

April 25, 2024

The Rusk County Emergency Services District #1 met on this date at 5:42 p.m. for a Workshop meeting with Board President David Burks presiding. Board Members present were Brian Bathke, Jiffy Dukes, Wayne Griffith and Gloria Dooley. The Workshop meeting was opened with a prayer from Chief Marvin Vinson followed by the pledge to the American flag. Departments represented were Eastside, Crims Chapel, Carlisle, Rusk County Fire and Rescue, New Salem, Mt. Enterprise and Reklaw.

Under New Business, the first item was to appoint, by Board consensus, a workshop Chairperson. A motion was made by Board Member Gloria Dooley, and duly seconded by Board Member Brian Bathke, to appoint Board Member Jiffy Dukes as Chairperson. The motion passed with a unanimous vote of the Board.

Chairperson Jiffy Dukes called for requests from departments and the first department to respond was New Salem VFD to tell the Board that they were applying for a large truck grant from TFS; the Mt. Enterprise VFD also responded that they were also applying for a large truck grant from TFS but also wanted to know if the ESD was going to let them keep at least one of their old tenders while waiting on the grant, and if they received a grant if they would be allowed to keep the tender currently on it's way from Florida rather than having it reassigned to another department. The Board pointed out that the question of keeping one of their old tenders or retaining the tender arriving IF they got a grant in the next 3-5 years was not part of this workshop and would be an item on the next ESD agenda for the Board to discuss with the department. The department representative pushed to get the Board to decide but, again, the Board told him that no decision would be made at this workshop and that this request was not a part of the discussion on what to purchase this year. The Rusk County Fire and Rescue unit then requested a 3/4T truck to replace their 1995 and that they would sale 3 of their vehicles when replacing; Carlisle VFD requested a tender to replace their 2006 unit; Reklaw VFD requested a new brush truck chassis to replace their 2004 brush truck (would reuse the bed and skid from the old truck); and the Laneville VFD requested a new brush truck to replace their oldest brush truck. Currently there is \$400,000.00 budgeted for vehicles purchases in 2024 so after discussion, it was suggested that these 4 departments bring to the next ESD meeting prices so the Board could determine a path forward. Carlisle was also asked to see if there were any good used tenders available. Board Member Gloria Dooley will contact Siddons-Martin to see if they had any used tenders coming in that could be certified as acceptable.

Possible recommendations for purchase are: Carlisle VFD-tender; Rusk County Fire and Rescue-3/4T extended cab 4x4 truck; Reklaw VFD-chassis for brush truck; and Laneville VFD new possible wet/rescue truck. Recommendations for purchases will be made at the May ESD meeting based on pricing and current funding available. Departments making requests were told to explore all possibilities on purchasing a vehicle so that as many requests as possible can be met.

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As there were no public comments, a motion to adjourn the workshop was made by Board Member Gloria Dooley, and duly seconded by Board Member Jiffy Dukes. On a unanimous vote of the Board, the workshop meeting was adjourned at 6:43 p.m.

Secretary

President