



LAGRANGE FIRE DISTRICT

504 Freedom Plains Rd • Poughkeepsie, NY 12603



MINUTES BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS Regular Meeting – October 28, 2025

ATTENDEES: Chairman Marc Komorsky
Commissioner Robert Taft
Commissioner Barry Ward (*absent*)
Deputy Chief Scott Merritt
Secretary Bria Le
Commissioner Anthony Pignataro
Commissioner Vincent Tierney
Chief Anthony Champion
Deputy Chief Bryan Zittel
Attorney Michael Hekle (*via Teams*)

At 6:12 PM, Chairman Komorsky called the Board of Fire Commissioners Regular Meeting to order for Tuesday, October 28, 2025, and led the Pledge of Allegiance. He welcomed everyone in attendance.

MINUTES: - 10/7/25 Regular Meeting minutes.

Upon a MOTION made by Commissioner Pignataro, and SECONDED by Commissioner Tierney, the Board RESOLVED to approve the 10/7/25 Regular Meeting minutes. Pignataro – Aye, Taft – Aye, Tierney– Aye, Chairman Komorsky - Aye. **Motion Carried.**

CORRESPONDENCE:

- A thank you letter was received from the NYS Police Troop “K” for their assistance and presence during the wake and funeral for Sergeant Station Commander Nigel Barnett.
- A thank you card was received from the Town of LaGrange Recreation Department for the Fire District’s participation in the Fall Festival.
- A check was received from the LaGrange Fire Department for AEDs in the amount of \$7,000.00.

Upon a MOTION made by Commissioner Pignataro, and SECONDED by Commissioner Tierney, the Board RESOLVED to deposit the \$7,000 check from the LaGrange Fire Department into the General Fund. Pignataro – Aye, Taft – Aye, Tierney– Aye, Chairman Komorsky - Aye. **Motion Carried.**

Chairman Komorsky asked that a thank you letter be sent to President Kaiser, Scott Price, and the volunteers for these funds

- Two checks from Utica National Insurance Group for dividends were received in the amounts of \$2,333.35 and \$5,208.34.

Upon a MOTION made by Commissioner Pignataro, and SECONDED by Commissioner Tierney, the Board RESOLVED to deposit both Utica National Checks in the amounts of \$2,333.35 and \$5, 208.34 into the General Fund. Pignataro – Aye, Taft – Aye, Tierney– Aye, Chairman Komorsky - Aye. **Motion Carried.**

- A check was received from NYS DOH for EMT recertification reimbursements in the amount of \$1,400.00.

Upon a MOTION made by Commissioner Pignataro, and SECONDED by Commissioner Tierney, the Board RESOLVED to deposit the NYS DOH check in the amount of \$1,400.00 into the General Fund. Pignataro – Aye, Taft – Aye, Tierney– Aye, Chairman Komorsky - Aye. **Motion Carried.**

BoFC Regular Meeting 10/28/25

Please note that this meeting was conducted in person at 504 Freedom Plains Road in Poughkeepsie, NY AND open for public viewing and/or listening via Microsoft Teams.



LAGRANGE FIRE DISTRICT

504 Freedom Plains Rd • Poughkeepsie, NY 12603



ROOM USE REQUESTS:

- None.

OLD BUSINESS/UNRESOLVED ITEMS:

- Station 1 Building Update – Chairman Komorsky stated in Commissioner Ward's absence this will be held until the next meeting. Secretary Le stated there were some change orders for Station 1. They were brought up in July and the Board was in agreement with them at that time. It was regarding consolidating the electrical paneling and moving some wiring. The cost of the work goes over the allowance in the contract, it does require a motion to approve the additional monies to be spent. A full copy should be in everyone's packet for the evening. She stated the total amount on the first one is \$12,054. The amount for the second one is \$6256. Commissioner Pignataro stated he thought they approved an amount over and above the contract amounts to take change orders into consideration. Secretary Le stated the largest allowance was with the general contractor. There were four separate contractors and there were lower amounts for all of those. There were four separate contracts. This is from the electrical and the allowance was only \$7500.

Upon a MOTION made by Commissioner Tierney, and SECONDED by Commissioner Pignataro, the Board RESOLVED to approve an additional change order number EC-CO-001, in the amount of \$6256, which brings the new sum up to \$13,256. Pignataro – Aye, Taft – Aye, Tierney– Aye, Chairman Komorsky - Aye. **Motion Carried.**

Upon a MOTION made by Commissioner Tierney, and SECONDED by Commissioner Pignataro, the Board RESOLVED to approve an additional change order number EC-CO-002, in the amount of \$12,054, which brings the new sum up to \$125,310. Pignataro – Aye, Taft – Aye, Tierney– Aye, Chairman Komorsky - Aye. **Motion Carried.**

Chief Champion stated he will need to coordinate the stove, sink, and refrigerator out of that so that ACA can get in and do what they need to do. Commissioner Taft asked if he knew who was going to be doing it and Chief Champion said not at this time.

Commissioner Tierney stated that the trailer has been winterized. They should have dropped off the chlorine tablets as well. The asbestos team was out there on Monday. He asked if the secretary got the electrical part all taking care of and Secretary Le stated the contract has been sent to the engineer. She does not know if the electrical contractor has been scheduled to come out yet. Commissioner Tierney stated the asbestos vendor stated it will take about three weeks to gut everything out and clean it up. Secretary Le will check with Jonathan tomorrow to see if he has a date. Chairman Komorsky stated he would like to see it move faster rather than slower. His personal goal is to get the guys out of the trailer as soon as possible.

- Station 2 Septic – Commissioner Tierney stated the good news is they are advertising the bid. The technical specs are complete and Chairman Komorsky should have something in his e-mail to sign off on. Chairman Komorsky stated he would like everyone to see the bid spec as well. Secretary Le stated MJ Engineering has sent out the bid spec earlier today so she will forward it to everyone. He stated they do need a motion to complete the update to the plans and the cost of \$3500 because that was above and beyond what they had originally asked for.

Upon a MOTION made by Commissioner Tierney, and SECONDED by Commissioner Taft, the Board RESOLVED to approve additional changes made to the blacktop, monument, and the landscaping at Station 2 in the amount of \$3500. Pignataro – Aye, Taft – Aye, Tierney– Aye, Chairman Komorsky - Aye. **Motion Carried.**

BoFC Regular Meeting 10/28/25

Please note that this meeting was conducted in person at 504 Freedom Plains Road in Poughkeepsie, NY AND open for public viewing and/or listening via Microsoft Teams.



LAGRANGE FIRE DISTRICT

504 Freedom Plains Rd • Poughkeepsie, NY 12603



Secretary Le stated for the record, the bids are due back by November 14, 2025, at 3 PM to Station 2 and they will be opened at that time. Commissioner Pignataro asked if this was one of those things that MJ would coordinate with and be here at that time and Secretary Le said yes. Chairman Komorsky asked if these were sealed bids and Secretary Le said yes. Chairman Komorsky asked Attorney Hekle if these need to be opened at a public meeting and Attorney Hekle said there is no requirement to open them at a public meeting, but they should at some in public session identify the bids. Chairman Komorsky said they always do that part.

- Station 2 Brick Pointing – Commissioner Tierney stated a few of the commissioners have tried to contact the vendor. He has said he will come out but he has not yet shown up. Chairman Komorsky suggested if they cannot get a committed date from the vendor, they will have to start the process all over again.
- Station 3 Mold Remediation – Chief Champion stated he is working with Commissioner Tierney, who has reached out to a few different vendors for quotes. There have been some additional numbers provided to him to try to contact. It is still sealed and no one is entering that space. Commissioner Tierney stated they awarded the mold mitigation to one person so that is done. The problem is while he was working there, he discovered he had to move tile and the mastic underneath is asbestos. Now they are getting estimates for the asbestos remediation. He has asked two vendors at this point and is asking for a third. He does have one estimate already and will be getting to work. He should have this all by the next meeting. Chairman Komorsky stated this is indoor work so it can be done anytime. Commissioner Tierney stated it should not be too expensive as it is a small area.
- Staffing Community Events – Chief Champion stated the town's Festival of Lights is coming up towards the end of next month. In the interim, they're waiting for the insurance requirement for Vasser Brothers Medical Center for the joint Day of National Injury Prevention from 3 PM to 7 PM for a joint car seat inspection with them. Firefighter/Paramedic Edgar is one of the contacts and providers for this. Firefighter Edgar and numerous members of the firehouse are going around to various daycares and schools doing fire prevention. Chief Champion is getting very positive feedback from everyone. Chairman Komorsky asked if the car seat event was going to be limited to Firefighter Edgar and the paid staff. Chief Champion stated in order to do the safety inspection, you have to be certified with the class and Firefighter Edgar is the only one that is at this time. Chairman Komorsky stated he is concerned about liability, so they need to make sure that if anyone else is going to participate, they need to be certified. Chief Champion stated that when the next class comes up he will bring forward some more names. Firefighter Edgar stated that currently it is only himself and Firefighter Sassi who are car seat certified. Part of the plan is that they will be bringing in some outside instructors as well. They should all be insured as well. Chairman Komorsky thanked him for doing this. A lot of people rely on this service. Firefighter Edgar suggested having some PR on the website and Chairman Komorsky stated they should get some photos of him with car seats up on the website. Chairman Komorsky asked if there would be volunteers participating in the light parade. Chief Champion stated he has not put it out to the membership as of yet. In the past, they have put in an engine and allowed the on-duty staff to bring the apparatus. The Town has been gracious enough to put the fire district equipment first, so if they need to respond they can peel off and take care of what they need to. In years past they

BoFC Regular Meeting 10/28/25

Please note that this meeting was conducted in person at 504 Freedom Plains Road in Poughkeepsie, NY AND open for public viewing and/or listening via Microsoft Teams.



