

**FIRE POLICE & SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING  
JUNE 4, 2021 2:00 P.M. ANNEX BUILDING**

**ATTENDANCE:** Chairman, Justice Rick Ash; Justice, Betty Hepler; Justice, Molly Jackson; Justice, Tobye McClanahan; Justice, Michael White; Justice, Reggie Cullom; Justice, Cecil McDonald; Major, Rob Rounsavall; Lt. Chris Brown; Meredith Champion; Sheriff, Dale Cook; OEM, Wayne Reynolds; Treasurer, Peggy Meatte; Finance, Kelli Jones; County Clerk, Janice Currie, Steve Crosskno; Pafford EMS, Jamie Pafford; Jennifer Revels; Jeff Claybrook; Jessica Trichel; Charles Stanton; Osceola Fire Department; Jason Garey, Peter Hill; Burdette/Luxora Fire Department, Tommy Miller; Armored Fire Department, Mark Razer; Blytheville Fire Department, Mike Carney; Etowah Fire Department, Joseph Riney; Joiner Fire Department, Dennis Tucker, Judge, John Alan Nelson; Public Affairs, Steven Savage.

**1. Meeting was called to order by Justice, Rick Ash. Justice Ash asked everyone to introduce themselves. Meeting was call for concerns about dispatch times and times to arrival. Mississippi County had 6 trucks. Four from Blytheville, two from Osceola. Meeting was turned over to President of Pafford Ambulance, Jamie Pafford. Pafford had serviced Mississippi County since 2008. Pafford met every month with City of Blytheville, Hospitals, City of Osceola to address problems. Reports could be provided monthly or quarterly if needed. Pafford responded ambulances to wherever requested. Riverside, Medic One, Emerson and Emergency Squad had been called if closer. Medics were mostly from Mississippi County. Services never slowed during COVID.**

**2. Justice Ash said the contract stated to contact Pafford directly for complaints. Fire departments were invited to see if training could be provided to them and first responders. Pafford could help with the training and encouraged it. In house staff would help provide training and ANC had programs. Quarterly and semi -annual meetings were held with the fire departments. Fire departments needed to contact Jessica Trichel, supervisor for Mississippi County.**

**3. Justice, Reggie Cullom asked how many Fire Chiefs knew to contact Pafford for the first responders? Accessibility from your location in Osceola to Wilson the normal response time was 25 to 30 minutes. People were in Bassett, Joiner, Frenchmans Bayou, Birdsong, Denwood, Dyess, Etowah. Average age was considerably higher than Osceola or Blytheville. First responders were a good group to respond. Accessibility for elderly people was important. Jamie Pafford pulled numbers on response times. Wilson had an average of 7 calls a month. Attitudes were important. When calls were transferred from 911 to Pafford. Questions asked. Address of emergency, repeat it, house or business, what happened, button pushed to send ambulance, dispatcher stated ambulance dispatched and more questions were asked. Lt. Brown stated the Sheriff's Departments dispatchers remained on the line with Pafford and heard the call go out.**

**4. Justice McClanahan asked who was the keeper of the emergency responders in Arkansas?**

**1. Dispatch center would contact fire departments to contact first responders. 911 dispatch.**

**2. Other ambulance services would be called if response time was faster. Pafford does not**

**automatically call air evac. Certain criteria was gone by to put a helicopter on call. Information received from dispatch. Industries liked to use their people. Doctors had the say if patient needed to be transported immediately. First responders at Big River complaint was the long wait time until ambulance arrived. Specialty response team was brought in during COVID to help cover areas. Communication needed to be better with the fire departments and industries.**

**5. Justice Ash stated the lines of communication had been opened. Cards were passed around to be able to contact Pafford. The Committee couldn't fix the problems but could help. Pafford was fully staffed with paramedic trucks. First responders were able to call for air ambulance if needed.**

**6. Meeting adjourned.**

**Minutes submitted by: Cindy George**