

FIRE BOARD OF CONTROL MEETING - May 19

Meeting Purpose

Review department operations, finances, and long-term planning.

Key Takeaways

- **Advanced Training:** Staff are completing high-level certifications (Hazmat Tech/IC, Confined Space, Heavy Vehicle Rescue) to support the upcoming rescue truck's capabilities.
- **Strategic Refurbishments:** The department is refurbishing older, higher-quality trucks for ~\$400k each, a significant saving over new pumpers at ~\$1.1M+.
- **Financial Health:** The department is financially stable with \$61.9k in operating funds and \$792.6k in LGIP, from which payroll withdrawals have begun.

Topics

Financials

- **Operating Fund:** \$61,905.98
- **LGIP:** \$792,630.06 total
 - \$53,356 restricted by the board.
 - \$739,274.06 available for operations.
- **Revenue:**
 - FYTD: \$1,677,353.66
 - CYTD: \$1,301,000.04
- **Interest Earned (LGIP):**
 - This month: \$1,503.15
 - FYTD: \$13,873.13
- **Recent Expenses:**
 - V-safe Grant: \$14,700 used to purchase four sets of turnout gear.
 - Tahoe Reimbursement: \$2,373.46 received from Inman Community for a wrecked vehicle.

- Equipment Upgrades:
 - \$4,091 diesel bill prompted a shift to using the more fuel-efficient brush truck for non-fire calls.
 - A new battery-powered 9-inch rotary saw was purchased for the engine.
 - Two new radio heads were acquired for the tanker and brush truck.
 - Two new medical bags were purchased, standardizing equipment across all vehicles.

Equipment & Apparatus

- '98 Pumper: Returned from Gowensville; will be back in service tomorrow.
- Seagrave Pumper: Sent to Leslie for repairs (steering gearbox, A/C, air leak, discharge). Work is expected to start next week.
- M46: Still entering "limp mode." Tucker and Hunter will scan the truck upon their return to diagnose the suspected fuel issue.
- Rescue Truck Refurbishment:
 - Timeline: The original 6-month estimate is now expected to be closer to 12 months.
 - Status: The truck is stripped down, but new body parts have not yet arrived, delaying the rebuild.
- 2017 Pumper (For Sale):
 - Status: Three inquiries received, but no sale. The truck is currently out of service to prevent damage.
 - Contingency: If unsold in 120–180 days, it will be equipped and returned to service as a reserve unit.

Training & Staffing

- Daily Staffing: 5 personnel (3 on engine, 2 on tanker). The tanker can drop to 1 person to maintain a 3-person engine crew.
- Hazmat:
 - ~90% of career staff are Hazmat Techs.

- 2 Hazmat Incident Commanders (same level as other county departments).
- Confined Space Rescue: A grant-funded class in July will certify all full-time personnel to the technical level.
- Heavy Vehicle Rescue: ~7 personnel are now certified.
- EMT Certifications: 8 personnel are certified, with 2 more testing soon.
- Rookie Training: A 300-hour rookie book ensures new hires master department-specific procedures, from hose loads to on-scene readiness.

Long-Term Planning

- Strategic Refurbishments:
 - Rationale: Refurbishing older, higher-quality trucks is more cost-effective than buying new.
 - Cost Comparison: ~\$400k total cost per refurbished truck vs. ~\$1.1M+ for a new pumper.
 - Service Life: Each refurbished truck is expected to provide 10+ years of service.
- Future Apparatus Purchases:
 - Timeline: A new engine order is projected for ~2031, with a ~4-year lead time, to replace the current refurbis at their 10-year end-of-life.
 - Projected Cost: ~\$1.6M, reflecting anticipated price increases.
- Station 2 Apparatus:
 - Plan: The station will house the rescue truck, a medical QRV, and a brush truck.
 - Rationale: The rescue truck's 60-gallon CAF system provides the equivalent of 1,200 gallons of water, sufficient for initial attacks on small fires.

Dispatch & Mutual Aid

- New County Dispatch Protocol (Effective July):
 - Change: The county is implementing a "closest unit" dispatch system.
 - Rationale: This standardizes responses, ensuring citizens receive the fastest help regardless of department politics.

- Mutual Aid Strategy:
 - Concern: The board raised concerns about sending both Holly Springs units on mutual aid calls, leaving the district uncovered.
 - Response: The Chief clarified that dispatch is dynamic, based on call location and resource needs. Both units respond only when closest to a working fire or to cover a large, under-resourced area.

Website & Community Outreach

- Website Purpose: The site serves as a public repository for official documents (board minutes, agendas, budgets, audits).
- Content Expansion:
 - Apparatus: Pages are built; will be published after new photos are taken.
 - Personnel: The board agreed to only list elected officials for safety reasons.
- Community Events:
 - EMS Week: Gifts were provided for Medic 24.
 - Teacher Appreciation: A successful luncheon was held for local teachers.

Claire Edwards Scholarship

- Funding: The board approved allocating \$2,500 from LGIP interest earned in FY26 for the scholarship.
- Selection Process: The committee will meet virtually between June 9–16 to select a recipient, as members are unavailable for an in-person meeting.
 - Select a scholarship recipient during the virtual meeting.