

Emergency Services Advisory Council
September 17, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Rick Baker, Michael Robinson (virtual), Michael Guerin, Dr. Stephanie Kemp, JJ Lynott, Tim Legore, Michael Karolenko, Jim Mora, David Coe, Scott Dickson (virtual), Brett Six

Members Absent: Jeff Fleming, Joe Brown, Blane Wright, Robert Ruch

Public: Susan Mott- 2nd VP, CCVESA

Chairman Baker opened the meeting at 19:00 with the Pledge of Allegiance.

David Coe made a motion to approve the August meeting minutes. Mike Karolenko seconded. The motion was unanimously passed.

Board Member Comments:

Mike Karolenko noted how the department stepped up and came together after the accident involving Medic 139. He thanked Commissioner Guerin for his support.

JJ Lynott shared that Junior Day is September 27th at the PSTC, 7:30 AM – 2:30 PM. There is training in the morning, then competitions in the afternoon which are open to the public. Commissioners are welcome at any time.

Rick Baker is working with Mel Long, Data Analyst, on mutual aid numbers.

Public Comment: None

Director/Chief's Report: (Report attached)

-There will be a Pinning & Promotional Ceremony on November 20th at Winters Mill High School.

Commissioner's Report:

-Commissioner Guerin encouraged everyone to attend the fire company loan meeting on September 30th and to ask questions.

CCVESA President's Report: Not present

Medical Director's Report:

- Dr. Kemp reported that UEScopes are now on all forward-facing medic units. By January 1st, all ALS units will have them. Videos of the procedures will be uploaded to a HIPAA compliant SharePoint and feedback will be provided to the clinicians.
- IV warmers are in place on all units.
- IV pumps are in and transport ventilators have been ordered. Training is being developed for both.
- Dr. Kemp has been studying helicopter utilization and is pleasantly surprised with the appropriateness of our helicopter use in this county.
- DFEMS administered whole blood at an incident tonight and transported two pediatric patients.
- Direct-to-triage policy is in place and there have been no complaints.
- Transfer-of-care is not as bad as it has been, but it could be better.

Committee Reports:

EMSOPS - David Coe reported that EMSOPS has seven policies that are 90% ready. They will be forwarded to ESAC once approved by EMSOPS. The next meeting is October 16th.

FROPS - Tim Legore reported that FROPS had a lengthy discussion about the Battalion Chiefs. They also discussed medic unit responses to nursing homes, the extreme weather policy, fire company loans, the 9/11 ceremony and the ESO training.

Old Business:

- Apparatus Replacement Policy 1.14
 - Additional changes to the policy were requested by County Administration.
 - ESAC has not received an updated policy at this time.
- Insurance Update
 - Chief Robinson stated that if damage is caused by a volunteer driver, the respective VFC will pay the deductible amount. If damage is

caused by a career driver, the county will pay the deductible amount.

- It was requested that the Chief provide this information in writing.
- Jim Mora inquired about the replacement value of apparatus. He was told by Risk Management that Chief Robinson had to approve the values.
- Chief Robinson suggested the VFIS attend a CCVESA meeting.
- Joint ESAC/BOC Meeting
 - ESAC would like to meet with the Commissioners possibly in November.
 - Chairman Baker will send an email to Roberta Windham, County Administrator, requesting a meeting and suggesting dates.
- FY27 Budget Discussion
 - DFEMS is still short eight Float positions from the original plan.
 - Chief Robinson discussed positions he plans to request including two training lieutenants, assistance for the Quartermaster, an additional paramedic for community paramedicine, to upgrade one Station Lieutenant at stations 1, 3 and 12 to Captain.
 - Tim Legore inquired about requesting Safety Officers as well.
 - Chairman Baker asked if DFEMS is planning on applying for a SAFER grant to fund the eight Floater positions. Chief Robinson discussed how the county has rejected the idea of applying for a SAFER grant in previous years.
 - Chairman Baker asked Chief Robinson to provide ESAC with a list of what positions are being requested for FY27.
 - Chairman Baker and Commissioner Guerin discussed the need to develop a five-year plan and to revisit the strategic plan.
 - The group discussed the need for salary scales. We need to provide growth for people and to be able to show them what their salary will look like if they continue with DFEMS. Salary scales are provided in other jurisdictions.

New Business

- DFEMS Ambulance Request
 - DFEMS is requesting to purchase three ambulances to be delivered in late 2027.

- David Coe made a motion to recommend approving the purchase. Mike Karolenko seconded. The motion was unanimously passed.
- DFEMS Chevy Tahoe and Ford F150 Request
 - JJ Lynott asked if a F250 would be better. Chief Robinson noted that the F250 does not have a police package available.
 - David Coe made a motion to recommend approving the purchase. Mike Karolenko seconded. The motion was unanimously passed.

Action Items:

1. Chief Robinson will send information to ESAC about the insurance deductibles.
2. Chief Robinson will provide a copy of his position requests to ESAC.
3. Chairman Baker will reach out to the County Administrator to schedule a joint ESAC/BOC meeting.

JJ Lynott made a motion to adjourn. Jim Mora seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 20:28.



