

# SOUTH CAROLINA FIREFIGHTER MOBILIZATION

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## MEETING MINUTES

### Firefighter Mobilization Oversight Committee

Jan. 10, 2024 at 10 a.m.

Public notice of this meeting was properly posted at the South Carolina State Fire, 141 Monticello Trail, Columbia, SC 29203 and provided to all requesting persons, organizations, and news media in compliance with Section 30-4-80 of the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act. The meeting was also held via video and teleconference.

#### I. Call to Order and Welcome

The meeting was posted and advertised pursuant to South Carolina laws, rules, and regulations. The meeting was called to order at 10 a.m. by Chairman Jones.

Others in attendance included Stewart Robertson (SLED) and Jamie Helms (SCFFA). State Fire employees included Susan Duncan, Nathan Ellis, Chad Beam, Shelly Allen, Jason Pope, and George Stapleton.

A quorum was present. Chairman Jones welcomed the Committee members and guests.

#### II. Roll Call of Members

SC Firefighter Mobilization Committee											
Jonathan Jones	✓	Darryl Jones	V	Joe Palmer	✓	Bruce Kline	P	Tres Atkinson	V	Mark Davis	✓
Kim Stenson	V	Mike Bedenbaugh	P	Phil Jolley	✓	Charlie King	✓	Joey Tanner	A	Mark Keel	✓

✓ : Present P: Phone V: Virtual A: Absent

#### III. Approval of Agenda and Previous Minutes

Phil Jolley made a motion to approve today's agenda. Mark Keel seconded. The motion carried unanimously, without discussion.

Mark Davis made a motion to approve the Sept. 20, 2023, minutes. Phil Jolley seconded. The motion carried unanimously, without discussion.

#### IV. Chairman's Remarks

##### A. Committee Member Updates

Chief Jonathan Jones welcomed two new committee members:

- Chief Charlie King replaced Chief Steve Kovalcik.
- Chief Tres Atkinson replaced Chief Brian Leggette.

##### B. Financial Updates

Chief Jonathan Jones provided a budget update.

Each year, \$165,000 is transferred out of .35 funds for Firefighter Mobilization. The budget for FY24, is \$163,350. As of Nov. 30, there remains \$206,825.48 (cash on hand/carry forward surplus).

Non-recurring funds are being spent to replace USAR cache. Staff has spent \$2.75 million of \$12 million. The goal is to have all purchase orders issued by Sept. 30, 2024. Additionally, staff intends to spend \$1.5 in communications equipment and supply chain dictates delivery time. Also, several response vehicles have been delivered and by end of fiscal year, approximately \$3 million will be left in Operation funds.

The current House budget asks for \$1,054,332 in recurring funds to sustain the team long-term. This amount is also in the Governor's budget, but it is listed as non-recurring.

For regional teams, \$5 million was allotted. Chief Jones has approved approximately \$1.2 million in requests across the teams and there has been \$500,000 (approx.) in reimbursements.

Specific Regional Team funding/Task Force (TF) requests (approximate) include:

- TF-2: \$373,000 in requests and \$150,000 reimbursed, \$626,000 to be spent
- TF 3: \$63,000 (truck) in requests, \$59,000 reimbursed, \$936,500 to be spent
- TF 4: \$769,000 in requests, \$325,000 reimbursed, \$231,000 to be spent
- TF 5: No requests to date. Staff offered to meet with senior leadership.
- TF 6: \$25,324 in requests and \$974,000 to be spent

Teams are encouraged to continue spending non-recurring funds. Staff has asked for a spending plan from each Task Force. Chief Jones stated the reimbursement process is quick and completed within a few days (on average).

## **V. Mobilization Coordinator's Report**

Chad Beam provided a report to committee members.

Four quarterly training dates have been set for 2024. Each coordinator is to receive three days worth of requested and necessary gear.

The first awards dinner will be Dec. 5, 2024, in the US&R bay.

Beam stated the first time using the new mobilization system (Palmetto) was successful. The City of the Isle of Palms requested a high-water vehicle.

## **VI. SC-TF1 and SC-HART Update**

Chad Beam shared the following:

- Bamberg requested assistance and TF-4 was sent (rapid search).
- US&R drill conducted successful training utilizing a three-story parking garage collapse scenario. Regional teams were invited to attend.
- Sent 10 members to the SUSAR conference in Orlando and staff presented a few classes.
- Hosted a heavy rigging specialist training in 2023. It is the most expensive class (\$68,000) and certifies heavy rigging specialists. Two spots are offered to each team.
- Hosted managers retreat on campus and produced a three-year strategic plan.
- Staff is live on DB Solutions and it is being utilized
- Vetted 147 current team members
  - Moved to regional interviews that have been successful.
  - Brought in 14 new members/30 more to go through orientation

- Two on-boarding/orientations a year (January/July)
- Created core training list
- Working on a digital application for future use
- Cache replacement is ongoing.
- Took delivery of new logistics truck.

Regarding HART, a training class for 15 Apache pilots was held utilizing a local community pool. Recently met with SLED to discuss its new helicopter (Bell 4-12) as it will be part of HART program.

Chief Keel shared he looks forward to training, a quick response time, and the continued partnership. The helicopter is a state resource and is available to be utilized.

Staff conducted a recent outreach effort to work with the US Coast Guard and the new State Aviation Officer for the military.

The HART Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is to be renewed. Mission parameters will be expanded to include the ability to transport and insert equipment and resources required to conduct a rescue. It should be renewed by June 2024.

Chief Jones shared we are the first US&R team to use “Search and Rescue Common Operating Pictures” (SARCOP). It is a user-friendly and free resource used nationwide for search and rescue. It can also be overlaid with Palmetto.

## **VII. SC-IST (Palmetto IST) Update**

Shelly Allen provided an overview. There are 33 IST members and 70 percent are State Fire employees. Looking to expand teams to a 24-hour operation.

IST remains involved with the All-Hazards Incident Management Team Association. Additionally:

- IST specializes in US&R and trains to All-Hazards.
- Transferring Data to DB Solutions
- Updating Agency to Agency MOU and member applications
- Finalizing credentialing requirements and position specific certifications
- There is an IST and IMT collaboration and a plan to meet with teams.

The IST 2023 Support efforts included: CRR Summit, SOCON, Fire Rescue Conference, HART EX 2023 (Table Rock, SC), Hurricane IDALIA, Tame the Flame, SC-TF1 ORE, AHIMTA Mid-Year Academy, ERTF System Retreat, and producing the Division’s weekly OAP.

Shelly Allen shared a list of quarterly and scheduled training in 2024.

## **VIII. Old Business**

### **A. ERTF System Plan Update**

Chad Beam shared the ERTF System Plan outline has been approved and will be completed by May 2024. It will mimic the Mobilization plan.

## **IX. New Business**

### **A. Adoption of Updated FFMOB Plan**

Chief Jones explained the adoption of the Firefighter Mobilization plan. Many changes were grammatical. It is renewed every two years.

A motion was made by Chief King to adopt the updated Firefighter Mobilization plan. Chief Davis seconded. The motion was carried unanimously without discussion.

**X. Next Meeting and Adjournment**

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for May 2024 in the State Fire Marshal's conference room in Columbia. There will also be a virtual option.

Mark Keel made a motion to adjourn. Phil Jolley seconded. The motion was carried unanimously without discussion. The meeting was adjourned at 11 a.m.