

CITIZENS ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR OCOEE FIRE DEPARTMENT

Ocoee Fire Station 25
563 S. Bluford Avenue
Ocoee, Florida

February 13, 2025

MINUTES

6:00 PM

- **CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Legvold called the CACOFD meeting to order at 6:01 PM in the Station 25 Conference Room, located at 563 S. Bluford Avenue.

Chair Legvold led the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a Moment of Silence. **Recording Clerk Brown** performed roll call and declared a quorum present.

Present: Chair Legvold, Vice-Chair Ochoa, Members Richardson, Vaughn, Moyer, Fletcher, Washington, Cummins

Absent: Member Channell

Also Present: Deputy Chief Sorenson, Recording Clerk Brown

- **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

1. Minutes of the CACOFD Meeting held on November 14, 2024

Motion to Approve November 14, 2024, Minutes: Moved by Member Washington, seconded by Vice-Chair Ochoa. Motion carried unanimously.

- **OLD BUSINESS**

1. 2025 Budget

Chair Legvold confirmed that the full budget in the amount of \$2,000 is available.

- **NEW BUSINESS**

1. Retirement Breakfast

Chair Legvold led the discussion on the breakfast for the Fire Department retirees. He recommended it be held in August at The Breakfast Club, and advised a maximum of \$500 was allotted in 2024. A brief discussion ensued. **Chair Legvold** agreed to initiate the planning process with Vice-Chair Ochoa assisting.

Motion: Hold the Retirement Breakfast in August at The Breakfast Club, with a budget not to exceed \$500; Moved by Member Richardson, seconded by Member Cummins; Motion carried unanimously.

2. Firefighter of the Year

Deputy Chief Sorenson spoke briefly about the two nominees and answered member questions. Discussion ensued regarding local organizations that previously recognized Firefighter of the Year recipients.

Chair Legvold explained prior voting processes. A numerical identifier was placed on both nomination forms and passed to each member to read; a vote ensued. The nomination form with numerical identifier #1 passed the vote 5 to 3.

3. Smoke Detector Blitz

Chair Legvold reiterated that anyone interested in volunteering for the Smoke Detector Blitz needs to register with the American Heart Association. The event will take place on Saturday, February 22, 2025. On the day of the event, members should wear their CACOFD board shirts and arrive at Station 25 by 8:00 AM.

4. Family Fun Day

CACOFD Members inquired about the Family Fun Day event; brief discussion ensued. **Deputy Chief Sorenson** advised that a table and chairs would be provided by the Fire Department, and the members need to bring the Board's tent and public relations materials. The event will take place on Saturday, April 12, 2025, from 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM at Bill Breeze Park.

Chair Legvold requested a CACOFD Member shirt be ordered for Member Cummins.

Motion: Purchase a CACOFD shirt for Member Cummins; Moved by Vice-Chair Ochoa, seconded by Member Washington; Motion carried unanimously.

• DEPARTMENT UPDATES

1. New Employees

Deputy Chief Sorenson advised that there is one new hire currently in operations training, three new firefighters are slated to start in March, and two sponsorships begin school in April.

2. Training and Miscellaneous Items

Deputy Chief Sorenson updated the Board with the following:

- Tower Truck, Special Operations, and Ropes training are all in progress.
- The Fire Department received upgraded EMS equipment, including Life Paks, power-load systems, and stretchers.
- Lynx donated a Mass Casualty Bus to the City, to be stored at 301 Maguire Road. The bus is being customized and wrapped; it will be part of the EMS Response Initiative to be staffed in the event of mass casualties. **Deputy Chief Sorenson** answered members' questions about the bus and discussed training and rehab opportunities.

Board Members and staff discussed the following:

- **Member Washington** suggested first aid visuals for the community.
 - **Chair Legvold** described the Live Fire training that took place with surrounding municipalities at Apopka Fire Department. He gave accolades to the crews that attended, advising that his son is an Apopka Engineer and was impressed with Ocoee Fire Department staff.
 - **Deputy Chief Sorenson** addressed Board Members' comments regarding the construction at the intersection of Bluford Avenue and Silver Star Road.
 - **Chair Legvold** informed the Board that Ace Hardware would like to donate smoke detectors and fire extinguishers to be used as prize giveaways during the Open House event. He suggested that these items be tagged with a card to show who donated them and further advised that some Ace Hardware employees may potentially be available to volunteer at the event.
 - **Member Richardson** commented on the quarterly mailer that the Fire Department sent out with the most recent water bills. He opined that the background color made it difficult to read and the font was too small. He suggested utilizing larger fonts and including less information with future mailers to make them accessible to all residents.
 - **Member Vaughn** expressed gratitude for the Fire Department's support during his wife's celebration of life; he was grateful for the two engines present at her service.
- **ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion to Adjourn: Moved by Member Richardson, seconded by Vice Chair Ochoa; Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 6:41 PM

ATTEST:

APPROVED:



Recording Clerk

Chair