LAGRANGE FIRE DISTRICT

504 Freedom Plains Rd • Poughkeepsie, NY 12603



have covered the cost of the individual if they have to come back on overtime to drive the apparatus. The others that rode on the vehicle were not covered for that expense.

- Lexipol Policy Updates – Chief Champion stated they have not been able to coordinate a meeting with the Lexipol representative due to some issues that came up on their end schedule wise. The Chief is waiting to see if they are on the schedule for this Thursday or next Thursday. Commissioner Tierney stated they did have one meeting with Justin and he would like to get the policies that they are engaged in completed by the end of the year. He does believe that they should have some working sessions with additional people to get through those. The Chief may have to call some special Commissioner meetings to get them all together to review the policies. Chief Champion stated he has to schedule a meeting with Attorney Hekle because there were 3 to 5 policies that he is currently reviewing. Then they need to get those to Justin and then get a few more to legal for their review. Attorney Hekle asked how many more policies there were. Chief Champion stated anywhere from 25 to 75 more. Commissioner Tierney asked if Attorney Hekle was finding a lot of issues with what they are getting that is supposed to be pre-vetted by Lexipol. Attorney Hekle stated a few technical issues and incorrect legal references that need to be corrected. This is not completely out of the norm knowing the size of the documents. The bigger issue is that the best practice for practical applications of it is a little more difficult to make it work specifically for LaGrange. It is a pro forma template that you need to make sure works for your agency and your staffing issues. Attorney Hekle stated he is ready to take some more policies. If they are ready for his review. Chairman Komorsky stated his concern is that if there really are that many policies he does not see how that will be done by the end of the year. He asked what they do at that point. Chief Champion stated that Justin has said that Lexipol would like to have those be done in that timeframe, but there is some leniency to go past that with them. It will depend on how far they get by the end of the year. Commissioner Pignataro asked what is driving Justin to get it done by the end of the year. Attorney Hekle stated that will allow him to go onto another client. Commissioner Tierney stated he does not know what their contract is with Lexipol if it is only to a certain time. Chief Champion stated the on boarding process is one year. They have been working on this since probably the second quarter of this year. They did pay for it and got onboard in December of 2024. It took them a while to get up and running. Chairman Komorsky asked how they handle this if it goes beyond the point. Chief Champion stated they may grant a grace period. Justin has mentioned they do allow them to go a little beyond on boarding, if necessary. Chairman Komorsky asked Attorney Hekle if he could take this on to help get this pushed through a little more. Attorney Hekle stated he does believe they are a good chunk into it and he wants to utilize them as much as possible as the district has paid for that. His office can certainly help tie up any loose ends. Chief Champion stated they can also implement a weekly meeting to keep pushing through as well. Once they make the changes they submit them to legal for review. When it comes back from legal they make those adjustments and then move along. They can increase their meeting times to make sure they are pushing for faster. They do know how to make changes internally in the system if they need to. If Lexipol decided at the end of the year they are hands-off, the district will still work on the policies and be able to make the changes after legal makes their recommendations on whatever policies are in process. Chairman Komorsky asked if that means that even if Lexipol doesn't review or approve the policy the District can still implement it and Chief Champion said yes. Chief Champion stated they are taking all policies that Lexipol has already vetted and making them applicable to LaGrange. Commissioner Tierney stated the Chief could do that. Some of the policies have to go to the commissioners for review and

BoFC Regular Meeting 10/28/25

Please note that this meeting was conducted in person at 504 Freedom Plains Road in Poughkeepsie, NY AND open for public viewing and/or listening via Microsoft Teams.



LAGRANGE FIRE DISTRICT

504 Freedom Plains Rd • Poughkeepsie, NY 12603



recommendation as well. Chief Champion stated he, Commissioner Tierney, and Commissioner Ward could sit down and do the same procedure with the policies for Lexipol as well. Lexipol will still monitor the policies to make sure that all of the legal parameters are met that they have added. They will make any recommended changes, and then the Chief would have to go back through those policies that they have pushed out to the membership regularly and review them to make sure that these new changes are in line with the thought process and applicability of the LaGrange Fire District. At that point they can say yes and accept it and push it out to the membership or they can make additional changes before it gets sent out. That goes beyond the one-year implementation period. Deputy Chief Zittel stated they have not gone over the policies that are mandatory negotiable yet and those are the ones that will take time. That will add delays as well. Attorney Hekle stated there will be a good chunk that will be excluded from that, but a fair portion of the handbook will have to go through that process. They should still finalize the document internally as a Board and as senior leadership and then present it. His suggestion is they get through that portion with Lexipol's help and then go to the next step. He stated he does not believe that Lexipol's deadline is connected to the Union's review. Chief Champion will check with Justin to see if they can start meeting every week.

- Operational Software Overview - Chief Champion stated they are continuing to update and work through understanding First Due. They did have a couple of work meetings with them for scheduling and training, and they will have another one scheduled for 12 November to continue to better educate them in the use of these program and find feasible uses for LaGrange. Chairman Komorsky asked if they like this program so far and if it is working okay. Chief Champion stated it is different so it will take some getting used to. It is finding how the system works that fits them the best and really looking at the end result of what they want and then equate it to how to get the system to do that. Chairman Komorsky asked what his thoughts were on getting the system completed because everyone else still needs to be trained on it. Chief Champion stated everyone is on board with the scheduling piece and there is about 90% compliance with individuals going into First Due and reviewing their timecards on a weekly basis. That has gone up from 50% and he applauds the staff for going in and doing that. It is very helpful. Commissioner Pignataro asked if there was any update on the data transfer and the ability to get reports. Chief Champion sent an e-mail to the rep and they're looking for some clarifying questions and examples of exactly what data the Chief is looking for. He has given an outline of what they are able to find. They just have to find the missing data to compile the reports. There may be some they have to build from scratch so that will take a little longer and he does not have a timeline yet. Chairman Komorsky stated concentrating on the timecard issue is paramount. Chief Champion stated there have been parameters that have been spelled out to the staff that encourages them to review their timecards appropriately. Chairman Komorsky asked if the people who are historically late with doing this have caught up and Chief Champion stated yes, there is a 50% improvement. Dutchess County Emergency Response has put out a notification that they are officially moving away from Alpine Software and will be changing over to Chief 360. It is very close to what Spotted Dog used to do. They're looking for everyone to get on board and there should be a meeting within the next week or so with one of the County cars to start coordinating LaGrange to get an account so they will not have to pay for it. This program does help with seeing who is coming and other pertinent response information. Chairman Komorsky asked who the liaison was for this and Chief Champion stated Bill Beale. Commissioner Taft asked if that meant that First Due was going to be their internal and Chief 360 was going to be their external response and Chief Champion said yes.

BoFC Regular Meeting 10/28/25

Please note that this meeting was conducted in person at 504 Freedom Plains Road in Poughkeepsie, NY AND open for public viewing and/or listening via Microsoft Teams.



LAGRANGE FIRE DISTRICT

504 Freedom Plains Rd • Poughkeepsie, NY 12603



Chief Champion stated that Chief 360 was one of the vendors he looked at for station alerting. He is waiting to get additional information to bring that back to the Board as well. Mr. Lenkowski asked if this was going to include a wallboard and Chief Champion stated he believes it will have that capability.

