

**NEWBERRY COUNTY COUNCIL PUBLIC SAFETY AND COURTS COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
April 6, 2026**

The Newberry County Council Public Safety and Courts Committee met on Monday, April 6, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. in Council Chambers at the Courthouse Annex, 1309 College Street, Newberry, SC, for a special called meeting.

Notice of the meeting was duly advertised, as required by law.

**PRESENT:** Stuart Smith, Committee Chair  
Leon Fulmer, Committee Member  
Karl Sease, Committee Member  
Ted Luckadoo, County Administrator  
Eric Nieto, I.T. Director  
Tommy Long, Emergency Services Director  
Andrew Wigger, Clerk to Council/PIO

1. Call to order – Mr. Stuart Smith
  - Mr. Smith called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.
2. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance – Mr. Karl Sease
  - Mr. Sease led the Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Election of the 2026 Chairman.
  - Mr. Sease made a motion to open nominations; Mr. Fulmer provided the second and the motion carried 3-0.
  - Mr. Sease nominated Mr. Smith to be the 2026 Chair; Mr. Fulmer provided the second and the motion carried 3-0.
  - Mr. Sease made a motion to close nominations and accept Mr. Smith as the 2026 Chair; Mr. Fulmer provided the second and the motion carried 3-0.

4. Additions, Deletions and Adoption of the Agenda.

- Mr. Sease made a motion to accept the agenda as presented; Mr. Fulmer provided the second and the motion carried 3-0.

5. Update on Generators for the Newberry County Fire Stations – Tommy Long, Emergency Services Director.

- Mr. Long said they have four generators going in: Newberry Rescue, St. Philips Fire, Pomaria Fire, Little Mountain Fire. All of the transfer switches have been installed, and they are now working on the wiring, except at Newberry Rescue where the wiring has been completed.
- At present, the county is still waiting on the generators to arrive and two are expected in any day now. Once they are in, West Electric will get them wired in. Mr. Long is looking into the status of the other two generators.
- Mr. Long also mentioned that they had some extra funding from the recent lease purchase and they will put that money toward 800 MHz walkies. They will purchase about 9 or 10. Mr. Luckadoo added that there was about \$60,000 remaining following the purchase of a fire truck and two ambulances, in order to expend those funds, since they were not a part of the original agreement, they will bring a Resolution before Newberry County Council to stipulate the purchase of the 800 MHz walkies.

6. Discussion of Rolling Stock Replacement for the Rescue Squads and Extrication Tool Upgrades – Chris Johnson, Board of Rescue Squads Chair.

- Mr. Johnson said that Lake Murray's ambulance is about 24 years old and has had problems. He said he has a meeting with the Board of Rural Fire Control chair to work on a rolling stock replacement plan, that will include both fire and rescue. He said they will include EMS.
- He said there are two ambulances in the budget right now and he would request one of those go to rescue and the other to EMS. He said EMS got a brand-new truck last year, they can get a brand-new truck this year, routinely they are running three trucks around the clock.
- He said with the rescue squads, they don't have spare ambulances.

- Regarding extrication tool upgrades, he said six out of the seven rescue squads run low pressure Hurst extrication tools. They recently found out that those tools are past end of life. He said their board met with Hurst to see their tools and will be doing the same with other vendors.
- He said his squad will be the first to be replaced once the funding is available and then continue on until everyone is replaced. They will decide who gets the tools first based on calls, amount of wrecks they run, entrapments, etc.
- For his squad, they are looking at \$80,000 because they have already replaced their backup truck with battery powered tools. The other squads have more than one truck needing to be replaced so the prices will probably be higher.
- Mr. Fulmer said they were talking about replacing tools across each one of the squads, he asked if they would stick with one particular type for each squad; Mr. Johnson said yes, that is the goal.
- Mr. Fulmer asked how many calls the Lake Murray ambulance handles; Mr. Johnson said he does not, but that is one of his homework items and he is going to do that across the county. He said that it is one of the more active squads. Mr. Fulmer said he knows Lexington leans on that squad, as well.
- Mr. Smith asked about remounting the ambulances; Mr. Johnson said he has an idea of a plan, and that is part of it.
- Mr. Smith asked how many years the ambulances have been getting at the hospital; Mr. Long said it is around three to five years.
- Mr. Luckadoo said he and Mr. Johnson had a good talk and they know it took many years to get to where they are now, and they won't get out of it overnight.
- Mr. Luckadoo said that they will not always get hand-me-down ambulances, and that is something they will look into.

#### 7. Public Comments.

- There were no public comments.

#### 8. Comments from Committee Members.

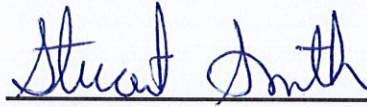
- Mr. Sease said he thinks it is a good idea that they standardized and all stations have the same equipment.

- Mr. Smith thanked Mr. Long's work on the generators, and he knows the department works on it, as well.

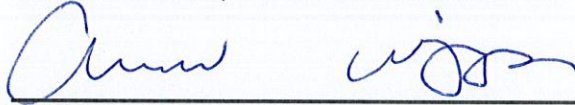
9. Adjournment.

- Mr. Sease made a motion to adjourn; Mr. Fulmer provided the second and the motion carried 3-0.
- The Newberry County Public Safety and Courts Committee adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

**NEWBERRY COUNTY COUNCIL PUBLIC SAFETY  
AND COURTS COMMITTEE**



**Stuart Smith, Committee Chairman**



**Andrew Wigger, Clerk to Council**

Minutes Approved: 4-15-2026