**MINUTES**
**VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT AD-HOC COMMITTEE**
**July 14, 2026**

**Present**
J. Wes Wynne, Chairman
Chris Shoemaker, Vice Chairman
David Klein, Commissioner
Curtis Williams, Citizen
Henry DeGroot, Citizen
**Absent**
Ben Harris, Commissioner
Sam Thornton, Chief
Scotty Bush, Chief
Chris Edgerton, Chief

The Volunteer Fire Department Ad-Hoc Committee meeting was called to order by Chairman Wynne at approximately 5:35 p.m. in conference room 112.

**Invocation**
Mr. Shoemaker provided the invocation.

**Approval of Agenda**
Motion made by Mr. Shoemaker, seconded by Commissioner Klein, to accept the agenda. Motion passed unanimously.

**Approval of Minutes**
Motion made by Commissioner Klein, seconded by Mr. Williams, to accept the June 9, 2026 Minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

**Recognition of the Public**
None

Mr. DeGroot wanted to speak before the business began regarding the ideas that were previously presented as possible funding solutions. He noted that he did not agree with a competition between the stations to improve donation funds. He also did not agree that some stations be given more funding due to the number of calls taken. He would like to see all the departments get the same funding regardless of their call intake.

**Report of Chair**
Chairman Wynne discussed the Wheel Tax Waiver for VFD Members. The waiver would be awarded to members who are active, have good standing and have been a member for at least One year. He noted that HEMS passed the request without question. He discussed the challenges that the committee has faced regarding funding the true needs of the VFD.

Mr. Shoemaker discussed his research regarding the Referendum that has been proposed regarding a survey.

A professional pole was discussed regarding a fire tax and how to get a pole to the community as well as how to get community to participate in a pole.

**Old Business**

**a. Funding Ideas for VFD's**

- Donation Model
- Situs Based Model
- Fire District Model
- General Fund Model

It was discussed the model to focus on would be Donation Model, Situs Based Model and Fire Tax District Models would be the best option for Sumner County. The models were discussed at length. The discussion also included revenue and taxes that could be used to fund a County Fire Service.

Discussions were held on the requested Fire Coordinator and the specifics of their role with being a steward of the funding as well as answering to the Mayor and Commission.

Extensive discussions were held on the research done by Mr. Shoemaker who contacted other Counties and their funding efforts.

The committee agrees that the Fire Tax and/or Situs Based models are the best options for Sumner County. Chairman Wynne presented his approach to the committee. He stated his opinion would be a phased option.

This phased approach would allow the County to start small and work its way into an appropriate plan that gives the Fire Coordinator and the VFD's a good foundation.

Another recommendation was to develop a permanent committee or a subcommittee of the HEMS to oversee the Fire coordinator and the VFD. A motion was made by Mr. DeGroot, seconded by Mr. Williams, to develop a standing committee/sub committee to oversee the Fire Coordinator and the VFD stations.

An amendment was made by Mr. Shoemaker to say it would be a subcommittee for 12 months once the position is filled and staffed. Motion seconded by Mr. Wynne. More discussions ensued. The recommendations would be a committee of 7 individuals w/2-year terms to include 3 commissioners, 2 citizens w/ background in fire services, the Fire Coordinator, and 1 representative for VFD Fire Chiefs.

A motion was made by Mr. Shoemaker, seconded by Mr. DeGroot, to defer the creation of a committee to the next meeting. Motion passed unanimously. This item will be added to Old Business. Motion withdrawn.

The discussions moved back to the funding. A motion was made by Mr. Shoemaker, seconded by Commissioner Klein, to leave the VFD Funding on Old Business and defer further discussions to the next meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

**b. VFD Budgets**

Discussions moved to the VFD Budgets. Commissioner Klein states he continues to evaluate the individual budgets and equipment for each station but has not had time to complete the assessment. Motion made by Commissioner Klein, seconded by Chairman Wynne, to leave budgets under Old Business for discussion at the next meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussions moved to the next meeting date and time. Chairman Wynne stated that the committee may want to consider meeting 2 times/month to complete the recommendations from the Committee. A motion was made by Mr. Shoemaker, seconded by Mr. Williams, to meet on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday at 5:30 p.m. to complete the recommendations. Motion passed unanimously.

**Recognition of the Public (Non-Agenda Items)**

A motion was made by Mr. Shoemaker, seconded by Mr. Williams, to suspend the rules allowing the audience an opportunity to speak. Motion passed unanimously.

Chief Brad Williams requested to speak.

Kevin Baggert requested to speak.

Chairman Wynne brought the meeting back into session.

**Adjournment**

With no more discussion, Chairman Wynne called for adjournment. Motion made by Mr. Williams to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Klein, at approximately 7:20 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.