- Diesel Tank Accessories– Chief Champion stated this is a work in progress. He stated he is waiting on cost for Mafia blocks as bollards have turned out to be a bit time consuming so they will be checking that option as well. Chairman Komorsky asked how many they would need to get and Chief Champion stated, for around the diesel tank, they will probably need three or four.
- Grant Update – Chief Champions stated they are in a holding pattern until the government shutdown is over.
- Grant Writing Update – Deputy Chief Zittel stated there is nothing new at this time as they are also waiting for movement with the government shut down.
- Building Repairs/Repair Requests – Chairman Komorsky asked if there was anything they had not already covered. There was nothing.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Station 3 Santa Run – Chairman Komorsky thanked Michael Patrimoni for doing a great job with this every year. The information is in everyone's Board packet for the evening. The Santa run for 2025 will be on Saturday, December 13. Chief Champion asked if they could have it in executive session discussion on this topic.
- Resolutions for the Commissioner Elections – Chairman Komorsky read the following resolution: Be it resolved that the annual fire district election will take place on December 9, 2025, between the hours of 6 PM and 9 PM with voting to take place at Firehouse 2 at the location of 504 Freedom Plains Rd. in Poughkeepsie, New York. Be it further resolved that each candidate shall submit a petition setting forth the desired candidacy subscribed by 25 qualified voters of the LaGrange Fire District to the fire district office no later than November 19, 2025, at 5 PM. Therefore be it further resolved that the election inspectors/ballot clerks be compensated in the amount of \$100 for their services and attendance at the annual election and prepare the registers on November 24, 2025. Be it further resolved in case any of members appointed herein are unable to assume or perform the duties required of them, this Board of Fire Commissioners will appoint alternates for resident electors. Be it further resolved that a clerical help is deemed necessary, this Board of Fire Commissioners will consider the appointment of such clerical persons, upon request of the chairperson of the Fire District Board of Elections. The 2025 election board shall include a chairperson at Station 2, which is Bria Le; election inspector Station 2, Lisa Owens; election inspector Station 2, Debbie Frymuth; and a ballot clerk Station 2, Eileen Cirigliano.

Upon a MOTION made by Commissioner Taft, and SECONDED by Commissioner Pignataro, the Board RESOLVED to approve the above resolution as presented. Pignataro – Aye, Taft – Aye, Tierney– Aye, Chairman Komorsky - Aye. **Motion Carried.**

BoFC Regular Meeting 10/28/25

Please note that this meeting was conducted in person at 504 Freedom Plains Road in Poughkeepsie, NY AND open for public viewing and/or listening via Microsoft Teams.



LAGRANGE FIRE DISTRICT

504 Freedom Plains Rd • Poughkeepsie, NY 12603



- Website Refresh – First Arriving - Secretary Le stated there is an issue with this that she would like to discuss with legal so she asked that this could be discussed during executive session.
- Chairman Komorsky stated he had an issue. He would like to discuss during new business. There will be a meeting on November 10 at the Arlington High School starting at 6 PM, regarding a project in town center. The Planning Board in the town of LaGrange has allowed the applicants to expand their building heights and their building size to three stories. The commercial buildings will now be approximately 72 feet long. Chairman Komorsky did reach out to the Chief and the Deputy Chiefs to attend that meeting and any commissioners who would like to attend as well. He asked Attorney Hekle what specifically they would need to do if they were all congregating at a Town meeting. Attorney Hekle stated that is their meeting and not the district's meeting so he is not concerned about making any advertisements on the fire district end. Chairman Komorsky stated the second aspect is that they have some concerns as to their ability to handle a project like this. He did speak with the Chief staff regarding this. The applicant's response is that they understand the fire district would need a ladder truck as it is three stories, but neighboring departments have one so they could use mutual aid. Chairman Komorsky stated they have concerns about the size of the staff if there is a major catastrophic event either EMS wise or on the fire side. The attitude from the applicant on that is that that is what mutual aid is for as well. Chairman Komorsky has requested that the Chief, himself and, the Deputy Chiefs speak to the State Fire to get their input on how to handle this because they cannot count on mutual aid. If Arlington is using their ladder truck, LaGrange does not have access to it. They cannot count on mutual aid for EMS, because if they are busy. It is on LaGrange. They are trying to get a letter put together for the Planning Board members and the Town Board members prior to that meeting. He asked if there was anything that Attorney Hekle felt they should be doing or if it should be discussed during executive session. Chairman Komorsky stated it is an open meeting for anybody who would like to attend. It is a question and answer session. Attorney Hekle stated any specific questions can be addressed during executive session, but the district is allowed to participate in these meetings. They are allowed to identify, from a fire safety perspective, concerns and considerations that would relate to the community that it serves. An idea of an advanced letter is a good idea so they can discuss that piece in executive session. He feels it is a good idea and they can discuss the legal aspects of it during executive session. Chairman Komorsky wanted it mentioned in public that the fire district has concerns regarding EMS and fire concerns that they would like to address with the applicant, Planning Board and Town Board.
- Chairman Komorsky stated the Town of Poughkeepsie has an application to change the zoning on a piece of property right over the border of LaGrange by Page Lumber on the other side of the rail trail to put in a lithium ion battery storage facility. It will be a fairly large one. It will be under or near the Central Hudson power lines. There was a meeting that the Chief attended after speaking to the Town Supervisor to find out what it was all about and to get the logistics of this project. As a result, the Chief put together a meeting with the Board of Fire Commissioners, the Town Supervisor, and a representative or employee of the company that is putting the LLC together that will come into the Town of LaGrange. There are concerns that the Fire District has in regard to safety. This particular one is in a neighboring town. This is a lithium ion storage facility. Everyone has heard what happens when these facility's batteries go up in flames, as they are prone to explosions and possibly prone to terrorist acts. Chairman Komorsky stated they do not know what they would need to fully deal with this but would like to make sure they stay on top of this issue.

BoFC Regular Meeting 10/28/25

Please note that this meeting was conducted in person at 504 Freedom Plains Road in Poughkeepsie, NY AND open for public viewing and/or listening via Microsoft Teams.



LAGRANGE FIRE DISTRICT

504 Freedom Plains Rd • Poughkeepsie, NY 12603



They would be called in on mutual aid not to mention the toxic smoke being blown in this direction, which could be very dangerous. There is also the explosive aspect of it and LaGrange has to protect its residents. He asked if this is something that should also be discussed in executive session. He stated they have already attended two meetings and there is a third meeting that the Chief will be setting up with the employee of this company, who is a retired FDNY firefighter who will tell them that there is nothing to worry about, and why it should be put in place, and how safe it is. Chairman Komorsky wants to make sure that they are protecting their staff because they know how dangerous a catastrophic event could be, as well as taking care of the residents. He is concerned they won't be prepared for this situation with the equipment, safety plans, and manpower. Attorney Hekle stated this seems like it is a little further along so it should be discussed as a legal discussion in executive session. Chairman Komorsky stated he wanted to make it known in public session what some of the issues they are going to be facing are.

- Commissioner Tierney stated they should discuss Station 1 issues. They are trying to get the big room completed by the end of the year and getting ready to move the guys back in. They're getting rid of the asbestos and having it mitigated. He feels it is time that they engage an engineering firm to start setting up the continuation plan. He did provide documents in their packet for tonight. They need to start planning the next phase for Station 1. Chairman Komorsky stated that is titled Phase 2. There is paperwork from MJ Engineering in the packet and it was also sent out via e-mail. Chairman Komorsky asked Attorney Hekle, in Treasurer Pozniak's absence, if they are able to approve this particular dollar amount on a motion. Attorney Hekle stated he does not believe they can separate the three tasks and he does believe that the amount exceeds the required dollar amount. Chairman Komorsky stated they have already started Phase 1, so he is unsure how they handled \$85,000 price tag on Phase 2. The breakdown is Task 1 is surveying and mapping for \$9000. Task 2 is \$11,000 for geotechnical investigations. Task 3 is a concept design phase for \$65,000. They have already taken the building apart and hollowed it out. Attorney Hekle asked if Phase 1 had already been approved and Chairman Komorsky said yes. Attorney Hekle asked if when they approved Phase 1, did they already have Phase 2 and Phase 3 considered or is it all new information that they're looking at. Commissioner Taft stated they did have Phase 1 approved and then were going to come over to Station 2 and do a Phase 2 at Station 2 and then go back to Station 1 and do Phase 2 and 3. Then they decided instead of hopping between stations, they would have Station 1 totally completed first. Attorney Hekle stated he wanted to get Treasurer Pozniak's perspective, knowing that they have already approved Phase 1. Chairman Komorsky asked if he could be contacted via phone to find out now. Chief Champion asked if some of the items they are looking for have already been conducted by the current project. Chairman Komorsky stated there are some. Chairman Komorsky stated part of the push is because they are paying for the trailer which is a hefty fee. They are paying for pump outs every single week, which is also a hefty fee. They just paid for the winterization of the trailer. Chairman Komorsky stated personally he would like to get this building completed so they can be done with the trailer and the pumping. They can't get rid of the trailer right away. Commissioner Pignataro stated they were all under the impression that the trailers were done when phase 1 was done. There was never a consideration for keeping them beyond that. Commissioner Tierney stated hopefully when the asbestos is gone staff will not mind cooking in the bays or somewhere else so they can be back in the building. He is hoping they can get rid of it. Chief Champion stated he called Treasurer Pozniak who did not answer. If he gets a reply back, he will let the Board know. Commissioner Tierney asked what the Attorney's concerns were and Attorney Hekle stated he does not want to split this up, but that they may have to. He

BoFC Regular Meeting 10/28/25

Please note that this meeting was conducted in person at 504 Freedom Plains Road in Poughkeepsie, NY AND open for public viewing and/or listening via Microsoft Teams.



