

# Avery Fire Association

February 8, 2024 - Avery County Commissioner's Room

President Scott Stansbury called the Meeting to order. Kennie McFee gave prayer. Bob Pudney moved that the minutes of the January meeting be approved as presented. Kennie McFee seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Scott Stansbury reported the Association bank balance of \$ 5,757.34. Banner Elk, Newland, Frank & Seven Devils were absent.

There was no Fire Marshal/Emergency Management report.

Rescue Task Force Training would be offered Feb 15th, 19th, 20th & March 7th & 14th. Fire, Law & EMS were invited. Bobby Powell explained that he would be coordinating classes for Mayland in all three counties. He passed out a flier with upcoming classes. It was noted that classes were starting at the high school to give students a taste of public safety and hopefully will help with recruitment.

The 911 committee meeting was postponed. The chairman did not know why or when it would be rescheduled. It was reported that pagers and the base station at the Linville station were not working. The technician noted that the tower on Grandfather was lowered at the property owner's request. Linville offered to start phone calls to correct the problem. The Linville shift employees have to call officers to see where their calls are located. It was also noted that the Beech Mtn tower was being turned off when there was high wind because the dish is too big for the tower.

The Ladder Company announced that they are budgeting to fully equip 9943. They also noted that 9900 could respond - but that it would not be able to draft. They are willing to do training on meeting nights at Avery Departments.

The Fire Commissioners reported that they elected the same officers at the last meeting. They also agreed to increase the grant match since the state increased the grant to: \$ 80,000.

## NEW BUSINESS:

Members were reminded that the McDowell Fire School is coming up.

It was announced that the annual Awards Dinner would be held at the Ag Center at: 6:30 pm on Thursday February 22nd. Send the number of those attending to Scott by February 16th.

Members discussed the stipend program. Several departments reported membership increases.

The required disposal of AFFF cancer causing foam was discussed. Scott agreed to call the Watauga Fire Marshal to see how they handled disposal summer before last. Members were asked to move it to the Gwaltney Ladder station and pick up replacement foam. Write down the amount taken on the pallett clipboard.