

**Burton Fire District
Commission Meeting – Audit
April 4th, 2025
Station 81 – 1200**

PRESENT: Commissioner Gary Bright Commissioner Madison Chisum Commissioner Stanley Ganshow Commissioner Thomas Peeples Commissioner Herbert Burnes	Chief Rountree Deputy Chief Webb Asst. Chief Still Capt. Kenyon
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The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Bright @ 12:10

Commissioner Gary Bright presented years of service awards to Commissioner Ganshow for 25 years and Chief Harry Rountree for 40 years.

Commissioner Chisum motioned to accept the agenda.
Commissioner Ganshow seconded.
Vote was unanimous.
Motion approved.

Minutes

Commissioner Ganshow motioned to accept the January 29th, 2025 meeting minutes.
Commissioner Burnes seconded.
Vote was unanimous.
Motion approved.

Financials

Commissioner Ganshow motioned to accept the November 2024 through February 2025 financial statements.
Commissioner Chisum seconded.
Vote was unanimous.
Motion approved.

Executive Session

None needed.

Old Business

Engine 83 – The engine was replaced and the final cost was \$69,000 after a core credit. The pumper is back in service and running well.

Mutual Aid – MCAS requested a renewed mutual aid agreement with the county fire departments. Although the original document was signed by the commission chairs the DocuSign was sent to the fire chiefs just to verify that the agreement was still in effect. Chief Rountree completed and returned the document.

K9 vehicle – Steve Kenyon and K9 Buzz are now members of LISH FD. Chief Kline and Chief Rountree will be negotiating the sale/transfer of the k9 vehicle (2023 F150).

Commissioner Burnes motioned to allow Chief to negotiate the sale of the k9 vehicle. If the negotiations result in a sale price less than \$50,000, Chief will bring it back to the board for approval.
Commissioner Ganshow seconded.
Vote was unanimous.
Motion approved.

Workers Comp – We received our experience modifier for the upcoming year. We got the great news that it fell from 1.28 to .71. This produced a quote of \$109k-\$123k depending on salaries. Last year's budgeted amount was \$183k. The new exp. mod gives us a significant reduction on our premium.

2026 Pumper – We are roughly scheduled for the pre-construction conference to take place in September with an estimated delivery date of April 2026.

End of year purchases- Chief Rountree provided a list of end of the year projects we are hopeful to accomplish if the budget allows. We are currently on pace to be under budget and feel confident that some or most of the projects can be accomplished before the end of the year.

- One immediate need that needs to be addressed is the repair/replacement of the concrete pad at station 84 (pinewood) and station 85 (Habersham). Chief Webb has received quotes for both stations. Station 85's cost would be \$19,250 for demo, haul off, reinforce the foundation, rebar and a wire mesh under the concrete. Station 84 would be \$25,450 for the main back pad plus \$7,250 for another small section.

Commissioner Ganshow motioned to approve the concrete replacement at the current quoted amounts with the expectation of using current budgeted funds. Should the need or other emergencies arise, funds may need to be pulled from the previous years contract funds and the commission would need to be notified.

Commissioner Burnes seconded.
Vote was unanimous.
Motioned approved.

- Air compressor filter – One other more immediate unbudgeted need/recommendation that we feel should be addressed is the addition of a third filter on the air compressor at station 84. The cost is \$3,000 and in the long run will save money due to extended time between servicing (from 50 hours to 75) and replacements.

The other items on the list will be considered in the last couple months of the fiscal year.

New Business/Fiscal Year 2026 budget

FY26 – What we know:

- Our budget is due to county finance by April 16th. To date, we have not received estimated mil values but say they will be provided next week.
- CPI for the county is 2.95% and the mil rate increase limit is 4.36%
- After a payroll study completed by Chief Webb and the evaluation of the number of personnel lost over the past 12 months we know we have salary issues to address.
 - o We will have lost 17 shift personnel from May 2024 through April 2025 due to a combination of reasons.
 - o Mid-April we will be down 6 firefighters.

- Currently we budget for 18 firefighters per shift. Since July, the district has not reaped the benefits of having those 18 spots filled due to recruit school, resignations and most recently EMT.

Budget proposals:

After the pay study a new entry level pay scale has been presented with the following adjustments:

- FF Recruit salary from \$41,730 to \$49,368
- FFI (no EMT) from \$43,817 to \$51,837
- FFII/EMT from \$46,577 to \$55,796
- ENG/EMT from \$48,906 to \$61,375

Our EMT levels would also be adjusted to:

- EMT \$1,200 annually.
- Advanced EMT \$5000 (\$3800 added to an already certified EMT)
- Paramedic \$6000 (\$4800 added to an already certified EMT)

Currently those levels are \$500/\$2000/\$3000.

CURRENT Burton Fire District personnel:

- Budgets presented today reflect salary adjustments based on rank.
 - The first budget presented results in a 3.5% overall increase in the budget and includes the plan of not replacing the 6 openings and having 16 firefighters per shift and payroll adjustments for the current firefighters. Staff personnel would see a 3.33% cost of living adjustment.
 - The yellow budget is a 6.4% increase overall and would be the same as above but replacing 3 of the 6 firefighters – bringing the shifts to 17 per shift.

Not having mil values at this time, Chief Rountree is not seeking an approved budget. Instead, In an attempt to align ourselves with the neighboring departments, asking permission to move forward in pursuing a salary adjustment for all shift personnel. We would not focus on filing all or some of the openings at this time.

Commissioner Chisum motioned to allow Chief and Deputy Chief to continue pursuing a salary adjustment based on the budgets and information presented today.

Commissioner Burnes seconded.

Vote was unanimous.

Motion approved.

The board will meet again on April 16th with the intent of approving a final budget.

EMT – 7 out of 8 firefighters who were in EMT school have taken and passed their National registry. We have one more to test.

Chief's Report

None

Adjournment

Commissioner Burnes motioned to adjourn.

Commissioner Peeples seconded.

Meeting adjourned at 2pm.

Next meeting – April 16th, 2025