LAGRANGE FIRE DISTRICT

504 Freedom Plains Rd • Poughkeepsie, NY 12603



wants to get the Treasurer's perspective on it, if the nature of the work makes it fall under some exception. He wants to have the benefit of having spoken to Treasurer Pozniak first. As the Attorney read over the quote, he sees the dollar amount in its totality, which may put them in a different position than they thought initially. Not that they were going to do the phases but that they were going to approve them individually. He is concerned that there may be bid obligations. Commissioner Pignataro stated he is unsure how they cannot move forward without bidding this out. Secretary Le stated these are professional services that don't necessarily have to be bid out but there are other considerations to be discussed. Chairman Komorsky stated they will table this until they hear back from Treasurer Pozniak. Treasurer Pozniak did call in and was put on speakerphone. Treasurer Pozniak stated this is one of those situations where there is no official requirement to seek competition. They could choose to if they wanted to. He stated in terms of whether or not they have to go out to bid, in his opinion the answer is no. They do need to approve this as it is not a budgeted item. They do need to approve the scope of services and the fees. He does not believe there is any requirement to seek other bids or proposals if they choose not to. Attorney Hekle asked if the exclusion for this would be because they are professional services, and Treasurer Pozniak said yes. Attorney Hekle asked if they need to look at these three tasks combined. Treasurer Pozniak stated he believes all of those things he would consider professional services. He stated he would need a resolution explaining where the expenditure of the funds would come from and must this was an already approved project. Chairman Komorsky stated it was going into the general fund. Treasurer Pozniak stated it would either come from the general fund or be lumped into the land and building project. Chairman Komorsky stated that information has to come from Treasurer Pozniak. Treasurer Pozniak stated they do not have the resolution for the building and land yet, so right now they would have to approve the expenditure and sometime in the near future they need to go back and approve all of these things with a proper resolution for a permissive referendum. Chairman Komorsky asked Treasurer Pozniak to work with Attorney Hekle on that. Treasurer Pozniak stated he believed this could be done through the building and land resolution once they get the bid spec for the construction work. They need to understand if they are doing it before that resolution there's always the risk that it fails, then the money would have to come out of the general fund. They are getting close to the point where if it were to fail they would be hitting the general fund balance between the Station 1 work and the Station 2. He stated they should get the permissive referendums done relatively soon. Chairman Komorsky stated they should have the bids for the septic by November and that should be the last part that they need. Chief Champion asked if because the survey and mapping has already been done by someone else that dollar amount can be taken out of this proposal. Commissioner Tierney stated this includes the parking lot and the black topping because they think there is a drainpipe outside in front of the station. Chief Champion stated they have a general area of where it is in front of the bays.

Upon a MOTION made by Commissioner Tierney, and SECONDED by Commissioner Taft, the Board RESOLVED to engage MJ Engineering for Phase 2 Concept Design - Task 1 survey and mapping for \$9000, geotechnical investigation for Task 2 at \$11,000, and Task 3 design concept for \$65,000, for a total contract amount of \$85,000 for work at Station 1. Pignataro – Nay, Taft – Aye, Tierney– Aye, Chairman Komorsky - Aye. **Motion Carried.**

BoFC Regular Meeting 10/28/25

Please note that this meeting was conducted in person at 504 Freedom Plains Road in Poughkeepsie, NY AND open for public viewing and/or listening via Microsoft Teams.



LAGRANGE FIRE DISTRICT

504 Freedom Plains Rd • Poughkeepsie, NY 12603



REPORTS: (by officers present)

- **Treasurer Pozniak** - Treasurer Pozniak was not present, so there was no report.

- **Chief Anthony Champion** –
 - **LOSAP** -Chief Champion stated he passed out a copy of the 2024 record for LOSAP to everyone. It highlights all of the membership as to whether a member is in good standing or not as of the end of 2024. They are coded and NP means new member probation and PP is performance probation. There are recommended members to be dropped. There are no members on personal leave. There is a medical leave category for those who are out but can't vote. Chairman Komorsky asked if they really only have three active volunteers and Chief Champion said yes, there are three on the counts that are active. They have met the standards of the department and the district to be a member in good standing. There are 11 that are in performance probation because they have not met either the mandatory training requirements, the number of meetings that need to be attended, the drills, the standbys, or the calls. A member in good standing needs to attend 10 meetings in the course of a year. They must attend OSHA safety and OSHA hazmat. They must attend 60 calls in the year. They must attend a specific number of drills and training. A life active member has to do half of that. If they are not meeting those requirements, they fall into the category of performance probation. The members have all received their standings for 2024. He has asked to meet with the department president and vice president to discuss some options to better incorporate the volunteers. When these original rulings were put forward there were more membership, more meetings, and more opportunities. Some of those things have waned over the years. He will hopefully meet with them within the next month or two to get some process moving forward, so that hopefully 2025 will have parameters that will allow for more volunteers to be in the active column and less in the performance probation based on the fact that they could not make a meeting. He will not sacrifice the training. Chairman Komorsky stated as a past volunteer here it is very upsetting to see only three active volunteers. There is a lot of time and efforts and financial responsibility on the districts side to run the LOSAP program. He is all in favor of volunteers but the cost and time that it takes for three active members to run this program is overwhelming. He is not by any means dismissing any volunteer. It is a nice benefit, but there is a cost versus the return and in his mind they are not getting the return. This is a subject they have spoken about in the past with trying to get people involved. LOSAP is a benefit to try to get people energized to do this. It is terrible to say just three members. Chief Champion stated you have to be vested in it for five years to be able to participate later, and for a lot of the younger members, this is not a benefit that they see at this time. It is a more tangible environment and culture and the long-term benefit is not seen or realized. Commissioner Tierney asked for a breakdown of the charts prepared by the Chief. They did discuss the 2% foreign fire tax that comes from insurance and the distribution of it. That money does not come from the district, it comes from insurance and the district holds up and then disperses it to the volunteers. It is based on active membership. Those funds go to the company and that money is earmarked for the benefit of all the membership. It cannot just benefit one person. Chief Champion then explains the difference in the LOSAP program. Secretary Le stated they will still continue to have LOSAP expenses because they have invested in it over the years and there are some people that are recipients as former members that are collecting benefits. For 2025, the contribution

BoFC Regular Meeting 10/28/25

Please note that this meeting was conducted in person at 504 Freedom Plains Road in Poughkeepsie, NY AND open for public viewing and/or listening via Microsoft Teams.



LAGRANGE FIRE DISTRICT

504 Freedom Plains Rd • Poughkeepsie, NY 12603



for LOSAP was \$92,000. There is an additional life insurance for the current active members. Commissioner Pignataro stated that there are other members who are volunteers who respond to calls, but are just not meeting the criteria to be considered active members. Chief Champion stated if an individual is on performance probation for two years then the companies should be dropping that member. They have to be making their training to make themselves aware of what they need to do to be safe to go home to their families and the Chief is not willing to adjust the training requirements or lessen them. Commissioner Pignataro stated when he started the list of people that were on the list of volunteers but not responding was three times as long as it is now so he gives the Chief and whoever assisted a lot of credit for working with the departments to gets the rolls to actual numbers. Chief Champion stated if they are keeping this program, one of the steps he would like to address would be the requirements in relation to meetings and potentially calls. They do want the volunteers to come to calls. He will be meeting with department heads to try and hypothesize and work some avenues out to make some changes to get people off of probationary performance and onto active. There could be a decision made to not invest any new members into this LOSAP program moving forward but maintain it for the members who are participating and vested. Chairman Komorsky stated there were a few things brought to his attention. He stated there has to be better oversight on who actually goes to the call, goes to the meeting, and attends a full training session. This has been brought to his attention by numerous people at numerous times and he asked if the Chief and Deputy Chiefs could figure out a way to have a better reporting situation. Chief Champion stated they have discussed this with the department Executive Board and they have suggested possibly a reduction in the requirement of amount of meetings for attendance. The other avenue to address these concerns is that the social officers that are holding the meetings take more responsibility in keeping a better eye on those who are signing in and having better parameters in place. Maybe requiring people to attend three quarters of the meeting. They have to attend an entire training session in order to get credit for that. The VFIS and LOSAP both say that a volunteer responding from their home is able to get credit whether or not they make it all the way to the call. There needs to be some kind of clarification that they need to respond to the station within 24 hours to have the officer of that call sign that someone has actually made the effort to get to the call. They cannot show up to the office 8 months later with paperwork saying they were at 10 calls in February, for example. Commissioner Pignataro stated you should expect the same level of professionalism as you have from the paid staff filling out their time cards. Commissioner Tierney asked if the Chief and the staff can get together and make some recommendations for changes. Chief Champion stated it is the department that that has to approve any changes. Commissioner Tierney asked what leverage they have if the volunteers refuse to fill out paperwork promptly. Chief Champion stated the Board would need to consider whether they want to continue to invest in new individuals coming in. They are committed to those that are vested. There are departments out there that are not using LOSAP at all. Commissioner Tierney asked Chief Champion to plan on coming back in within the next month or two with his proposed changes. Chairman Komorsky feels that Scott Price and Jeff Kaiser (Department officers) should both be involved as well. Commissioner Pignataro asked if any of the volunteers have come to the Chief expressing interest in becoming an officer. Chief Champion said yes. Commissioner Pignataro asked if that was an executive session type of discussion. He understands the

BoFC Regular Meeting 10/28/25

Please note that this meeting was conducted in person at 504 Freedom Plains Road in Poughkeepsie, NY AND open for public viewing and/or listening via Microsoft Teams.



