



Hamilton County Fire Chiefs Association Board Meeting

Evendale Adm. Bldg.

Date: January 8, 2020

Time: 09:00

Attended by: Chief Rob Leininger, Chief Kevin Hardwick, Chief Todd Owens, Chief Denny Meador, Chief Doug Campbell, Chief Roy Winston, Chief Alfie Jones, Chief Mike Hauck

Call to Order

Chief Leininger called the meeting to order at 09:00.

President's Report

Chief Leininger discussed options for the transport of bariatric patients since Springfield Township will be converting M-379 into a standard transport unit during its refurbishment. Chief Hardwick stated he believed UC currently has a bariatric transport unit that can be dispatched in a manner similar to Air Care. We will get conformation on this and advise the membership.

Chief Hauck inquired about planning for the replacement of Command 400. The vehicle is over 18 years old, and typically a vehicle such as this would be replaced after 15 years according to FEMA replacement schedule. It was discussed that we would be looking at a regional/multi-jurisdictional approach to funding, with the possibility of securing federal and/or state funds being the primary source of money.

Chief Leininger deferred the remainder of his report for discussion later in the meeting.

Vice President's Report

Chief Hardwick reported that the James Cancer Center will be partnering with HCFCA's efforts to reduce the incidents of cancer in firefighters. They will participate through educational and research projects aimed at the fire service.

The fundraiser in memory for Tim Burns, who passed away from firefighting-related cancer, will be held at Topgolf in March. Details will be provided to the membership.

There will be a meeting on February 17 to begin developing a policy for move ups and station coverage during large incidents. The coverage issue is more prevalent on the western and eastern edges of the county as compared to the central corridor. Chiefs Rob Hursong, Mike Sifke, Sean Smith, Hardwick will be joined by Joe Siefert of HCCC to begin discussions.

Treasurer's Report

Chief Owens distributed the February financial report, which is attached to these minutes. He has completed the required financial reporting to the feds and state for 2019.

Invoices will be sent out next week to the membership.

A draft budget from the HCFIU has been received and is being reviewed.

Secretary's Report

Chief Meador reported the minutes from the January board meeting and January general membership were distributed via email.

Discussion/Updates/Action Items:

UC Mobile Stroke Unit

The mobile stroke unit will be housed at Springfield Township Station 79. The current date for starting regular operations is April 7, 2020. At this time, it will be staffed with 4 (driver, paramedic, nurse and CT tech) from 07:00-19:00 every day. Final details on integration with existing protocols and dispatching will be coming soon.

MDC Software Transition

The transition to the new MDC system is continuing to progress, and there are field units from Green Township and Deer Park-Silverton running a live version of the software to test the system and identify any issues that may need to be addressed. For example, there appeared to be a GPS connectivity issue that was resolved with the addition of an app to the MDC tablet. At this time HCCC would still like to be off of the old data radio system by June.

Mutual Aid Agreement

The current Mutual Aid agreement was sent out to all departments for review to determine if any changes needed to be made. At this time, it does not appear that there is a need to make any revisions to the document itself, however there was a suggestion to add an addendum to the agreement that more clearly defines mutual aid and automatic aid. For grant scoring purposes, documentation of automatic aid (given or received) is generally scored higher than mutual aid, and it may be of value to us if we

pursue regional grant opportunities. The executive board will revisit this topic at the March meeting.

Board Projects/Priorities

Chief Leininger presented an updated projects list for 2020, and assigned at least one board member to each project to be a liaison with an existing committee between that committee and the board, or oversee a project if no committee currently exists. The updated project list and appointed liaisons are attached to these minutes.

February 19, 2020 Meeting Agenda

Angie Black, Executive Director of the Mobile Stroke Unit will be invited to provide an update on the unit.

Old Business

There was discussion on the future location of USAR R-200. Due to operational changes at Station 79, the truck will need a new home. Ideally the location should be located near major highways to facilitate responses to the region. One suggestion was to find a garage or bay that could be leased by the HCFCFA to store the unit. Chief Hauk reminded the board that Scarlet Oaks had expressed interest in housing regional assets as part of the development of its new training facility. Its access to Interstate 275 would make it a good location for storage. The board will reach out to Great Oaks Fire and Safety Services Supervisor Johnny Mason to determine if there is still an interest in collaboration with the HCFCFA.

A copy of the letter from Chief Leininger to the HCFCFA members regarding housing R-200 is attached to these minutes.

New Business

None

Open Discussion

Chief Meador relayed a concern that arose at the Eastern District Work Group concerning the use of the emergency button on the radio. As the procedure states, a firefighter declaring a Mayday should first activate their emergency button prior to transmitting a Mayday. It was discovered through training in Blue Ash that when they are operating on a Northeast Communications fireground channel, activation of the emergency button moves the activated radio from the fireground back to the primary Northeast Communications dispatch channel. On an HCCC fireground, activation of the emergency button keeps the firefighter in distress on the fireground from which the signal was initiated.

The concern expressed in the Eastern District that command or other companies on scene would not necessarily be aware that a Mayday was being transmitted since it would be going out over the primary dispatch channel. It would then be up to the

dispatchers to notify command, causing a delay in getting rescue procedures activated. The Eastern Chiefs have suggested that the SOG be revised to have the Mayday declared prior to activation of the emergency button. The consensus of the executive board is that this SOG describes best practices that can be adopted by member departments, and that there may be specific instances where individual departments may need to tailor the SOG to meet their operational needs.

Chief Hardwick reported that Sharon Road will be closed between Chester Road and Morris for 60-90 days beginning on February 24 for road work. Departments that commonly use this road to assist Glendale should seek alternate routes. Contact Chief Hardwick for details on posted detours.

Chief Winston reported they are assessing staffing, and if they determine a need exists, the next recruit class will most likely start in July 2020 when the city begins its new fiscal year.

The Winter Symposium will take place on March 3 and 4. The executive board will explore the feasibility of sponsoring an HCFA delegate to represent our organization at the 2021 symposium.

Meeting adjourned 11:15.

Next Board Meeting March 11, 2020

Respectfully Submitted,
Chief Denny Meador, Secretary