

Leicester Volunteer Fire Department Board Meeting

March 30, 2026

The March 2026 meeting of the Board of Directors of the Leicester Volunteer Fire Department was held on March 30, 2026. The meeting was called to order by Board Chairman Todd Basinger at 7:02 pm and he confirmed that a quorum of the Board was present. Board members present: Chairman Todd Basinger, Vice Chairman Jason Ayers, Fire Chief Gary Moore, Treasurer Kendra Ferguson, Secretary Charlene Martin, and Board Members at Large Tyler Bissinger, Johnathan Courtney, and Ed Parham. At Large Board Member Mark Lusk was absent.

Community members present: Firefighter Volunteer Marty Rice, Firefighter Jacob Boyd, Firefighter Grady Smith, Veronique Smith and Karla Reed.

Other guests present: Deputy Chief Roger Banks, C Shift Captain/AEMT Jason Griffin, Firefighter Dakota Fields and Firefighter Gabe Burch.

Secretary's Report: Secretary Charlene Martin presented the minutes from the February 23, 2026, Board of Directors meeting. Community member Marty Rice questioned if Todd Basinger, as chairman of the board, should have made a motion (under New Business, item 1, motion to sell Engine 18-4 to Spring Creek Fire Department for \$1). Chairman Basinger had investigated this matter and found that if a board of directors has fewer than 12 members, the chair may make motions (See Robert's Rules of Order section 49, item 21). Kendra Ferguson made a motion to accept the minutes; the motion was seconded by Jason Ayers and passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Kendra Ferguson presented the Treasurer's Report to the Board. Ms. Ferguson stated that LVFD should be at 25% of the budget remaining in most categories. Significantly over budget are vehicle repairs, due to major repairs on two brush trucks, and professional services, due to retaining lawyer services, an increase in health services and increased CPA fees. A motion to accept the Treasurer's Report was made by Tyler Bissinger, seconded by Chief Gary Moore and passed unanimously.

Ms. Ferguson presented highlights from the Prager Metis Independent Auditor's Report. The correction of an accounting error pertaining to the financial lease liabilities in 2024 is explained in Note 13 Prior Period Restatement. LVFD's largest expenditures are salaries and Repairs & maintenance. The audit shows a reduction of total assets from \$10,834,520

in 2024 to \$9,968,495 in 2025. A motion to accept the Audit's Report was made by Tyler Bissinger, seconded by Ed Parham and passed unanimously.

A motion to obtain quotes for fiscal year 2026 audit and filing of form 990 was made by Kendra Ferguson, seconded by Tyler Bassinger and passed unanimously.

Old Business:

1. Sandy Mush Station Remodel Update

Chief Moore and Captain St. Germain will meet onsite with a Ryse Construction contractor tomorrow, March 31, 2026. The goal is to construct a station like Newfound, but with a larger kitchen and dayroom.

2. County-Wide Flat Rate Tax Discussions

Chief Gary Moore reported that North and West Chiefs will meet with Buncombe County manager on April 15 to discuss budget requests. Chief Moore also stated that the Buncombe County Fire Chiefs Association has retained an attorney to review the updated county contract.

3. Bylaws Update

Chief Moore has received no feedback from the Board. A motion to create a Bylaws Subcommittee to review bylaws and make recommendations to the Board was made by Kendra Ferguson, seconded by Jason Ayers and passed unanimously. Members of the subcommittee are Chairman Todd Basinger, Vice Chairman Jason Ayers, Treasurer Kendra Ferguson and Secretary Charlene Martin.

4. Engine 18-4

This engine has been sold and delivered to Spring Creek Fire Department. The engine was sold to Spring Creek Fire Department for \$1.00.

5. Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) has been applied.

6. Life Arm Replacement has been received and is in service.

New Business:

1. Auditor's Report

Audit is complete and 'clean'. Copies of the report were distributed to all board members. (See discussion under the Treasurer's Report above.)

2. Chief Gary Moore praised the staff for their outstanding performance in the past week. Members of LVFD covered Reems Creek Fire Department following the death of Chief Chris Dorsey. Staff also fought an overnight fire. Throughout the tough week, members maintained a high level of service to the community.

3. Meeting Room Use

Chief Moore informed the Board that he met with a VFIS representative (Volunteer Fireman's Insurance Services, INC) following the February board meeting. Chief Moore also shared documents pertaining to the potential risks involved when an outside organization uses the meeting room. He was advised by our insurance company that LVFD would need to have every visitor using the meeting room to sign a waiver for every meeting, which is not feasible for staff to keep up with. Previously staff have been left to clean up after groups. Staff have voiced concerns about getting a call while groups are in the building, leaving groups unattended. After discussion, a motion was made by Kendra Ferguson to restrict use of department facilities to official fire department business and events. The motion was seconded by Ed Parham and passed unanimously.

With no further business or comments, Kendra Ferguson made a motion to adjourn at 7:39 pm. The motion was seconded by Tyler Bassinger and passed unanimously.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Leicester Volunteer Fire Department Board of Directors will be Monday, April 27, 2026, at 7:00 pm at the main station, 1563 Alexander Road, Leicester, NC.