LAGRANGE FIRE DISTRICT

504 Freedom Plains Rd • Poughkeepsie, NY 12603



quandary the Chiefs are in but he also wants to encourage volunteers. He asked if there was something they could do to help someone who expresses that interest. Chief Champion stated the State is coming up with new parameters and there are some existing ones in place and he does have volunteer members taking on a mentorship roles guiding newer volunteers. They have been approached and offered Fire Instructor classes so they can continue to teach and do that. His goal is that any training in the district is to benefit the entire district. Deputy Chief Zittel stated there is specific qualifications to be an officer and there are very few volunteers who meet those qualifications. They have spoken to the one or two that have been around making progress. It does take a long time. Chief Champion stated they will sit down and speak with anyone who expresses interest. Chief Champion stated he does not feel there is a void of leadership within the volunteers. He reviewed the chain of command. He does understand the comradery of having a volunteer officer for the volunteers. A lot of the officers here said they were volunteers prior. There are non-leadership roles that are leaders, such as mentorship in both volunteer and career. Secretary Le stated the Board has to approve the LOSAP report as it is presented so it can be posted for the 30 days and they can follow through with the rest of the required process.

Upon a MOTION made by Commissioner Pignataro, and SECONDED by Commissioner Tierney, the Board RESOLVED to adopt the LOSAP report. Pignataro – Aye, Taft – Aye, Tierney -Aye, Chairman Komorsky - Aye. **Motion Carried.**

- Civil Service- Chief Champion stated he has been in conversation with Civil Service. Reviewing the parameters, qualifications, and requirements for a Firefighter/Paramedic Examination. They have not finalized yet. It is likely that test will be announced early in the second quarter of 2026.
- Updates – Chief Champion stated there was some training from the Chiefs Council on the topic of battery storage systems. He did give the information to Deputy Chief Zittel. They will be looking to attend one of the tours of a battery storage system in New York City. They will also be having a conversation with the retired FDNY Lieutenant who is the liaison and lead in setting up the NFPA standards. Chairman Komorsky asked if they were invited to the discussion part. Chief Champion stated it is an Energy Storage In Action 2025 Site Tours. There is a list of various locations and a list of things you should attend. The Chief is still working on having a meeting with that representative here in LaGrange. This is an opportunity to meet with him outside of that. Chairman Komorsky asked if the Chief could e-mail that information to the entire Board for their review prior to responding. If anything, getting that retired FDNY individual here would be a good opportunity.
- Equipment - Chief Champion asked Captain DeMilto to give a report on the status of repairs as well as an update on the new hire. Captain DeMilto stated Kyle is working out wonderfully. He started last month and got right to work on getting rid of some things that had been hanging over their heads for small repairs that they can do in-house. He took care of a lot in the first week or two. They are now in the process of getting saws serviced, valves taken care of, and some things on the engines that were safety issues that need to be fixed. He is cutting back the hours of time during the week to work the Saturdays that

BoFC Regular Meeting 10/28/25

Please note that this meeting was conducted in person at 504 Freedom Plains Road in Poughkeepsie, NY AND open for public viewing and/or listening via Microsoft Teams.



LAGRANGE FIRE DISTRICT

504 Freedom Plains Rd • Poughkeepsie, NY 12603



Captain DeMilto works. That way they can get some big projects done. They have moved a few vehicles around so Kyle has an area to work on the minor things that need to be done. It is working out great. Chairman Komorsky asked if he was freeing the Captain up a bit and Captain DeMilto said yes. They made a few changes in e-mail system and made some new out of service stickers to track things better. Chairman Komorsky asked who exactly was overseeing this. Captain DeMilto stated he is, as well as Lt. Port who keeps track of all of the incoming writeups. Then there is a “to do” list that they try to prioritize on a computer program that the three of them access. He reviewed the process. Chairman Komorsky asked who checks on incoming inventory and Captain DeMilton stated he does. They have ordered maintenance parts like oil and have clean up the shed and have a good inventory going on. Kyle moved the switch light on 11 and 12 will be fixed. They added new light strips to the rear steps on Engine 12. They have two more to put on 11. They have pull down steps with LEDs and the whole cabinet has to be taken part to get the steps off to replace those lights. This was an easier fix. They have hooked it up to the work light so they will turn on when all the other lights are turned on. Things are going well. Chairman Komorsky asked where they are with the new trailer. Captain DeMilto stated they have the spec for the lighting. Chief Champion stated it is a work in progress. They want it to be done right the first time even if it takes a little more time. They need to make sure their weight distribution is correct. Chairman Komorsky asked who was making the decisions on each rack and the extra tiedowns and Captain DeMilto stated the committee was. There are still some small issues that need to go down to Hendrickson such as the fuel tank for 11, but a lot of the things are being done in-house.

- Mutual Aid - Chief Champion stated he has been working with Arlington and the City of Poughkeepsie for an agreement, as per a request from Dutchess County 911 Center, regarding a joint team response when it involves the technical disciplines. It states a lot of what they have already verbally agreed to and have been adhering to. It is all just in writing in one place. Chief Champion has forwarded that document to legal. They have reviewed it and sent it back to him. He has reviewed it with the Deputy Chiefs and now it is with Arlington. They are waiting for City of Poughkeepsie's legal Department to look it over. Then they will review it altogether to look at the alterations and then send it back to everyone for approval. At that point, he will present it to the Board. Chairman Komorsky asked if LaGrange has any ownership in the structural collapse trailer that sits at Arlington. Chief Champion stated they do have the ability to use it as structural technicians. This agreement will help solidify the things purchased by a specific agency with the new money will be accessible by all of the group, not just one entity. Deputy Chief Zittel stated there is no trailer anymore. They are hoping that this agreement will not change any of the operating aspects as they are doing now. Chief Champion stated hopefully by the end of this week, they will be finished with the submission of the outstanding reports from the surprise PESH audit. He will keep the Board apprised once it is finalized.
- Chief Champion stated he has three legal issues - two which he believes have already brought up, two personnel issues, and one event item for Executive Session.
- **Deputy Chief Fire** – Deputy Chief Zittel stated that once the MOU that the Chief spoke about is done and it will assist with funding. Right now it is difficult to move forward with grants for

BoFC Regular Meeting 10/28/25

Please note that this meeting was conducted in person at 504 Freedom Plains Road in Poughkeepsie, NY AND open for public viewing and/or listening via Microsoft Teams.



LAGRANGE FIRE DISTRICT

504 Freedom Plains Rd • Poughkeepsie, NY 12603



something for the group because there is no three department entity. Attorney Hekle stated he has reviewed the agreement already and had minor edits. He is hoping it does get moved through pretty quickly on their end.

- In County Training – Deputy Chief Zittel stated they have been focusing on mutual aid departments. He does feel it is very important to network with everybody. They included the mutual aid departments on drills. They had Union Vale here for an extrication drill. New Hackensack came in with their ladder truck. They had Steve VanBuren from the county come down for some hazmat training. They also are using their Town Highway employees at the trench drill. He did ask Jen if she could write a thank you letter to the Town. Chairman Komorsky asked why Scott Price was not asked to dig the trench and the Deputy Chief stated it was on Town property. In regard to the Paratech equipment that they purchased, they had a representative come in to spend the day with officers and some members to give them an in-service. It has been very helpful in developing a training program to train the rest of the members. They are working to move this equipment onto the current rescue so there will be some moving around and mounting of equipment. They are halfway done with the in-service and they will have to bring the representative back in for the struts and stabilization which they will probably do next year. They are continuing the 100 hours of training required by the state for all firefighters. The three new hires are all online. Those three completed their five week on days, seven weeks on group, and all of their fire and EMS training. They are now part of the minimum manning. José has moved to group training. Hopefully in 5 to 7 weeks he will be in the mix as well. They are working with him to get his training moving forward also. Deputy Chief Zittel has been working with some of the volunteers training. There is the opportunity for one member to go to the BEFO class that is being done in-house at Pleasant Valley. They have also requested an instructor go over there to offset the training. He has given Chris Cassidy a list of things to do for work details as part of their requirements. They have not had a lot of direction in a while so they produced a list of things that they can do regarding coming to the station, contacting the captain, and going forward. It is oversight. It is all being tracked. Deputy Chief Zittel stated as Chief Champion mentioned, they have reactivated the Apparatus Committee. They are working on the current rescue truck to get in the Paratech equipment and moving some things around. That will continue with the new rescue, which is a few years out. They have also been working on the trailer and side-by-side and need replacement ambulances. They completed an instructor Authorization Class. That now means they can teach to the New York State level of the what students are getting coming out of the Academy. They will be able to assist in instructing other fire districts with their training like the one in Pleasant Valley. They have also had members take the Tower Rescue Class and the Advanced Swiftwater Class. They have been very busy the last few months training. He does have some requests for next year and he is requesting them early because some of them require a lot of logistics. Some are in County and some are out of County. Deputy Chief Zittel stated there is a Radio Communications Class for volunteer and career members at the Dutchess 911 Center. If overtime is required for that. He will get the Board information. Usually if it is in County, he just needs to notify the Board. They are working on a collapse series with Arlington and the City of Poughkeepsie, and LaGrange. It is an 80 hour class, and they will be using all of the State equipment. It

BoFC Regular Meeting 10/28/25

Please note that this meeting was conducted in person at 504 Freedom Plains Road in Poughkeepsie, NY AND open for public viewing and/or listening via Microsoft Teams.



