

AVERY FIRE ASSOCIATION

NOVEMBER 13, 2025 - Avery County Agricultural Center

President Mike Richardson called the meeting to order and Brian Ledford gave prayer. Robbie Calloway moved that the minutes of the September meeting be approved as presented. Stephen McClellan seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Stephen McClellan gave the Treasurer's report and reported a bank balance of : \$ 21,978.00. Banner Elk, Beech Mtn, Crossnore, Fall Creek, Ladder Company, Linville, Linville Central Rescue, N.C. Forest Service, Green Valley & Seven Devils were represented. Mike Edmisten, Brandy Ross, Eric Tolson, Jeff Thompson, Brian Ledford & Teddy Thomas also were in attendance.

Mike Richardson reported for Bobby Powell and announced a Live Burn Class that will be held at the Banner Elk Fire department December 3rd at 6:00 pm. Robbie Calloway announced a Vehicle Anatomy class at the Rescue base November 22nd.

The Ladder Company reported that the windshield wiper switch on 9900 was broken and parts were on order. 9943 should be used in rainy weather until it is repaired. 9900 was very helpful on a recent chimney fire where the flue pipe had to be taken apart. Departments needing training should let the Ladder Company know.

Members were reminded that they need to send their Junior member requirements to Mark Parlier and encourage their Junior members to get involved with his programs in the school system.

Robbie Calloway explained that the use of truck wenchers on rescue calls was not safe and that patients should be removed manually.

It was noted that the Reserve Pumper had been repaired and was back in service. Eventually it will need a larger alternator.

Levin Sudderth sent the most recent bylaws and proposals to Mike Richardson. Mike asked the association members to allow him to review the bylaws and begin the process to make the needed changes. Robbie Calloway moved that the association do so. Jim Brooks seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Rich Carpenter said that he was still working instructors for Forest Service classes and was shooting for January. He asked if members wanted him to answer structure fire calls to deal with spot fires and brush fire spread. Members noted how helpful he was at a recent Land Harbors structure fire and asked dispatch to add him to the calls when they are in a level 3 or higher fire danger during the spring and fall fire season. Brandy Ross agreed to add it to the dispatch protocols. He also announced that the Forest Service 50/50 grant application period was open.

Mike Edmisten reported that the County had made staff changes and that he would be in charge of EMS & Emergency Services. Brandy Ross will be assistant Dispatch Director, Eric Tolson will be the Assistant EMS Director and Jeff Thompson will be the Assistant Emergency Management Director & in charge of communications equipment. Jeff also said he would be answering fire calls. Brian Ledford said that he and Teddy would be helping with fire investigations.

Mark Taylor reported that William Costner was elected Chairman of the Fire Commission and that he was elected the Vice Chairman. He also noted that the vacant position had not been filled.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.