

January 7th, 2025

The Rusk County Emergency Services District #1 met on this date at 6:17 p.m. for a Special Called Workshop with Board President David Burks presiding. Board Members present were Brian Bathke, Gloria Dooley, Jiffy Dukes and Wayne Griffith.

Departments in attendance at the workshop were: Reklaw, Church Hill, Crims Chapel, New Salem, Overton, Rusk County Rescue, Mt. Enterprise, Henderson, Carlisle, New London, and Eastside.

As there was no old business, the first item under New Business was to consider and discuss vehicle purchases for the next 5 years. Board Member Jiffy Dukes lead the discussion and after a brief discussion, it was agreed that the Board should aim to purchase either an engine and a brush truck or a tender and a brush truck every year through 2029. The Board also agreed that the goal should be to reduce the engine size back to the attack engine similar to the one used by the Smith Co. ESD #2. None of the vehicles will be assigned until they are nearly out of production. Both the engine and brush truck specs will be reworked to simplify the designs and, hopefully, cut back on costly repairs.

The next item under New Business for discussion was to begin the process of setting a Strategic Plan in place. Board Member Jiffy Dukes presented a template to the Board to initiate the discussion on establishing a plan for the next 5 to 10 years for the District to implement. The Board reviewed our current Mission Statement and reviewed the template and were in agreement for the need to start the process of a written Strategic Plan. As our annual state meeting was coming up next month, it was agreed that we should all go over the template and also gather additional information at the state meeting so we could meet again in a workshop forum and start laying the groundwork for a long term plan. Everyone felt that we should plan to meet in April for another workshop to pinpoint what the needs of our ESD fire District are and how to move forward to meet those needs.

There being no further business to come before the Board at this time, a motion to adjourn was made by Board Member Wayne Griffith, and duly seconded by Board Member Jiffy Dukes. On a unanimous vote of the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

Secretary

President