LAGRANGE FIRE DISTRICT

504 Freedom Plains Rd • Poughkeepsie, NY 12603



includes interior shoring, exterior shoring, concrete breaching, and heavy rigging. To get it all at one time is great. It will be offered locally. He would like to ask for four people to attend the class. Captain Kile is one of the attendees. It is April 27th through May 8th, 2026. It is in Dutchess County so there will be no lodging. It will just be backfill.

Upon a MOTION made by Chairman Tierney, and SECONDED by Commissioner Pignataro, the Board RESOLVED to allow up to four firefighters to attend the collapse series training offered from April 27th through May 8th, 2026 in Dutchess County. Pignataro – Aye, Taft – Aye, Tierney -Aye, Chairman Komorsky - Aye. **Motion Carried.**

- Out of County Training –Deputy Chief Zittel stated there is a Tech Rescue Course in Oriskany, New York in May of 2026. He would like permission to send four members for that training. The only cost would be overtime.

Upon a MOTION made by Commissioner Pignataro, and SECONDED by Commissioner Tierney, the Board RESOLVED to allow up to four firefighters to attend the Tech Rescue Course in Oriskany, New York in May of 2026. Pignataro – Aye, Taft – Aye, Tierney -Aye, Chairman Komorsky - Aye. **Motion Carried.**

Deputy Chief Zittel stated there is a Tech Rescue Leadership Conference, which is designed more for himself and some of the higher-level captains. It is in March 2026 for the 28th and 29th. He is asking for three total people with possible overtime coverage required. It is also in Oriskany. The first class is hands-on, but at a lower level. The second one is the leadership part.

Upon a MOTION made by Commissioner Pignataro, and SECONDED by Commissioner Tierney, the Board RESOLVED to allow up to three firefighters to attend the Tech Leadership Course in Oriskany, New York in March of 2026. Pignataro – Aye, Taft – Aye, Tierney -Aye, Chairman Komorsky - Aye. **Motion Carried.**

There is an Emergency Boat Operator Class, which is a New York State class. Deputy Chief Zittel stated he would like to host that in LaGrange May 12th, 13th, and 14th, 2026. This would be for no more than 10 members. It would possibly be two Chiefs and eight firefighters. Commissioner Pignataro asked if that meant it would be overtime and backfill for all of these people. Deputy Chief Zittel stated if they did attend it would be for eight of them. Commissioner Pignataro stated that is not an insignificant amount of money in terms of overtime. Chief Champion stated it is good for them with the networking that has been done that the Deputy Chief has been working on. Commissioner Pignataro asked if there would be any costs associated with hosting the class. Deputy Chief Zittel stated New York State covers everything. They just need a place to teach it. Chief Champion stated they would be mindful of who signs up and goes. They are looking for up to 10 members but they might not be filling all of those spots. Commissioner Pignataro asked if this would be for an entire shift each day. Deputy Chief Zittel stated it would depend on the members signing up for the class. It might be the beginning or the end of a shift depending on their hours.

Upon a MOTION made by Commissioner Tierney, and SECONDED by Commissioner Pignataro, the Board RESOLVED to allow up to 10 firefighters to attend an Emergency Boat Operator Class to be held in LaGrange May 12th through the 14th, 2026. Pignataro – Aye, Taft – Aye, Tierney -Aye, Chairman Komorsky - Aye. **Motion Carried.**

BoFC Regular Meeting 10/28/25

Please note that this meeting was conducted in person at 504 Freedom Plains Road in Poughkeepsie, NY AND open for public viewing and/or listening via Microsoft Teams.



LAGRANGE FIRE DISTRICT

504 Freedom Plains Rd • Poughkeepsie, NY 12603



Firefighter Cummings has asked to do an Ice Rescue Class in February in Melrose, New York. Deputy Chief Zittel would like to ask for him, plus one other to attend. It is a tough class to get. He will need lodging, transportation, and meals. It is a two-day class. He would need one night for lodging.

Upon a MOTION made by Commissioner Tierney, and SECONDED by Commissioner Pignataro, the Board RESOLVED to allow two members to attend the Icecap rescue Class in February in Melrose, New York, to include meals, lodging and transportation. Pignataro – Aye, Taft – Aye, Tierney -Aye, Chairman Komorsky - Aye. **Motion Carried.**

Deputy Chief Zittel stated FDIC is in Indianapolis. They did ask for four members last year. Based on a lack of being able to backfill shifts, they came and told the Board they were not sending anyone. This year, he would like to request four members to attend, if they could. It is April 21st through April 24th, 2026. That will be for lodging, airfare, and meals. There is also a cost for the conference. He stated he does understand it is expensive but it is one of the best training opportunities that they can get. The cost of the conference is \$673 per person plus airfare and hotel.

Upon a MOTION made by Commissioner Tierney, and SECONDED by Commissioner Pignataro, the Board RESOLVED to allow up to four firefighters to attend FDIC in Indianapolis from April 21st through April 24th to cover the conference, airfare, meals, and hotels. Pignataro – Aye, Taft – Aye, Tierney - Aye, Chairman Komorsky - Aye. **Motion Carried.**

Deputy Chief Zittel stated he had one personnel issue for executive session. He thanked the Board for the approval of these training classes.

- **Deputy Chief of EMS** – Deputy Chief Merritt thanked the volunteers, Jeff Kaiser, and Scott Price for getting funds from the Rescue Squad so they can purchase the AED's. They will get put into service as quickly as possible.
 - Operational Software – Proclaim pays for ESO for the EPCRs. He was able to get the billing company, to form a relationship with First Due. They have a meeting scheduled for next week. The Chief, Lieutenant Wern, and Captain Ryan will be there as well to see if their platform will work for LaGrange. Commissioner Pignataro stated when they brought First Due in originally that was one of the concerns. Deputy Chief Merritt stated it would be great to get it all under one umbrella and to be able to get reports from them.
 - Deputy Chief Merritt stated last week New York State released some updates for their requirements for ambulances and fly cars. LaGrange was ahead of the curve with a lot of these changes but they might need to still purchase a few additional items to remain in compliance. It will probably only be a few hundred dollars. It is nothing major. The big change comes with the fly cars. The State wants forward facing cameras that record audio and video in all fly cars within the next year. It would be from the driver's perspective. Chairman Komorsky asked if that would be on the dashboard or on the front grill. Captain DeMilito stated it would probably be mounted on the rearview mirror. Commissioner Pignataro questions this being a requirement in the fly cars, but not the ambulances.

BoFC Regular Meeting 10/28/25

Please note that this meeting was conducted in person at 504 Freedom Plains Road in Poughkeepsie, NY AND open for public viewing and/or listening via Microsoft Teams.



LAGRANGE FIRE DISTRICT

504 Freedom Plains Rd • Poughkeepsie, NY 12603



Deputy Chief Merritt stated right now it is just for the fly cars. He thinks it might just be a first step. Chairman Komorsky asked if they had a required model and the Deputy Chief said no. It does have to have some required functions such as forward facing and audio/visual recording. They will need to be activated by G-Force and maintain records for approximately 10 days. They provide the basic specs, but they do not recommend a specific make or model. They do have a year to get compliant with this. Commissioner Pignataro asked if they were trying to obtain a specific goal with this and the Deputy Chief stated he has not heard anything. Attorney Hekle stated that statutory requirements override any type of bargaining obligations. There will be 3 to 4 vehicles that will need this. He does imagine ambulance requirements will not be far behind after they get this pushed through. Chairman Komorsky stated this will have to be part of the new policy. Attorney Hekle asked if Deputy Chief Merritt could send him the notification that he received. He asked if this would also be included in the camera policy or a separate policy. Deputy Chief Merritt suggested they just reference the DOH policies.

