



MINUTES FIRE SERVICE ADVISORY COMMISSION

August 21, 2025

Oconee County Administrative Offices, Council Chambers
415 S. Pine Street, Walhalla, SC 29691

MEMBERS

Commissioner Bruce Blackwell, Region 1
Commissioner Tony McAlister, Region 2
Commissioner Austin Grant, Region 3
Commissioner Bruce Brock, Region 4 (Absent)

Commissioner Terry Sanford, Region 5
OCES Director, Scott Krein
Fire Chief, Chris Smith

The Oconee County Fire Service Advisory Commission met at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers, 415 South Pine Street, Walhalla, SC, with 4 members present.

Press: Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, notice of the meeting, date, time, place of meeting and agenda were posted on the bulletin board at the County Administrative Offices, 415 South Pine Street, Walhalla, SC, and the County Council website [www.oconeesc.com/council]. In addition, it was made available [*upon request*] to the newspapers, radio stations, television stations and concerned citizens.

No members of the media were present.

Call to Order:

- Chairman Sanford called the meeting to order at 18:00.

Approval of Minutes:

- Minutes for the June 19th commission meeting were emailed out.
 - Motion by Commissioner McAlister to approve the minutes, second by Commissioner Blackwell. Motion approved unanimously.

Radio Communications Committee Report:

- Chairman Sanford was not able to attend the meeting today. Chief Smith does not have an update either.

Director Scott Krein's Report:

- We need to set the date for the incentive committee meeting. The proposed date was 9/9/25 at 6:00PM at the EOC conference room.
- In the last few weeks we have had three complaints about driving. Remember to drive with due regard and drive appropriately, especially when it comes to speed. Be mindful that school is back in session, do not speed through school zones.

Chief Chris Smith:

- RedNMX reporting software: We are still progressing with the new modules. Had a zoom last week and one today regarding getting the training module built out. It is a complex process. If you have any issues with the software or need some help, please reach out. The training and investigations module should be out soon.

A video recording of this meeting is available at www.oconeesc.com. Meetings have been live-streamed beginning January 17, 2017. Brought to you by Your Oconee.

- Responder app: If you still have members who need the responder mobile app, please reach out. The Active 911 subscription terminates at the end of August.
- Annual incentive deadline: Remember that the deadline to have all required documentation submitted for the incentive is September 30th.
- The new Highway 76 bridge opened this week. This will be a big help for Holly Springs and Long Creek to get assistance from Westminster and other areas.
- Operational changes occurring next week:
 - We will have a crew at West Union and a crew at camp to cover the areas around Walhalla. West Union fire station is undergoing some modifications.
 - Oconee 1 will be staffed out of Rescue 4 eventually.
 - Chief Hollifield is working out a schedule of when the county units will be visiting the area volunteer departments during the week.
 - After the first of the year, when Corinth-Shiloh has hired their paid staff, the county staff currently there will return and be housed at headquarters at night and be moved to Stations 12 and 13 during the day, 7 days a week.
 - Starting next week, the OCES firefighters housed at Corinth-Shiloh will be visiting Friendship twice a week to complete truck checks, cleaning, etc.
 - Nomenclature updates: The crew at Station 16 will go by "Oconee 5," the crew at 19 will be "Fire Station 19," Oconee 1 will still be "Oconee 1," and the crew at South Union will continue to be "Oconee 2" and will be a three person truck.
 - We submitted a new box alarm update to dispatch today which will go into effect soon.

Fire Representative Reports:

- Region 1: Commissioner Blackwell –
 - Several from the region went to three days of fire officer training with State Fire covering state statutes. Graduation will be September 22nd.
- Region 2: Commissioner McAlister –
 - Thank you to Chief Smith and Chief Krein for all of their hard work.
- Region 3: Commissioner Grant –
 - No report.
- Region 4: Commissioner Brock –
 - Not present, no report.
- Region 5: Commissioner Sanford –
 - Received a driving complaint to the City of Walhalla in regards to a Friendship fire engine speeding through town. Chief Smith will address the issue. They are also discussing removing the lettering from the trucks to eliminate future confusion

Next Meeting

- The next Fire Service Advisory Commission Meeting will be held on September 18th, 2025, beginning at 18:00.

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Adjourn:

- A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Blackwell and seconded by Commissioner Sanford and approved unanimously at 18:15

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