



MINUTES

OCONEE COUNTY RESCUE SQUAD ADVISORY COMMISSION

Regular Meeting May 21, 2026

MEMBERS

Scott Shear, Region 1
Dean Jackman, Region 2 (Absent)
Steven Zahn, Vice Chairman, Region 3
Amber Olbon, Region 5
Christy Sabolsky, Region 6
Brady Land, Chairman, Rescue Chief's Choice (Absent)
EMS Director Mike Carroll (at Large)
Zac Smith, Rescue Chief's Choice

Guest: OCES Director Richie Caudill

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]. In addition, it was made available [upon request] to the newspapers, radio stations, and concerned citizens.

1. Call to order: The Oconee County Rescue Squad Advisory Commission was called to order by Vice Chairman Zahn at 1800 hours in Council Chambers, 415 South Pine Street, Walhalla. The Pledge of Allegiance was held.
2. Approval of the April 23, 2026 Minutes with the change of marking Amber Olbon as absent from the last meeting. This motion was made by Comm. Sabolsky & seconded by Comm. Shear. The members unanimously voted to approve.
3. There were no Public Comments made.
4. There were no commission member comments made.
5. Committee Reports:

Radio Committee: Comm. Zahn reported that they have met with Fleetalk & Palmetto 800. Suggested to the Law Enforcement Public Safety Committee to hire a radio engineering firm, not connected with a radio manufacturer, to do a coverage study & come up with suggestions so we don't continue to put more money into our old radio system unless that is the best alternative.

Dir. Carroll announced that as of approx. June 1, rescue calls will be continued to be dispatched on channel analog Fire 1, as it has been, but then rescue, and others dispatched to that call, will be directed to go to a digital channel for operations.

Comm. Shear asked what problems were found with the Rescue Repeater? Comm. Smith responded that he did not know.

Budget Committee: Comm. Olbon reported that they plan to meet in June.

SOG Committee: It was reported that the latest draft was sent out for review. Comm. Land is waiting for comments to be submitted. They will then be brought to the Rescue Commission & Rescue Chiefs for approval. Then to the Director for final approval.

Training Committee: Comm. Sabolsky reported that a training schedule will be distributed for next quarter.

6. EMS Director Mike Carroll: The new OCES Director Richie Caudill has been in place for a few weeks. Dir. Caudill's comments were as follows:

The SOGs will be approved as soon as all parties have signed them.

The radio system problems are being addressed. The county Council is concerned with this matter. Interoperability is important.

A dual axle trailer is available for one of the rescue squads.

Working on consolidating calls to lessen the load on the squads.

If there is anything that is needed, let him know.

Run Reports:

R-1 responded to 96% of their calls with 183 calls.

R-2 responded to 100% of their calls with 36 calls.

R-3 responded to 84% of their calls with 114 calls.

R-4 responded to 53% of their calls with 101 calls.

R-5 responded to 91% of their calls with 104 calls.

R-6 responded to 82% of their calls with 22 calls.

R-22 responded to 72% of their calls with 25 calls.

R-7 responded to 100% of their calls with 2 calls.

R-8 responded to 100% of their calls with 3 calls.

Comm. Olbon asked if we could do anything to help squads with low response. Dir. Carroll responded that the county is looking for \$ in the budget to assist with recruitment & retention.

Red MNX software is being updated to run more smoothly. Comm. Sabolsky requested a list of the different types of lift assist calls.

A Training schedule has been distributed & was discussed.

New Vehicle Update:

Oakway truck in the shop for lighting.

(Some items were unintelligible).

Rescue Squad Updates:

Region 1: Comm. Shear suggested recognition to responders for EMS week. Plan early in the year. Get HR to help with this. Do additional follow-up with County Council members concerning important points covered in the quarterly presentation to the Law Enforcement Public Safety Committee. Proposed-Getting life vests on all vehicles for water safety.

Region 2: Absent. Holding their own VFIS class in Salem Planning a dive class in Salem. New county boat to be located near Jocassee.

Region 3: R-4 struggling to get more members. Purchased a used response vehicle & it is in operation. R-5 has increased responses to calls & is looking for additional members.

Region 4: Working on recruiting & a website.

Region 5: R-7 has a new appointed Chief, Dan Picotte. He will be voted on at our next meeting. Open water class in July. CPR/FA class coming up. Rapid entry class in June. Some regulators serviced. Looking to sell some old regulators-moving to all Scuba Pro. Luis Oliva new Lt. Swim Tests coming up. 3 new members.

Comm. Olbon motioned to adjourn. Comm. Sabolsky seconded. All approved @ 1847.