentation of the 2027 Budget
Chief Anderson spoke about the capital equipment budget and the plans for funds moving forward. He noted that the "shell' of a new ambulance is currently $337,000 and another $120,000 to stock it.

He explained the operating budget and the reasons for increases or decreases over the 2026 budget. He thanked the municipalities who collaborated on the updated intergovernmental agreement changing the apportionment equation as it lowers the impact on changes on a year-to-year basis. He noted the portions each municipality has and the recommended reserve in the district based on auditor and municipal finance directors' recommendations.

He spoke more on the peak time ambulance and the need to convert part-time staff to full time by 2030 to have an additional ambulance on the road seven days a week.

The Chief answered many questions related to the budget and noted that the budget has been submitted to all three municipalities and that it is working its way through the budget process.

Other Business: None

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn by Trickett, Lepper second. *Motion carried.*
The joint municipal meeting was adjourned at 8:16 pm.

Approved:

David Lonsdorf, EMS Commission Chair

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