



**Loveland Fire Rescue Advisory Commission Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, September 14, 2016, 5:30 p.m.  
Fire Administration Building (FAB)  
Emergency Operations Center (EOC), 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
410 E. 5<sup>th</sup> St., Loveland, CO. 80537**

**Meeting called to order at 5:33 p.m.**

**FRAC Present:** Chair Jonathan (Jon) Smela, Fire Chief Mark Miller, Division Chief Ned Sparks, Division Chief Greg Ward, Paul Pfeiffer, Leo Wotan, Leroy (Andy) Anderson, Elton Bingham and Bonnie Wright.

**FRAC Absent:** City Council Representative John Fogle

1. **Minutes approval:** presented by Chair Smela  
Chair Smela motioned to approve the May 11, 2016 minutes; Members Paul Pfeiffer and Leo Wotan seconded the motion. Motion carried.
2. **City Council updates:** presented by Chief Mark Miller
  - ❖ There was none.
3. **Chief Updates:** presented by Chief Mark Miller
  - ❖ There were no questions about the Chief's monthly report.
  - ❖ Chief Miller commented that the City of Loveland will be spending \$700,000 to do mitigation at the LFRA Fire training area.
  - ❖ Chief Miller reported that the City of Loveland has some significant issues with the health insurance benefits. Over the past four to five years there has not been much increase in employee premiums and it put the fund behind about \$9 million. The cost is being passed down to the employees and departments. LFRA could see a 20% increase in health premiums and is looking at different health plan options.
  - ❖ Chief Miller commented that the fire authority is looking at different funding mechanisms for capital projects, fire station 7 out west and fire station 10 out east. The fire authority is strategizing about what the best methodology is for capital projects and debt. Interest rates right now are very low and as a municipality could absorb or take on some debt.
4. **2017 Proposed Budget:** presented by Chief Mark Miller
  - ❖ Chief Miller talked about the 2017 proposed budget.
  - ❖ The total budget is \$14.2 million which is a 13.0% increase
  - ❖ Supplemental request –converting part time to full time - \$132,499

- ❖ Base Core Budget - \$14.1 million dollars – 11.9% increase
- ❖ 74% of the budget is personnel
- ❖ 87% of the strategic plan will be completed by 2017 and it will be ready for updating. The strategic plan was started in 2012.
- ❖ LFRA brings most of its revenue in from the Community Safety Division from permits and special events.
- ❖ Chief Miller added that with the estimated 20% increase on the insurance premiums, the budget had to be cut to bring it back in line and solicit other insurance companies for bids. They have had two meetings with the Colorado Employment Benefit Trust (CEBT is a separate, private company) and compared it with what the City currently has versus what CEBT could offer.
- ❖ An employee committee was created to decide if the fire authority should change insurance carriers or not and if they can provide equal or better benefits with cheaper premiums.
- ❖ This year there has been 44 stop loss individual claims that were extraordinary where each of those claims went over the \$175,000 threshold.
- ❖ Chief Miller added that the fire authority is looking at getting its own Human Resources position. Currently, the City is charging the fire authority \$180,000 for its HR services and if it hired its own HR person it could save around \$50,000. The position would handle HR, Risk Management and hiring processes and would be more like a manager than a generalist.
- ❖ Capital Improvements – because of the Tabor Act, money can only be used for specific things.
- ❖ The City is getting new apparatus in December and also in 2017.
- ❖ Improvements are proposed in 2018 for the fire training area and fire station 7 and in 2023 for fire station 10. With accruing debt, there is opportunity to build a fire station much sooner instead of waiting for the money.
- ❖ A lot of CEFs were spent on fire station 2.
- ❖ Loveland Police Department wants to build a regional training facility that a large chunk of Tabor would be part of.
- ❖ Chair Smela also commented to be cautious about charging and let City Council make that decision.
- ❖ He added that there is a flavor right now for Tabor being used for public safety and Tabor could be used to payback debt.
- ❖ Chief Miller commented that population, calls, construction and call times are all reasons for getting two new fire stations. The east side is growing faster than the west side but call volume shows a demand for another station on the west side.
- ❖ Debt is incurred by the City of Loveland and the FAB or fire station could be used as collateral or pledge the building that is being built.
- ❖ Fire Station 3 will stay in the same location on Wilson but will build a new building in place of the old one.
- ❖ There is not a replacement fund for rural apparatus and Chief Ward is looking at four pieces of apparatus for the rural district.
- ❖ CEFs are coming in but not fast enough to fund another fire station.

5. **The Training Center (Supplemental Request):** Chief Miller reported that the impound ponds monitoring well is monitoring the ground water and radio nuclides, pesticides and radioactive metals were found on the property that need to be fixed. He added that closing the pond is the best way to go but there would be nowhere for the waste water to go. Monitoring wells will continue after the pond is closed.

- ❖ Public Works will put in an expansion bridge that will reroute the stream and when that happens Fire Engine Red St. will go away.
- ❖ The fire training area will get a new entrance at Southwest 12<sup>th</sup> Street and Garfield Avenue and there will also be secondary access out of the training area. Existing easements will be used for the access road.

6. **Rural District Board Updates:** presented by Rural Board Member Andy Anderson

- ❖ Construction is going on in the Big Thompson Canyon and the rural district is working with Kiewit and the Estes Park Fire Protection District for access when they get a call.
- ❖ The 2017 budget has been approved.
- ❖ Member Anderson added that land for fire station 7 is being negotiated with the owner through a realtor. It is an ideal piece of land that is 2.3 acres between County Road 27 and County Road 24.
- ❖ The realtor is negotiating the price on the property value and comparables.
- ❖ The traffic situation has not been discussed yet about Highway 34 and County Road 29 but in the future may have to put up a yellow flashing light at that intersection.

7. **Future of FRAC:** Chair Smela

- ❖ Chair Smela talked with Chief Miller about FRACs future and when they moved from the City of Loveland to the LFRA to an AdHoc type of commission they are going to probably move towards now.
- ❖ He added that maybe when accreditation gets going again to start a recruitment process to get contributing members then.
- ❖ Co-chair Bob Boggio and member Dave Adams both resigned.
- ❖ The frequency of the meetings is to be determined.
- ❖ The commission will most likely get together in January through March to work on the accreditation process.
- ❖ Accreditation puts the department in a position of being evaluated by its peers and meeting those standards by comparing this department to top fire departments in the country. Chief Miller added that almost every department in the City of Loveland is accredited and the accreditation has to be maintained.
- ❖ FRAC started in 1995 and was used to help get the first master plan done for the City of Loveland.
- ❖ Chair Smela feels the commission is much underutilized and the LFRA Board has another option to help with decision making.

8. **Public Comment (If applicable) citizens:** There was no public comment.

**Motion to Adjourn:** Meeting adjourned at 7:20 P.M.

The October, November and December FRAC meetings have been cancelled and will reconvene in 2017.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Bonnie Wright, Administrative Technician, LFRA.

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