

Conway County Administrative Fire Board

August 25, 2026

The meeting was called to order at 5:01 p.m. All board members were present with Wes McKinney by phone.

Positive thoughts included;

- John Payne thanked everyone for the work done during the drought and the windstorm.
- Denise Carson mentioned Medtech's appreciation for the assistance with the numerous medical incidents. She also announced that we have six new EMT/firefighters with three more to test soon.
- Wes McKinney mentioned the recent responses to the Petit Jean fire. He also announced that the state has a new wildfire map that can be viewed by the public.
- Misty Sutton discussed a recent conversation she had with a fire department in another part of the state. The department hopes to copy Conway County's successes.
- The Conway Fire Department thanked everyone for providing coverage during the recent funeral of one of their firefighters.

Minutes from the last meeting were approved. Financial reports were approved after the following report from Chief Bray.

We have expended \$9,000.00 on a new repeater for the Lost Mountain tower after a failure. We have five vehicles that are currently out of service or have recently been repaired. Our repair Line Item will need to be increased by the Quorum Court. We are closely monitoring the fuel budget due to the increase in cost.

Discussion will be held with Hagans Dodge with some concerns on vehicle purchases.

Chief Darren Bray reported for the Chief's Committee.

E-Dispatch was discussed. The option was presented for stations to keep or release the program and use Active alert only. All the station chiefs .gov emails are active. Training requirements for 2027 incentive will be kept to the 2 required classes. The Lost Mountain tower will be upgraded with a signal booster. Training schedules were discussed.

Wesley O'Neal reported for the Cadet Program

Everything is going well. The latest training was Forcible Entry.

Chief Darren Bray reported for the Events Committee.

Assistance is needed at the County Fair booth. A Chilli cookoff will be held on October 17th at the Lonoke Baptist church.

Discussion continued on firefighters requesting back pay for LOPFI retirement. The Board agreed to follow the previous decision and not go back further than September 2011. A letter will be mailed to the firefighter explaining the decision.

Chief Bray reported on construction at the Blackwell Station and advised that we are almost ready to go to bid on the Jerusalem station remodel. Both stations will be required to have a storm shelter per state code.

Chief Bray announced that the Quorum Court Public Health and Safety, Fire, Personnel and Budget Committee have requested a meeting with the Administrative Board September 21 at 4:00 p.m. The Administrative Board will meet afterwards for the monthly meeting.

Denise Carson asked if we could set a schedule for the next few monthly meetings. The following was agreed.

- September 21 5:30 p.m. at the Courthouse
- October 14 5:30 p.m. at Blackwell
- November 16 5:30 p.m. at Overcup
- December 14 5:30 p.m. at Sardis
- January meeting will be set by Events Committee. Annual Banquet

John Payne, Co-Chair, announced that the board would go into Executive Session at 6:02 pm.

The board reconvened at 6:40 pm. John Payne announced that personnel issues were discussed and resolved. Standard Operating Guidelines were discussed as well.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:44 p.m.