

Emergency Services Committee
Meeting Minutes
September 4, 2019

Attendees:	
Avondale Fire Company	West Grove Fire Company
Charlie Owens – Past President	John Chambers – Deputy Chief
Shawn Carrol – Deputy Chief	Tom Glass – Past President
SCCEMS	London Grove Township
Bob Hotchkiss	Robert Weer – Fire Marshal
	Ken Battin - Manager

1. Budgets were the initial discussion to follow up from last month. Each agency was asked to go back to their organizations and determine any areas where their budgets could be reduced. Avondale Fire Company ambulance is operating at negative income due to insurance and billing procedures (like others). Air pack bottles are due to have the hydro-tests expire soon. The new engine has been deferred, which will influence their equipment replacement plan. ENG2 has had unexpected repairs at approximately \$32,000. The leaking roof issues continue, and they could be on the brink of closure.
West Grove Fire Company cut their apparatus replaced fund \$15,000 and agreed to have the municipal funding for this line item deferred until next year. Most of their expenses include salary increases to attract consistent staff. Career staff gear is out of date and needs to be replaced. This is not a relief expense due to the gear is for career staff.
September 17, 2019 is the township first budget meeting, and everyone is encouraged to attend. Currently the townships budget has the original organizations funding requests, however the BOS has not been provided a preliminary copy. A topic that continues to be discussed and shaped is a standardized funding formula to enable all responsible agencies to understand future funding.

1. Avondale Fire Company has been working with the township over the last couple of months on false fire alarms. There have been several that are considered to meet the criteria for fines according to the data and ordinance. The suggestion is to institute the fines for those properties that meet the criteria and possibly increasing the dollar amount of the fines. The suggestion is to allow the first two false alarms in a consecutive 12-month period to be free and \$500.00 for each false alarm thereafter. The group consented that this should be implemented during the 2020 Fee Schedule review process.

2. Avondale Fire Company has been talking with New Garden during their budget process about implementing a commercial property inspection program like London Grove. Several options were discussed, and the consent of the group was that the municipalities should be the responsible agency or management entity with assistance from fire company members and staff. An intermunicipal agreement could be adopted enabling these collaborative efforts. As a follow up with New Garden, AFC will reach out to advise on the committee's discussion. The intention is that the two municipalities meet to further discuss any options.

Adjourned at 5:30 pm
Respectfully,

Robert Weer