

## MINUTES

**Central Arizona Fire and Medical Authority Board of Directors Special Meeting  
Tuesday, December 28, 2021, 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm  
Central Arizona Fire and Medical Authority, Administration**

### **In-Person Attendance**

Darlene Packard; Dave Tharp; Kathy Goodman; Matt Zurcher;  
Rick Anderson; Scott A Freitag; Susanne Dixon

### **Remote Attendance**

Nicolas Cornelius; Owen Mills

### **Not In Attendance**

Dave Dobbs

## NOTICE OF MEETING

### 1. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL OF BOARD MEMBERS

**Chair Zurcher called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.**

### 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

**Chair Zurcher led the Pledge of Allegiance.**

### 3. CALL TO THE PUBLIC

**There were no public comments.**

### 4. OLD BUSINESS

#### A. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Ambulance Response Update

**Chief Freitag reported that the ambulance crisis continues to worsen, with AMR / Life Line going Level Zero (no ambulances available) daily, and for longer periods of time. He shared that yesterday morning, CAFMA crews transported three patients in three separate Rescues, and that the Agency is having to use the Rescues more and more. From the beginning of regularly staffing the Rescues to late November, CAFMA paid out \$30,000.00 in overtime. At that point, an attempt was made to stop regularly staffing the Rescues; however, there were far too many times they were needed due to AMR's lack of resources.**

He continued, reporting that Daisy Mountain Fire Department has expressed that they are being impacted by AMR's lack of resources. Daisy Mountain is having difficulty receiving backup from Phoenix because Phoenix is being pulled to Glendale to cover ambulances that were pulled elsewhere. They have difficulty receiving backup from Mayer because Mayer is being pulled into Prescott to cover, then disregarded. Due to this, I-17 does not have the coverage that it should.

Chair Zurcher voiced that hearing "Level Zero" on the scanner is alarming, and that he often considers what the ambulance crisis would look like without CAFMA's Rescues.

Chief Freitag shared the story of baby Lily's birthday visit to meet the CAFMA crew that transported her in a borrowed Mesa Fire Rescue after her near-drowning.

Chair Zurcher communicated that the day after the last Board meeting, December 17, he sent an invite to the Town of Prescott Valley Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Town Manager proposing a meeting on January 5th or January 12th to discuss the latest developments in detail. He had not yet received word back.

Chief Freitag reported that he spoke with the Town of Prescott Valley Town Manager about a meeting with the Mayor and Vice Mayor. Instead of a meeting, they suggested that CAFMA sit down with AMR and consider signing the AMR agreement. He responded that CAFMA has been addressing the issues for six years, including working with AMR, and it has not made a difference. He again offered to meet with the Mayor and Vice Mayor to explain the history and walk through the AMR agreement with the Council to explain why the Agency is not interested in signing it.

Clerk Packard stated that Councilman Packard of the Town of Prescott Valley had a conversation with the Town Manager yesterday in order to express his displeasure at the Town's response to the ambulance crisis.

Chief Freitag expressed that he hopes the Town will speak with him because CAFMA protects their constituents. He views it no differently than the Town's educational campaign relating to Prescott Valley's fentanyl issues. CAFMA is educating the public regarding what our first responders face and the crisis that has resulted.

**Chair Zurcher noted that the City of Prescott signed an AMR contract, one that is supposed to guarantee them two units, and just yesterday a Battalion Chief had to transport in his BC vehicle. Chief Freitag stated that Prescott Fire Department is transporting any way they are able; however, the agreement that Prescott signed made it so they cannot speak publicly about AMR response times issues.**

**Chair Zurcher stated that Board members and Chief Freitag are going to go before the Yavapai County Board of Supervisors as these ambulance issues are affecting a good portion of the County, as well as other areas.**

**Chief Niemynski reported that there are ambulances staffed with EMTs certified in Basic Life Support (BLS); however, there are not enough ambulances staffed with paramedics certified in advanced care and Advanced Life Support (ALS). This forces CAFMA paramedics to have to ride into the hospital on advanced care and ALS calls, which takes an engine out of service when it should not be out of service.**

**Chief Freitag clarified that there has been conversation on social media that the problem is not that there are not enough units, but that the fault lies with the public for abusing the 9-1-1 system. He asserted that CAFMA does not see that level of abuse. He said that some state that most calls are BLS, so EMS does not need many ALS ambulances. He noted that there are times when advanced care is required and he offered examples of calls that are not ALS, but require paramedic-level care.**

**Clerk Packard stated that she will continue to research methods to help raise awareness.**

**B. Discussion and Possible Approval to Purchase One (1) Used Rescue**

**Chief Freitag announced that the Agency did not receive any quotes for used Rescue units. Staff has continued searching, but have not yet found an appropriately priced unit. He shared that the Northwest Fire ambulance loaner that crews have been using is available for purchase.**

**Chief Rose reported that Northwest Fire is willing to sell CAFMA the ambulance that was borrowed. Fleet Maintenance reports no**

issues, and he is of the opinion that this ambulance is a good investment that will last. The purchase price is \$50,000.00.

