

Leicester Volunteer Fire Department Board Meeting

October 27, 2025

The October 2025 meeting of the Board of Directors of the Leicester Volunteer Fire Department was held on October 27, 2025. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Todd Basinger at 7:00 pm and he confirmed that a quorum of the Board was present. Members present were Chairman Todd Basinger, Vice Chairman Jason Ayers, Fire Chief Gary Moore, Treasurer Kendra Ferguson, Secretary Charlene Martin, and Board Members at Large Ed Parham and Tyler Bissinger. Board Members absent were Mark Lusk and Johnathan Courtney.

Guest(s) present: Deputy Chief Roger Banks, A Shift Captain Rob Cutchins, B Shift Captain/ AEMT Zach St. Germain, Firefighter Volunteer Marty Rice, Firefighter/ Paramedic Todd Sorrells. Community members present: Firefighter Grady Smith, Veronique Smith, Volunteer Firefighter Landon Cicillian, Karla Reed and Fran Lee.

Secretary's Report: Secretary Charlene Martin presented the minutes from the September 29, 2025, Board of Directors meeting. Kendra Ferguson made a motion to accept the minutes; the motion was seconded by Tyler Bissinger and passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Kendra Ferguson presented the Treasurer's Report to the Board. She stated that the Total Revenue for LVFD is on target at this point of the year. She informed the Board that Expenses are over budget at this point due to mold remediation costs at the Sandy Mush Station. Ms. Ferguson also stated that the annual audit is approaching, and she hopes to have the report by the November Board meeting. A motion to accept the Treasurer's Report was made by Tyler Bissinger, seconded by Chief Gary Moore and passed unanimously.

Old Business:

1. MOU with Buncombe County for Housing Special Operations Medic

Chief Moore stated that he is awaiting the final MOU with Buncombe County.

2. Sandy Mush Station

Clark and Leatherwood, Vannoy, and Carolina Specialties have all been on site and are working on proposals. No additional estimates for the Sandy Mush remodel have been received as of this meeting.

Mold removal and cleaning have been completed at the Sandy Mush Station. Crews have reported better air quality and better smelling facility, with no reports of headaches or other adverse reactions to being in the building. The building has one small section of the drywall that needs to be replaced. Grady Smith will repair this for the department.

3. Brush Trucks

Chief Moore stated that both brush trucks have been repaired and are currently back in service.

4. Engagement Agreement with Robert Carpenter as LVFD attorney

The Engagement Agreement has been signed, and LVFD bylaws have been sent for review. Questions regarding building usage have also been sent. No response from the attorney has been received as of this meeting.

5. Service Agreement for new UTV

The MR Motorcycle 36-month service agreement, approved by the Board at the September meeting, has been signed and is in place.

All equipment for the new UTV has been ordered after receiving unanimous board approval via email.

6. Flat Tax Rate proposed by Buncombe County Commissioners

Chief Moore reported that Chiefs are meeting every other week with Buncombe County leaders to discuss the proposed county-wide flat-rate fire tax. No real progress to report. Chief Moore visited Iredell County and found mixed reviews. Many questions still exist concerning staffing, funding for a minimum beginning firefighter salary of \$70,000, how funding will be distributed, the effect of individual departments' savings, etc.

New Business:

1. Christman Bonuses

Last year full-time employees received \$425; part-time employees received \$300; and active volunteers with 6 months or more service received \$150. Treasurer Kendra Ferguson informed the board that these amounts are before taxes. The total cost to provide these bonuses this year would be \$17,565.43. Kendra Ferguson made a motion to provide these bonuses up to \$18,000.00 this December; the motion was seconded by Jason Ayers and passed unanimously.

2. Request to Amend March 31, 2025, Board Minutes

Firefighter Grady Smith read a letter to the Board regarding concerns with the March Board meeting minutes. After discussion from several people in attendance, Board Chairman Todd Basinger stated that the Board would need to consult the Board attorney on this matter before taking any action.

3. Community Appreciation

A member of the community, Fran Lee, expressed appreciation to the Leicester Fire Department for their support in the past and gratitude for their on-going dependability and high-quality assistance in times of need in the community.

Kendra Ferguson made a motion to adjourn at 7:49 pm. The motion was seconded by Tyler Bissinger and the motion passed unanimously.