- Controlled Substances - Deputy Chief Merritt stated the cabinets are being installed. The ones in his office and 47 – 11 are already installed. In the next few days he plans on submitting their signed plan to the State. They say it can take several weeks for their response. It might be a little longer with the holiday season coming up. He is also working with the Medical Director and Boundtree on the ordering process. The next step will be signing a contract with the narcotics tracking software vendor. This will make sure that all of the narcotics they get in are tracked from cradle to grave. They looked at a few different vendors and settled on one that he plans on signing tomorrow. The startup costs is within his budget amount. It will be approximately \$4000 with an annual cost of \$2000 a year. Chairman Komorsky asked if it has been requested to put barcodes on everything. Deputy Chief Merritt stated that is exactly what the tracking process is. Every box will get a barcode and every vial inside the box will also get a specific barcode. He will be able to pull up on his phone where every single vile is.
- Training - Deputy Chief Merritt stated that the EMS Expo in Indianapolis was this past weekend. He, Paramedic Rand, and Paramedic Tambini went. There were awesome classes and he thanked the Board for allowing them to attend. Chairman Komorsky asked if there was anything they could bring back for the rest of the district. Deputy Chief Merritt stated yes. They focused mainly on projects that they would like to see in LaGrange within the next few years. They took classes on airway control, rapid sequence intubation, blood products, plasma products, and pre-hospital ultrasound. They went through the vending hall and saw different models of ambulances, new Lifepak monitors, and new equipment. They can start creating a wish list that they will bring back to the apparatus committee and EMS committee.
EMS Connections at Dutchess Community College is coming up. They have been previously approved to send five people and five people have signed up. He would like approval to offer it to a few more people. He believes it is \$75 per person. It is a single day class. He requested an additional four people be allowed to go.

Upon a MOTION made by Commissioner Tierney and SECONDED by Commissioner Pignataro, the Board RESOLVED to approve up to four additional members to attend DCC EMS Connections on November 8th at a

BoFC Regular Meeting 10/28/25

Please note that this meeting was conducted in person at 504 Freedom Plains Road in Poughkeepsie, NY AND open for public viewing and/or listening via Microsoft Teams.



LAGRANGE FIRE DISTRICT

504 Freedom Plains Rd • Poughkeepsie, NY 12603



cost of \$75 per person. Pignataro – Aye, Taft – Aye, Tierney – Aye, Chairman Komorsky - Aye. **Motion Carried.**

- Deputy Chief Merritt stated an opportunity came across his desk from the New York Medical College in Westchester. It is a difficult airway course that is set up as a Train the Trainer. This is mostly in regard to trauma airways or contaminated areas with blood or blockage in the specific techniques needed to clear the block away before you can intubate. It does cover some portions of rapid sequence intubation. Technically every airway they encounter is a difficult airway because people have not been fasting, but a difficult airway course specifically encompasses additional training. This would give an opportunity to get the staff trained in airways that are more complicated than they normally do. It is a two day class at \$350 per student and it's at Westchester. They would need transportation and meals as well. He would like to get up to four people, including himself. He's not sure if they can even get in or if the class is fully booked. The dates are December 4th and 5th.

Upon a MOTION made by Commissioner Pignataro and SECONDED by Commissioner Tierney, the Board RESOLVED to authorize up to four people to attend the Train the Trainer Difficult Airways class in Westchester at a cost of \$350 per person and meals and travel on December 4th and 5th. Pignataro – Aye, Taft – Aye, Tierney – Aye, Chairman Komorsky - Aye. **Motion Carried.**

Deputy Chief Merritt will keep the Board informed as to how many can get into the class.

- Deputy Chief Merritt stated that with the assistance of Lieutenant Wern and Paramedic Edgar, they are discussing with Dutchess Community College the possibility of LaGrange hosting some American Heart Association classes like CPR, pediatric life support, and advanced cardiovascular life-support under their license. Currently, Arlington Fire Department does this and LaGrange is invited into training with them. They host the classes and the teachers can do all the paperwork. LaGrange is hoping to be able to do the same thing and invite their guys in to take some of LaGrange's classes and do additional public outreach with CPR to the community. They could potentially do a Stop the Bleed class and other classes like that. It is to be determined and they will have a conversation with the college. They will also need to figure out costs before they move on. They're hoping to do this sometime in early December and he will keep the Board informed.
- Commissioner Tierney read a section he found regarding the safety and accountability that are provided by fly car cameras. Chairman Komorsky stated that the information will be provided to the attorney and the committee will do their due diligence and provide a report when they are ready. Attorney Hekle stated he also needs the latest copy of the camera policy.

- **Department** – Chairman Komorsky stated there is no one from the department present.

BoFC Regular Meeting 10/28/25

Please note that this meeting was conducted in person at 504 Freedom Plains Road in Poughkeepsie, NY AND open for public viewing and/or listening via Microsoft Teams.



LAGRANGE FIRE DISTRICT

504 Freedom Plains Rd • Poughkeepsie, NY 12603



- **Union** – Chairman Komorsky stated the vice president of the union was present. He had no comments at this time.

ABSTRACT: \$88,674.41

Upon a MOTION made by Commissioner Taft and SECONDED by Commissioner Tierney, the Board RESOLVED to pay the bills for the end of October per the abstract for \$88,674.41. Pignataro – Aye, Taft – Aye, Tierney – Aye, Chairman Komorsky - Aye. **Motion Carried.**

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

At 8:45 PM, Chairman Komorsky opened the meeting to public comments. There were none.

Chief Champion wanted to commend the leadership in the staff who responded to Saturday evening's structure fire on McGee Road. It is still under investigation at this time but the crews made an invaluable stop. The garage looks to be the majority loss of the house. No occupants were injured. They led and coordinated the efforts flawlessly and he wanted to commend them for that. He would also like to commend those who responded to the mutual aid structure fire in New Hackensack. That is still under investigation at this time. He would like to commend them for their assistance in helping with that incident as well. Chairman Komorsky stated he wanted to thank everyone as well. It was a great job by everyone. There were some serious issues with that incident and the fact that no one got hurt is terrific. Chief Champion stated this was one of the very rare occasions the all three Chiefs were out of the district and unable to respond and the captains did an outstanding job running the scene. There were conversations with the captains prior to the Chiefs all being out of town and commended them for their actions.. Chairman Komorsky asked if, on behalf of the Board of Fire commissioners, Captain DeMilto could express appreciation to all of the team members that were there for a great job. They are happy and thankful for the great job the staff is done. Commissioner Taft asked if any of the new firefighters were on duty when these calls happened. Chief Champion stated Firefighter Cummings was on. There are training parameters in place before they can come back on for a structure fire.

At 8:49 PM, Chairman Komorsky closed the public comment section of the meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 8:49 PM, upon a MOTION made by Commissioner Pignataro, and SECONDED by Commissioner Tierney, the Board RESOLVED to go into Executive Session to discuss one personnel item from Deputy Chief Zittel, two personnel and one legal issue and one event orientated issue from Chief Champion, one legal issue from Secretary Le, one personnel issue from Commissioner Pignataro, and one Town Center, and one lithium ion battery issue, and one personnel issue from Chairman Komorsky. Pignataro – Aye, Taft – Aye, Tierney – Aye, Chairman Komorsky - Aye. **Motion Carried.**

OPEN SESSION:

At 10:39 PM, the Board resumed Open Session.

BoFC Regular Meeting 10/28/25

Please note that this meeting was conducted in person at 504 Freedom Plains Road in Poughkeepsie, NY AND open for public viewing and/or listening via Microsoft Teams.



LAGRANGE FIRE DISTRICT

504 Freedom Plains Rd • Poughkeepsie, NY 12603



PREPARE 11/11/25 MEETING AGENDA:

Secretary Le stated the next the is scheduled for November 11, which is Veterans Day. She verified that the Board wanted to hold a meeting on this date. They said yes. Secretary Le will prepare this.

Chairman Komorsky stated they have an issue before them that they need to approve the Santa Runs for Station 3.

Upon a MOTION made by Commissioner Tierney and SECONDED by Commissioner Pignataro, the Board RESOLVED to approve the Santa Runs for Station 3. Pignataro – Aye, Taft – Aye, Tierney – Aye, Chairman Komorsky - Aye. **Motion Carried.**

Chairman Komorsky stated there is a need for a professional driver, one of the paid staff, to come in off-duty on overtime to drive the vehicle for the Santa Runs.

Upon a MOTION made by Commissioner Tierney and SECONDED by Commissioner Pignataro, the Board RESOLVED to approve an off-duty staff member to come in and drive the equipment for the Santa Run. Pignataro – Aye, Taft – Aye, Tierney – Aye, Chairman Komorsky - Aye. **Motion Carried.**

Chairman Komorsky stated there will be volunteers and others on these Santa Runs.

