



MINUTES FIRE SERVICE ADVISORY COMMISSION

December 18, 2025

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

MEMBERS

Commissioner David Nabors, District I
Commissioner Truman Nicholson, District II
Commissioner Favion Skelton, District III
Commissioner Chief Travis Collins, District IV

Commissioner Chief Larry Wilkerson, District V
Commissioner Chief Chris Smith, At-Large
Commissioner Chief Kris Childress, At-Large

The Oconee County Fire Service Advisory Commission met at 6:00 p.m. on December 18, 2025 in Council Chambers, 415 South Pine Street, Walhalla, SC, with 7 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:

- County Council Clerk, Mrs. Jennifer Adams, called the meeting to order at 18:03.

Election of Officers

Mrs. Adams opened the floor for nominations of a Chair for this meeting only.

Mr. Wilkerson made a nomination, approved 7 – 0, to appoint Mr. Travis Collins as Chair for the December 18, 2025 meeting.

Approval of Minutes:

- Minutes from the October 16, 2025 commission meeting were emailed out.
 - Motion by Commissioner Nicholson to approve the minutes, seconded by Commissioner Childress. Motion approved unanimously.

Approval of 2026 Meeting Dates:

- Dates for the 2026 Meetings were emailed out.
 - Commissioner Smith stated that a Fire Conference is being held on the June meeting date, he would not be in attendance, along with other Commissioners.
 - Commissioner Wilkerson proposed the Commission add a Workshop meeting for January 10, 2026.
 - Chairman Nicholson made a motion to keep the June meeting date with the option to cancel if a quorum could not be established, as well as adding a Workshop meeting on January 10, 2026 with a location to be determined. Second by Commissioner Skelton.
 - Motion approved unanimously.

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.

County Fire Chief Report: Chief Chris Smith

- Chief Smith wished everyone a Merry Christmas and thanked each member for what they do for the County.

Fire Commissioner's Updates:

- Region 1: Commissioner Nabors –
 - Nothing to report at this time.
- Region 2: Commissioner Nicholson –
 - Departments are experiencing staffing coverage issues, along with challenges in recruiting and retaining members. One chief suggested implementing an incentive plan. There are also ongoing problems with training needs and scheduling that require improvement. Additionally, communication with dispatch and radio frequency coordination is an issue, leading to some districts lacking awareness of incidents within their own fire districts.
- Region 3: Commissioner Skelton –
 - Nothing to report at this time.
- Region 4: Commissioner Collins –
 - Commissioner Collins noted that the biggest concern with this region is station staffing, station coverage, and lack thereof.
- Region 5: Commissioner Wilkerson –
 - Commissioner Wilkerson noted that District 5 includes several departments, including Favion's and Corinth-Shiloh. Chief Brock reported ongoing radio issues similar to other districts and noted the County is considering installing a repeater on the Pioneer Water Tower pending approval. There is currently a need to identify who is leading this effort and establish a timeline for implementation.
- At-Large: Commissioner Smith –
 - Nothing to report at this time.
- At-Large: Commissioner Childress –
 - Commissioner Childress noted that it has been an honor to lead the Chief's Association this year—further adding that Steven Swafford will be taking over in January 2026, and expressed his appreciation for the trust everybody has had in him.
- Commission Chair, Chief Collins, noted that "Shop with a Hero" has raised over \$10,000 so far, with last week bringing in the highest amount at \$2,049. Participants are asked to help light up the parking lot with flashy lights for the kids, per Tara McGawan's request, and thanks were extended to everyone for their fundraising efforts.

Discussion Items:

Council Clerk, Mrs. Adams, provided information to the Commission regarding the process of adding "Discussion Items" to an agenda, noting new items could not be added during the meeting unless it was an emergent situation.

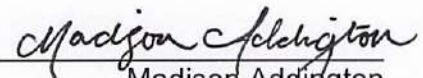
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Commission Chair Chief Collins made a motion to add a public comment section to their agendas moving forward, limited to 5 minutes each. Second by Commissioner Childress. Motion approved unanimously.

Adjourn:

- A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Collins and seconded by Commissioner Wilkerson and approved unanimously at 18:18.

Respectfully Submitted:


Madison Addington
Staff Liaison

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