Chief Freitag added that the Northwest ambulance includes a Power Cot, and that \$50,000.00 is a good deal from an Agency with which CAFMA is familiar. Staff recommendation is to purchase the ambulance for \$50,000.00, pending approval from the Northwest Fire Board.

Chief Tharp clarified that the ambulance is 'as is'.

**Motion to purchase the Northwest Fire unit 'as is' for \$50,000.00.**

Move: Rick Anderson Second: Darlene Packard Status: Passed

Yes: Darlene Packard, Matt Zurcher, Owen Mills, Rick Anderson

C. Discussion and Possible Approval to Purchase Three (3) New Rescues

Chief Freitag detailed the contents of each Rescue quote one by one. He cautioned the Board that other vendors have ordered new chassis only to be told after waiting that the manufacturer has met their quota and their chassis is delayed.

He reported that Staff looked at a demo 2021 Ford F-450 4x4 chassis with a Wheeled Coach Box from Emergency Vehicle Group that meets specifications and could be delivered by the end of January. Price before tax is \$182,556.00. Chief Rose reminded the Board that when an ambulance arrives radios and striping must be added, possibly taking an additional 4-6 weeks before the Rescue is in service.

Chief Freitag continued, explaining that Republic has two units available, a 2020 Dodge RAM 4x2 that could be delivered after a fuel pump recall, and a 2020 Ford F-550 4x4 that is ready to go immediately and could be delivered as early as tomorrow. Price of the Dodge before tax is \$185,956.00, price of the Ford before tax is \$234,995.00.

Chief Freitag noted that Staff recommends at least four units as there are times that crews run all four at once transporting patients; therefore, Staff recommends purchasing the Ford F-450 from Emergency Vehicle Group and purchasing the two units from Republic.

**Chair Zurcher reminded the Board that the funds for these units is already budgeted. Chief Freitag further explained that the vehicles the funds were originally budgeted for were not available this year. He also explained that Staff is able to purchase the stretchers through Stryker for under \$57,000.00; originally that number looked to be \$100,000.00.**

**Chair Zurcher recommended amending the agenda and moving forward with voting on the stretchers as well as the ambulance units.**

**Chief Rose stated that the price of three mid-level Stryker cots is \$56,082.00, and it is taking 13 weeks to receive them from time of order.**

**Chief Tharp requested that the Board clarify which items are with and without tax, and recommended that the Board specify 'plus tax and freight' in their motions, and that the items are being purchased from available funds, up to and possibly including contingency funds.**

**Attorney Cornelius agreed that the Board should specify current funds, as well as contingency funds; however, he added that the Board may place a cap. Chief Freitag noted that available funds total \$800,000.00. Director Anderson stated that an \$800,000.00 cap would be appropriate.**

**Chief Rose explained that the graphics and radios are already covered, and that any additional equipment will be presented to the Board if the Agency receives a Certificate of Necessity (CON).**

**Clerk Packard made a motion to approve the purchase of one Emergency Vehicle Group Rescue unit in the amount of \$199,688.73 in totality out of current budgeted funds and contingency, if necessary, not to exceed \$800,000.00. Director Anderson seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

**Director Anderson made a motion to approve the purchase of two Republic Rescue units in the amount of \$424,951.00 plus tax and freight using current budgeted funds and contingency, if necessary, not to exceed \$800,000.00. Clerk Packard seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

**Chief Tharp stated for the record that in moving forward with**

**quote options two and three, in lieu of choosing the first or fourth, the Board chose to spend less than they would have with quotes one or four.**

- D. Discussion and Possible Approval of Three (3) Stryker Stretchers and Accessories in the Amount of \$56,082.00 Plus Tax and Freight

**This item was added to the agenda during the meeting. Find discussion under the previous agenda item, Item 4.C.**

**Motion to approve the expenditure of three Stryker stretchers and accessories in the amount of \$56,082.00 plus tax and freight using current budgeted funds and contingency, if necessary, not to exceed \$800,000.00.**

Move: Rick Anderson Second: Darlene Packard Status: Passed

Yes: Darlene Packard, Matt Zurcher, Owen Mills, Rick Anderson

## 5. ADJOURNMENT

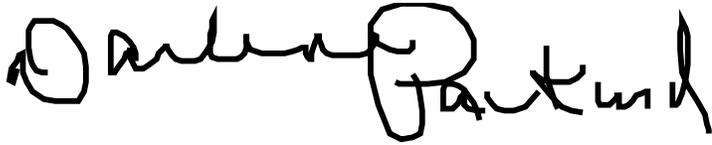
**Motion to adjourn at 2:37 p.m.**

Move: Rick Anderson Second: Darlene Packard Status: Passed

Yes: Darlene Packard, Matt Zurcher, Owen Mills, Rick Anderson

**Signature indicating approval on next page.**

**Signature Page For: 2021 12 28 CEA Special Meeting Minutes - Approved - Central Arizona Fire and Medical Authority Board of Directors - CA Regular Meeting - 1/24/2022**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Darlene Packard". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and a distinct "P".

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Darlene Packard , Board Clerk      01/25/2022