Upon a MOTION made by Commissioner Pignataro and SECONDED by Commissioner Tierney, the Board RESOLVED to allow a volunteer to ride in the “school car.” Pignataro – Aye, Taft – Aye, Tierney – Aye, Chairman Komorsky – Aye. **Motion Carried.**

Chief Champion stated that Captain Kile will be starting in the position of training during the day commencing next Monday. Chairman Komorsky stated on behalf of the Board of Fire Commissioners, they want to thank his wife for allowing this. Secretary Le stated he has not been officially appointed. If the Board is ready to do that, they can, especially if it is a pay increase. Chairman Komorsky stated he thought they were going to do a formal thing with him here.

Upon a MOTION made by Commissioner Tierney and SECONDED by Commissioner Pignataro, the Board RESOLVED to approve Joe Kile a salary increase as a captain with training responsibilities. Pignataro – Aye, Taft – Aye, Tierney – Aye, Chairman Komorsky - Aye. **Motion Carried.**

ADJOURNMENT:

At 10:44 PM, upon a Motion made by Commissioner Tierney and SECONDED by Commissioner Pignataro, the Board RESOLVED to adjourn the meeting. Pignataro – Aye, Taft – Aye, Tierney – Aye, Chairman Komorsky - Aye. **Motion Carried.**

Respectfully submitted by
Julie Beyer on behalf of
Bria Le – District Secretary

Approved by the Board of Fire Commissioners on 11/11/25

BoFC Regular Meeting 10/28/25

Please note that this meeting was conducted in person at 504 Freedom Plains Road in Poughkeepsie, NY AND open for public viewing and/or listening via Microsoft Teams.

VENDOR	Amount Due	PO #	10/28/2025
A-JOHN/A-1 PORTABLE BATHROOMS ✓ ✓	\$ 4,750.00	14769	STATION 1 PORT-A-JOHN RENTAL
ACCESSPLUS ✓	\$ 912.51	14731	LOCAL&LONG DISTANCE STATS 2 & 3
ALERT-ALL CORP ✓	\$ 10,433.50	5694	SAFETY DAY ITEMS
AMAZON ✓	\$ 458.39	14728	SHOP SUPPLIES-VEHICLES
BOTTINI ✓	\$ 2,767.31	14718	DIESEL FUEL STAT 2 & TANK RENTAL STAT 1
BOUND TREE ✓	\$ 827.83	5673	EMS SUPPLIES
CASSONE LEASING ✓	\$ 1,998.00	14733	STATION 1 MODULAR BLDG RENTAL
CENTRAL HUDSON ✓	\$ 4,311.33	14710	STAT 1, 2 & 3 ELECTRIC
CRYO WELD ✓	\$ 92.14	14734	MEDICAL ALUMINUM SWAP PROG OXD & OXM
DB GRAPHICS ✓	\$ 1,425.00	14762	DECALS/GRAPHICS 47-2
DOYLE SECURITY ✓	\$ 400.44	14760	SECURITY MONITORING SVC
DUTCHESS TIRE ✓	\$ 1,315.92	14759	TIRES-STOCK
DUTCHESS TIRE ✓	\$ 440.00	14758	47-72 TIRES MAINTENANCE
FLEET PRIDE ✓	\$ 20.00	14707	47-32 INSPECTION
FREIHOFFER ICE & SPRINGWATER ✓	\$ 187.80	2025BL	STAT 1 & 2 (5) GAL WATER DELIVERY
GARRISON FIRE & RESCUE ✓	\$ 1,218.18	14744	PPE REPAIR
GLOBAL AUTO REPAIR ✓	\$ 731.09	14719	47-69, 47-78, 47-71 INSPECT AND OIL/FILTER CHNG
H.G. PAGE ✓	\$ 110.73	14764	SHOP SUPPLIES
H.O. PENN ✓	\$ 2,421.15	14766	CAT REPAIR
JACKSON LEWIS PC ✓	\$ 23,868.90	14754	LEGAL SERVICES
JULIE BEYER ✓	\$ 180.00	202BLE	PERSONNEL SERVICES
KOSCOHERITAGE ✓	\$ 362.52	14742	FUEL OIL STAT 1
KYLE MCALLISTER ✓	\$ 382.49	REIMBUR	BOOTS FOR MECHANIC
M&O SANITATION ✓	\$ 450.00	14715	9/25 STAT 2 SEPTIC PUMP
MASSMUTUAL ✓	\$ 842.50	14709	LIFE INS-CAREER
MASSMUTUAL ✓	\$ 601.00	14753	LIFE INS-CAREER
MASSMUTUAL ✓	\$ 348.75	14770	LIFE INS-CAREER
MASSMUTUAL ✓	\$ 484.50	14771	LIFE INS-CAREER
MEDICAL WAREHOUSE ✓	\$ 252.17	14747	EMS SUPPLIES
MEDICAL WAREHOUSE ✓	\$ 423.00	14746	EMS SUPPLIES
MEDICAL WAREHOUSE ✓	\$ 880.54	14745	EMS SUPPLIES
MEDICAL WAREHOUSE ✓	\$ 573.29	14748	EMS SUPPLIES
MEDICAL WAREHOUSE ✓	\$ 942.65	14749	EMS SUPPLIES
MEDICAL WAREHOUSE ✓	\$ 110.41	14750	EMS SUPPLIES
MEDICAL WAREHOUSE ✓	\$ 1,273.75	14757	EMS SUPPLIES
MES SERVICE CO ✓	\$ 149.06	14738	AA BATTERIES
MES SERVICE CO ✓	\$ 99.21	5696	HELMET
MES SERVICE CO ✓	\$ 120.00	14737	NEW HIRE BELL CAP
MES SERVICE CO ✓	\$ 82.50	14625	UNIFORM-CAREER
MES SERVICE CO ✓	\$ 91.41	14752	MASK-NEW HIRE
MES SERVICE CO ✓	\$ 3,248.36	14619	PPE EQUIPMENT-NEW HIRES
MES SERVICE CO ✓	\$ 118.00	14047	APPAREL-STAFF
MES SERVICE CO ✓	\$ 263.00	14554	UNIFORM-CAREER
MES SERVICE CO ✓	\$ 128.00	14581	UNIFORM-CAREER
MES SERVICE CO ✓	\$ 2,111.36	14578	BADGES
MES SERVICE CO ✓	\$ 110.00	14681	EMBROIDER
MES SERVICE CO ✓	\$ 600.00	14686	PPE BOOTS-NEW HIRE
MES SERVICE CO ✓	\$ 612.44	14661	UNIFORM APPAREL-NEW HIRE
MES SERVICE CO ✓	\$ 85.00	14756	UNIFORM EMBROIDERY
MES SERVICE CO ✓	\$ 95.50	14623	UNIFORM-CAREER
NY FIRE EQUIP ✓	\$ 291.81	14323	BOOTS-ANNUAL
O'REILLY AUTOMOTIVE ✓	\$ 44.45	14724	47-11 DOOR JAMB
OPTIMUM ✓	\$ 116.84	14726	STATION 2 CABLE SVC
OPTIMUM ✓	\$ 245.68	14730	STATION 3 CABLE & INTERNET SVC
OPTIMUM ✓	\$ 360.86	14729	STATION 1 CABLE & INTERNET SVC
OPTIMUM ✓	\$ 195.72	14712	STATION 2 INTERNET SVC
PROCLAIM ✓	\$ 8,393.35	14732	TRANSPORT CLAIMS
RUGE'S FORD ✓	\$ 642.71	14713	47-79 OIL/FILTER CHANGE
	from page 2 \$ 88,674.41		

VENDOR	Amount Due	PO #	10/28/2025
SARJO INDUSTRIES ✓	\$ 919.81 ✓	14723	SHOP SUPPLIES
SENSIT TECHNOLOGIES ✓	\$ 162.42 ✓	5435	GAS METER CALIBRATION
SHELTERPOINT ✓	\$ 259.73 ✓	14721	VISION INSURANCE
STERICYCLE ✓	\$ 141.35 ✓	14751	MEDICA WASTE SERVICE
TRAILER KING ✓	\$ 457.29 ✓	14711	47-79 PLOW SERVICE
ULINE ✓	\$ 29.00 ✓	14708	SHOP SUPPLIES
VERIZON ✓	\$ 149.00 ✓	14755	STAT 2 INTERNET SVC
VERIZON ✓	\$ 80.99 ✓	14765	STAT 3 INTERNET SVC
VERIZON WIRELESS ✓	\$ 937.41 ✓	14720	CELL SVC
VERIZON WIRELESS ✓	\$ 35.04 ✓	14743	MODEM CHARGES
VESO LIFE ✓	\$ 334.32 ✓	14725	VOLUNTEER LIFE INS
Z3 CONSULTANTS ✓	\$ 165.00 ✓	14703	BACKFLOW TEST
TOTAL SUBMITTED	\$ 88,674.41 ✓		Commissioner Signatures:
<i>changes listed:</i>	<i>Balance</i>		<i>[Signature]</i> 10/28/25
			<i>[Signature]</i> 10/28/2025
TOTAL APPROVED			<i>Vincent Anthony</i> 10/28/2025
KEY:			<i>[Signature]</i> 10/28/25
pre-paid:			
Paid:			