

CHIEF'S COMMITTEE - AVERY FIRE ASSOCIATION

March 3rd, 2016 - Elk Park Fire Station

The regular monthly meeting of the Chief's Committee was called to order by Chief Bob Garland.

Bob asked departments if they had contacted the State Fire Association to see how much could be taken from their Relief Funds towards upgrading insurance coverage. Some departments had not contacted the Association yet.

Bob reported that each department would be getting \$12,000 towards the 50/50 matching grant from the Fire Commission. He asked departments that were in line for new trucks to consider applying for a federal grant. He also reminded departments that all members need to complete NIMS classes: 100,200, 700 & 800 to apply for grants. Joe Shoupe announced that he would be teaching a 300 class at Banner Elk and then he would hold a 400 class.

Members were asked to attend the Western Association meeting and vote for David Hughes.

Bob asked members to vote in favor of the State Bond Referendum - noting that the monies to repair the burn building would come from those bond monies.

Jeffrey Pollard asked for a separate tone for medical personnel in behalf of the Crossnore Department. This would keep fire members from being awakened for med calls. Paul thought we could use the siren tones as a cheap immediate fix.

Bob announced that the Grandmother tower was out of service and the radio people were not using the good weather to make repairs.

Members discussed inventorying expendable equipment and ages so a regular amount of replacement equipment could be budgeted each year.

Kennie McFee brought up a problem on a recent call on Roaring Creek. Dale Laws had the 1st truck on scene. When he reached for a ladder, he felt a sharp pain in his back. After the call, he was still in pain and went to the hospital. He had had a heart attack on the call and had 3 blockages. Worker's Compensation denied the claim and said that he should have been checked out on scene. Kennie wants EMS on scene at every call. He noted that more important than the insurance problem - Dale could have died. It was also noted that dispatch never showed Dale on scene. Members discussed problems with EMS - Avery transportation could do transports that don't require medical attention. EMS seemed to want to leave before calls are finished. Kennie moved "that the Association address the Fire Commission and demand that EMS attend every Fire call". The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.