MINUTES
VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT AD-HOC COMMITTEE
August 25, 2026

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

Absent
Scotty Bush, Chief
Chris Edgerton, Chief

The Volunteer Fire Department Ad-Hoc Committee meeting was called to order by Chairman Wynne at approximately 5:30 p.m. in conference room 112.

Invocation
Commissioner Klein provided the invocation.

Approval of Agenda
Motion made by Commissioner Harris, 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 August 13, 2026, minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

Recognition of the Public
None

Old Business

a. Funding Ideas for VFD's

Chairman Wynne opened discussions for Funding Ideas. Discussions ensued regarding the expected timeline for the position. The committee picked up at the 9–12-month section of the timeline.

A motion was made by Mr. Shoemaker, seconded by Chief Thornton, to strike and replace bullet #9 to read "Begin developing service expectations for VFD funding contracts." Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Mr. Williams, seconded by Chief Thornton, to add 4 points in this section to be completed within the first year. 1. Identify Funding Source 2. Select Fire Marshall/Chief 3. Define zones and Contracts 4. Prepare the Resolution for the adoption of the Fire Department Recognition Act. Discussions ensued.

A motion was made by Commissioner Klein, seconded by Chief Thornton, to suspend the rules to discuss zones with Chiefs present. Motion passed unanimously.

After discussions, Chairman Wynne brought the meeting back into session.

Motion was amended by Chief Thornton, seconded by Mr. Williams to add status points to bullet #10. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussions moved to the 13–18-month section. Motion made by Chairman Wynne, seconded by Mr. Williams to strike bullet #10. Discussion continued succession planning. Commissioner Wynne amended to change from strike and amend to read "Document succession planning and leadership development within the VFD system," seconded by Chief Thornton. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Commissioner Harris, seconded by Chief Thornton, to change bullet #5 to read "Evaluate SOP/SOG alignment where interoperability benefits exist." Motion passed unanimously.

Discussions moved to the 19–24-month section. Motion made by Commissioner Harris, seconded by Mr. Williams, to correct bullet #8 changing "Fire Subcommittee and County Commission" to "HEMS Committee." Motion passed unanimously.

Under the Expected Outcome statement, Mr. Shoemaker made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Williams, to add "Implementation of Service Contracts with County Fire Departments will be completed. Discussion ensued. Motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Commissioner Klein, seconded by Commissioner Harris, to add under coordination a second question; "Are there measurable financial efficiencies gained?" Motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Wynne stated he would present a clean copy of the 24-Month Guideline at the next meeting to vote on the complete document.

New Business

a. Purpose of proposed Fire Sub-committee

Discussion was held on defining the purpose and function of the Fire Sub-committee. A motion was made by Chairman Wynne, seconded by Commissioner Klein, to strike the first paragraph and move the last paragraph to the top. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Chairman Wynne to add a third paragraph to read "This sub-committee shall make itself available to help the Mayor's Office identify and vet appropriate candidates for the position of Sumner County Fire Marshall/Coordinator in an advisory capacity for the position as well at the HEMS Committee." Motion seconded by Mr. Williams. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Chairman Wynne, seconded by Mr. Williams, to strike all the bullet points and leave 3 points, 1. Advise the Mayor's Office with vetting applications and interviewing applicants. 2. Continue to serve as an advisory board for HEMS and Fire Marshall/Coordinator. 3. Review progress on Road Map and provide recommendations on roadblocks. Motion passed unanimously

Chairman Wynne noted he would provide a clean copy of the document to be voted on at the next meeting.

b. VFD Budgets

Chairman Wynne moved discussions to the VFD Budgets. Commissioner Klein provided his report. He noted he was still working on the categories and would bring something to the next meeting.

Recognition of the Public (Non-Agenda Items)

None

Adjournment

With no more discussion, Chairman Wynne called for adjournment. Motion made by Mr. Williams to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Harris, at approximately 6:45 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.