September 17, 2025
Chief Michael Robinson
Monthly Report to ESAC

M-139 MVC: On Saturday, September 6 M-139 while responding to a “dog bite” as the 5th or greater medic unit was involved in a catastrophic accident with a 9000 gallon gasoline tanker. I’m certain that most have seen the video. There was an initial fire and entrapment of our personnel. Both were flown via Trooper to Shock Trauma. Along with Chief Zaney and President Karolenko we immediately responded to Shock Trauma to assure that our people were ok. The assistance from outside agencies was phenomenal. Both the FF/EMT and the FF/PM have since been discharged but have some injuries that will take some time to heal. Working with the sheriff we are using their internal affairs personnel to work with us and Baltimore County’s Crash Team to reconstruct what occurred and all of the related dynamics. The unit is totaled and in seeing it we were fortunate that the injuries weren’t more significant. Chief Brothers is our lead on this and we don’t want to reach conclusions before we evaluate all of the information. The unit is totaled and I am working with risk management to get a replacement-probably a demo and as soon as feasible. There are some units available but it will be at least 2-3 months before replacement. This further compromises our overall EMS fleet. Tomorrow we will hopefully be approved to order the three budgeted units. They will be Ford-F550 gas chassis with a Road Rescue door forward design for the box. The delivery time will be at least 2 years. In several weeks we will travel to Orlando for the final inspection of our first Road Rescue which will either go to Sykesville or Gamber. We are working with fleet and on our end Chief Brothers will be coming to each station to determine the short and long term status of our remaining ambulances. The situation is not good, and we will be developing a plan to address. In the interim we will work closely with you and your vendors and our maintenance shop to address issues as they occur.

Lieutenant promotions: The process I began on 8/27 with the written exam and is continuing through next week with an assessment center to identify 12 lieutenant paramedics. The selection and promotion will be completed by October with an effective date of October 9. The successful candidates will undergo several days of orientation training to understand their roles in both EMS supervision/care as well as expanded incident roles which will evolve further once they are versed in their EMS supervisory roles. They will also supervise career staff at their assigned stations.

STAFFING: We had 4 FADOs begin last week and they should be out by early next week. These are float positions and they have been focusing on water supply operations and especially tanker use. We are also looking to hire an additional 4 PMs and FF/PMs in October and that will be replacements for recent resignations of several personnel. Once these personnel are cleared, M89 and the second unit from Mt. Airy should be ALS.

Recent incidents: We have had a number of working fire and rescue incidents and our overall command presence and operational consistency has been outstanding. Chief Supko is continuing our moving forward with our SOPs and beyond. Each station is receiving a manual of policies. We have begun implementation training for all of our career employees. We also have space in any of these programs for volunteer personnel. There will also be a curriculum package available for all volunteer personnel. We are having a soft implementation with training first and then gradual implementation of policies. With the implementation of the command support tone on all structural responses and higher we are seeing a significant response of volunteer command officers.

911 Ceremony of Remembrance: The annual ceremony was held on Thursday, 9/11/25 and was the 24th anniversary. We had great attendance with keynote remarks by Commissioner Guerin. Next year is the 25th anniversary and we are planning an enhanced ceremony.

Apparatus funding:

This has become a significant issue as the county can only provide loan funding each year at no greater than 5% of their bond issue. This is part of the county statutes which limits lending capabilities. Combined with the limitations on the state's loan fund this creates a significant issue for VFC funding of major apparatus. I have met with the comptroller, county administrator and director of management and budget on this issue. The Commissioners have also been briefed. On Thursday, 9/30/25 there will be a meeting with the county officials involved in the loan funding which will begin around 1800. This is for presidents, but chiefs are certainly welcome. We all recognize how critical funding is given the cost of apparatus and the time to produce. I would encourage each of you to attend this important meeting to discuss the current and future situation.

FY-27 Budget:

We are in the preliminary stages of the Fy 27 budget and will again request two training Lieutenants as well as the remaining eight (8) floaters that were originally budgeted. In addition we are asking for a laborer position to assist the QM. Also an additional paramedic to begin a community paramedicine program. Any additional positions are to be determined. So fundamentally, if any station would like additional career staffing then send me an email stating

what position and a justification. We will discuss further under “New business.” Please understand that any additional positions are the decision of the Commissioners and there is a specific process involved as part of the budget.

My other goal with the FY 27 budget is to request a countywide study by a consultant. That study would evaluate our current system and its capabilities to include both fire and EMS coverage, station locations, apparatus needs/type and staffing. We would use three criteria in the study and that would include ISO standards of coverage, NFPA 1710 for coverage and CFAI (fire accreditation) standards of cover. I believe we all have opinions but a third-party unbiased organization using national standards could provide a comprehensive overview of our strengths, weakness and recommendations for future Fire/EMS coverage and potential costs. We will see if we are able to have this included.

ESO Implementation: Our “Train the Trainer” program for ESO will be held this Friday through Sunday at the PSTC. This is a “Bring your own device” in order to learn all of the specifics of our new reporting system. The training will run about 6 hours each day and attendance is needed at only one session.