



South Carolina Volunteer Strategic Assistance Fire Equipment Program

V-SAFE Panel Meeting Minutes October 22, 2020 at 2 p.m. Meeting via Zoom

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.

In accordance with the Governor's directives regarding social distancing, the meeting was held via video and teleconference.

I. Call to Order and Welcome: Chairman Keith Minick

The meeting was posted and advertised pursuant to all South Carolina laws, rules, and regulations. Chairman Minick called the meeting to order at 2 p.m.

The following panel members were present (see below) and a quorum was established. Additionally, LLR employees George Stapleton and Susan Duncan were present. Representing the SC Firefighters' Association were Chief Charlie King and Brick Lewis.

II. Introduction and Roll Call of Members

V-SAFE Panel Members									
Jonathan Jones	Z	Keith Minick	Z	Barry McRoy	Z	Tony Dicks	A	Tommy Keaton	P
Bill Dunlap	P	Steve Arsenault	P	Randy Swinton	P	Glenn Poole	Z	Thomas Rivers	A

P: Via Phone Z: Zoom A: Absent

III. Approval of Previous Minutes (Dec. 17, 2019) and Agenda

Barry McRoy made a motion to approve the Dec. 17, 2019, minutes and the agenda. Glenn Poole seconded. The motion carried unanimously without discussion.

IV. Previous Grant Recipients Update

a. Grant Amendment Request Update

Jonathan Jones reported two amendments had been requested and approved. These were from Branchville and Cheddar fire departments.

Additionally, the following fire departments returned unused funds:

- Cameron Fire Department returned \$361.00
- Bay Springs Fire Department returned \$2,021.76

Susan Duncan reported she notifies fire departments (via email) every six months to remind them reports are due. To date, 48 departments have filed a final report. The remaining 12 departments need to submit a final report.

V. 2020 Grant Cycle

Chief Jones reported \$4,178,142.08 is available for the next grant cycle. A recent bill was passed by the South Carolina Legislature to transfer accrued related funding from State Treasurer's Office to the V-SAFE program.

Regarding authorization to spend V-SAFE funds, it has not been approved by the South Carolina Legislature. However, Chief Jones recommended opening the application process for 30 days to be able to report to the Legislature how many fire departments (and total amount) requested funds.

For the next grant cycle, nearly 150 departments may be able to receive funding – depending on the amount requested (\$30,000 maximum).

A motion was made to open the application process Monday, Nov. 16, 2020, and close it Friday, Dec. 18, 2020. Panel members would have until Jan. 31, 2021, to review applications. Grant funding announcements would be made in February 2021.

Barry McRoy made a motion to open the application process Monday, Nov. 16, 2020, and close it Friday, Dec. 18, 2020. Panel members would have until Jan. 31, 2021, to review applications. Grant funding announcements would be made in February 2021. Glenn Poole seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously without discussion.

Chief Jones stated staff will work with DOTs to make ensure former grant recipients (two cycles) are not eligible to apply. The Panel did not have any recommended application edits/updates.

VI. Old Business

a. V-SAFE Grant Writing Workshop

Chief Jones stated a grant writing workshop was held during the Fire Service Improvement Conference in January 2020. It was well attended. Panel member Tony Dicks was present. Another workshop was scheduled during the Fire-Rescue Conference (June 2020). However, it was canceled due to COVID-19.

A workshop will be conducted in coordination with the ceremonial signing of the V-SAFE legislation. This will occur in the near future in Anderson, SC.

Zoom training sessions and/or recorded workshop training may be shared with interested parties. A list of helpful tips will also be compiled to help grant writers navigate the application process.

Barry McRoy thanked everyone for assisting with the passage of the V-SAFE legislation.

VII. New Business

None.

VIII. Next Meeting and Adjournment

A motion was made by Barry McRoy to adjourn the meeting. Randy Swinton seconded. The next meeting was not scheduled and is at the call of the chair. The motion carried unanimously without discussion.

The meeting adjourned at 2:25 p.m.