

NEWBERRY COUNTY COUNCIL PUBLIC SAFETY AND COURTS COMMITTEE
MINUTES
January 08, 2024

The Newberry County Council Public Safety and Courts Committee met on Monday, January 08, 2024, at 6:06 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: Leon Fulmer, Committee Chair
Todd Johnson, Committee Member (Attended Virtually)
Karl Sease, Committee Member
Jeff Shacker, County Administrator
Robert Dennis, Station 2 Fire Chief
Tommy Long, Emergency Services Director
Eric Nieto, I.T. Director
Brandon Wicker, Emergency Services Coordinator
Andrew Wigger, Clerk to Council/PIO

Mr. Johnson called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m. and determined a quorum to be present.

1. Election of Chairman.

- Mr. Johnson opened the nominations for Chairperson of the Public Safety and Courts Committee. He then nominated Mr. Fulmer; Mr. Sease provided the second. Mr. Fulmer was elected Chairman 3-0.
- Mr. Johnson turned the meeting over to Mr. Fulmer.
- Mr. Fulmer thanked Mr. Johnson for his vote of confidence nominating him for the Chair and Mr. Sease for seconding the nomination. He further said he will do his best to do right by the position and the citizens of Newberry County. He respectfully

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requested some direction as he is new coming into Newberry County Council as a whole.

2. Request to purchase prioritized replacement air packs.

- Mr. Wicker said there are 30 air packs that need to be replaced. The cost to replace is \$299,653.50, a quote from Anderson Fire. This quote is good until Feb. 1, according to Mr. Wicker.
- Mr. Wicker said they want to work toward replacing 72 more packs, over time.
- Mr. Fulmer asked how many air packs the county has total, to which Mr. Wicker said roughly 121 and they want to add a couple more.
- Mr. Johnson asked Mr. Shacker to talk about the funding for the request. Mr. Shacker said based on the pre-audit numbers, they expect to finish FY 2023 with a contribution to fund balance. He said that contribution exceeds the cost of the air packs.
- Mr. Johnson said based on the availability of the funds and what the volunteers do for Newberry County, he proudly made the motion to purchase the air packs and reimburse (item three) the fire departments that have already purchased them. Mr. Sease seconded the motion.
- Mr. Sease said council needs to do this and it is the right thing to do, and they cannot send their volunteers out with piecemeal equipment.
- Mr. Fulmer agreed and said they need to have the equipment they need to do the job they ask them to do.
- The motion was approved 3-0.

3. Reimbursement of fire department air pack expenditures.

- Mr. Wicker said they are asking for reimbursement for Prosperity Fire Department in the amount of \$35,852.28. He

said they had to purchase air packs last year, out of their own account, to keep their trucks in service.

- He also asked for reimbursement for Consolidated Fire Department at \$6,203.18, they purchased their air packs with a grant, but it did not cover the full amount.

4. Request for matching funds for forestry grants – Tommy Long Emergency Services Director.

- Mr. Long asked for additional funding to match the forestry grants. He said it is about \$50,000 worth of equipment the county will receive for about \$25,000.
- Mr. Long said they have \$15,000 budgeted to do matching grants for the fire services and requested an additional \$9,562.
- Mr. Shacker said he would need to see where that funding would come from, but he thinks the county should be able to cover it in the existing budget.
- Mr. Sease made a motion to match the amount needed to get the grants; Mr. Johnson provided the second. The motion was approved 3-0.

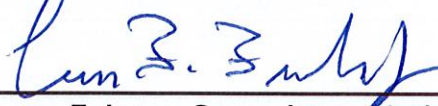
5. Request to pay fire and rescue departments' utilities directly – Tommy Long, Emergency Services Director.

- Mr. Long requested all the utilities to be paid directly for all the fire and rescue squads. He said while some are being paid directly already, he'd like to see all of them paid directly and hopefully they can plan on that in next year's budget. He said the bills would go straight to the Administration Office.
- Mr. Johnson made a motion asking the County Administrator to find a way to pay for the utilities for Newberry County fire departments and rescue squads; Mr. Sease provided the second. The motion was approved 3-0.


6. Adjournment.

- Mr. Johnson made a motion to adjourn at 6:25 p.m.; Mr. Sease provided the second and the motion passed 3-0.

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



Leon Fulmer, Committee Chairman



Andrew Wigger, Clerk to Council

Minutes Approved: Jan. 17, 2024