

AVERY FIRE ASSOCIATION

May 8th, 2025 - Avery County Agricultural Extension Center

President Mike Richardson called the meeting to order. Stephen McClellan sent a bank balance of \$ 15,732.00. Avery Ladder, Banner Elk, Beech Mountain, Crossnore, Fall Creek, Green Valley, Linville, Linville Central Rescue, Mayland Tech and the Fire Commission Coordinator were represented.

Mike Richardson announced that Cory Hoyes has been working on the Association website. Mike asked that members send him pictures and events for the site.

It was reported that Eden Kitchin was the winner of the Fire Association Scholarship.

Richard Shafer said that he has heard from 5 or 6 departments about his Cal Topo classes. He needs to hear from the rest.

Mike Richardson sent a letter to our legislators in opposition to the proposed bill to require EMT's to take the National Registry exam.

Bobby Powell reminded members that Mayland courses are on their website. He was working on a drone class. He noted that a new program was coming up that would allow non-certified instructors to teach specialty classes. He also said the burn building was back available for use.

Mike Richardson reported that the Drone team was working on SOG's that the insurance company has required. We will vote on them next month. The Association drone is now located at the Gwaltney Ladder Station. The drone team had several classes & meetings. They have learned grid searches.

Mike talked with several county commissioners about meeting together. They were willing - but he was unable to get a date.

Cody Laws announced that there was an almost new fire safety trailer at Midway, N.C. Mike Laws has seen it. They only want \$ 8,000 for the trailer. Linville said that they may be able to house it. After a lengthy discussion, Cody moved that the Association let Mike & Cody visit the trailer and purchase the trailer if it is in good shape. Mark Taylor seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

Brian Ledford said that he would have five or six Haz Mat technician level members shortly and that this is enough to create a county team. He also noted that there is a good deal of grant money available to equip a team.

Mark Taylor reported that the proposed budget is \$ 340,000 short. Scott Heath went before the county commissioners and they agreed to let the fire commission take it out of reserves. They also thanked the fire departments for all of their efforts. Brian Ledford noted that the county tax base has increased in spite of the hurricane - this will increase the fire commission's monies.

There being no further business, Cody Laws moved that meeting be adjourned, Kyle Kitchin seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned.