



MINUTES

FIRE SERVICE ADVISORY COMMISSION

October 16, 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

Commissioner Terry Sanford, Region 5 (absent)
OCES Director, Scott Krein (absent)
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:

- Vice Chairman Tony McAlister called the meeting to order at 18:00.

Approval of Minutes:

- Minutes for the August 21st commission meeting were emailed out.
 - Motion by Commissioner Brock to approve the minutes, second by Commissioner Blackwell.
 - Motion approved unanimously.

Radio Communications Committee Report:

- The plan is to begin utilizing the assigned operational channels beginning in January. The radio team is still working on reprogramming radios. All units will be dispatched on the main channel and will then be assigned an operations channel. This should free up traffic on the channels.
- Commissioner Brock stated that some stations in their area do not have Motorola or Kenwoods but have another brand of radio that they use for exterior operations only. Bruce will talk to Favion about this because he also has some of these.

Director Scott Krein's Report:

- Not present, no report.

County Fire Chief Report: Chief Chris Smith

- Awards Nominations and Dinner
 - We are seeking nominations for volunteer firefighter of the year, volunteer fire officer of the year, rescuer of the year, and rescue officer of the year awards. If you have nominations for these or any other nominations for life-saving awards,

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etc, please get those turned in. We need to receive all nominations by December so we have time to get the awards and plaques made.

- For life-saving awards, the incident date should be prior to December 31st 2025. If nominations are received for incidents dated after the first of the new year, those will be kept until the following years awards ceremony.
- Awards Dinner will be February the 26th at Walhalla High School.
- Received a lot of comments about the meal at last years awards dinner. We will try to rectify that and figure out a good dinner for next year while following the county's procurement guidelines.
- It has taken a lot of time to compile information this year for incentives because we have information in two systems, ERS and RedNMX. Hopefully in the next week or two, Chief Smith will be able to send out a list to the individual departments of who is missing what so there is time to get the required documentation turned in.

Fire Commissioner's Updates

- Region 1: Commissioner Blackwell –
 - Thank you to everyone who participated in Chief Brewer's funeral last month. We had a great turnout of firefighters and first responders. We had 17 or 18 stations represented with apparatus. Thank you for showing your support.
- Region 2: Commissioner McAlister –
 - A member was not able to pass a level 1 physical because he could not pass the hearing test. He will speak to Chief Smith about it. It may be possible for this member to qualify for a level 2 physical or visit an audiologist to get cleared for duty.
- Region 3: Commissioner Grant –
 - Physicals - The next Fitness Forum physical day has been moved from the 28th to the 30th of October.
 - New vendors for physicals are Fitness Forum and Upstate Medical Associates.
 - Thank you to OCES Employees Asa and Chris on the Engine 30 crew for responding to my motor vehicle accident last month. Their professionalism was greatly appreciated.
- Region 4: Commissioner Brock –
 - Nothing to report at this time
- Region 5: Commissioner Sanford –
 - Not present, no report

Next Meeting

- The next Fire Service Advisory Commission Meeting will be held on November 20th, 2025, beginning at 18:00.

Adjourn:

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

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