



***Lancaster County Fire Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes***

May 7th, 2026

The May meeting of the Lancaster County Fire Commission was held on Thursday, May 7th, 2026, at the Lancaster County EOC at 111 Covenant Place at 7:00 p.m. Freedom of Information Act requirements were met by notification to The Lancaster News, The Herald, Kershaw News Era, Learn TV and Fort Mill Times. The agenda was also posted on the bulletin boards at the Lancaster County Administration Building and the EOC on Thursday, April 30th, 2026.

Chairman Clint Sowell called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and Fred Plyler gave the invocation.

Fire Commission Members:

Antioch – Eric Flynn*
Bell Town – Jamie Gainer*
Buford – Billy Morris*
Camp Creek – Toby Roberts
Van Wyck – Mark Carnes – Alternate – Mike Metcalf*
Elgin – Billy Robinson*
Flat Creek – Ron Schachtner*
Gooch's – Terry Ward
Heath Springs – Matthew Harris*
Indian Land – Greg Nicholson*
Kershaw – Todd Duncan*
Lancaster – Justin McLellan*
McDonald Green – Clint Sowell*
Rich Hill – Josh Alford*
Riverside – Chris Gardner*
Shiloh-Zion – Fred Plyler*
Tradesville – Jason Laney*
Unity – Kelsi Lang*
F-1 – Greg Nicholson*
F-2 – Keith Wilson*
F-3 – Britt Blackmon*
F-4 – Billy Lloyd*
F-6 – Sam Plyler
F-7 – Brian Stogner
F-9 – Tony Gainer*
F-10 – Mike Magette
Administrative Assistant – Sarah Jane Goode*

* - Members Present



Visitors: County Administrator Steve Willis, Robbie Clanton, Perry Clanton

Approval of the May 7th, 2026 Agenda: Justin McLellan made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Jason Laney seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Approval of the April 2nd, 2026 Minutes: Jamie Gainer made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Jason Laney seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Citizen Comments: County Administrator Steve Willis would like to thank everyone for their excellent work on the search and rescue the other day.

Standard Operating Guideline Committee – Nothing to report.

Strategic Planning and Governmental Operations Committee – Nothing to report.

Apparatus and Equipment Committee – Nothing to report.

Budget Planning & Appropriations Committee – Nothing to report.

Personnel and Interagency Relations Committee – Nothing to report.

Old Business:

- a. Discussion concerning Fire Rescue Moving Forward – Chairman Clint Sowell stated they have reached out to Brad Carnes regarding the information needed for each district. They have not received all the information back yet but as soon as they do, they will create a committee and start moving forward. Greg Nicholson stated they are working on getting the final numbers for what the millage will be for the county. They have said it will take approximately two more weeks to get those numbers. No action taken.
- b. Discussion concerning Report for First Due – Billy Lloyd stated training has been moved over. He is waiting on Britt Blackmon and Sam Plyler to give their dates on when they are training on the training module. He explained the reason they waited was they were not sure how the training certifications and certain categories would end up in the move. They have all of this moved over now and can begin going through some training before going to the training officers. Training officers will be shown how to complete the individual training then they will train their station. They will also show individuals how to look up their training records if needed. Billy Lloyd went on to state the apparatus and equipment has moved over and they are starting the process of refining some things. Some chiefs and individuals over equipment may have been receiving emails from First Due stating what has been done. These emails usually come in a set of two; the first email stating a maintenance request was created and the second email stating the request was completed. As of right now, they are entering and completing requests at the same time to get everything in the system. In the future, the emails will be delivered at two different times to



reflect when the request was entered then notify you when the request is completed. He will go to the Chiefs meeting to explain what is going on so everyone is aware. Billy Lloyd asked that if you click on something, please do not edit it as there is a reason it has been done the way it is shown. He clarified they will have to figure out a way to make the equipment per fire department in the system. He explained there was a numbering system used in Fire House that did not transfer over to First Due. As of now, they have created a story position at each station in First Due and listed all equipment under that. This is taking a while as there is a lot of equipment to enter but you will eventually be able to look at the list and see what is at your station. He clarified it will take a little while before we are able to move fully to maintenance requests in First Due. Britt Blackmon is going around teaching everyone how to complete reports and will do the same method when it is time to do maintenance requests. If you have something and it is not listed in First Due, please complete the excel document as you normally would and send to Billy Lloyd. He will get the item added in. He went on to explain the reason equipment is being added in is so if you are on a scene and pull up what is on your truck, you will know if something is missing. Billy Lloyd stated all iPads have been mounted in the trucks. He explained they have their own log in so please do not log out of First Due on them as someone will have to come out to your station and log it back in. If you do a report on the iPad, you will still have to sign the report. If possible, please complete the reports on the computer as the app locks some things out. If you must do the report on an iPad, put as much information as possible. Everyone can log in to First Due online with their personal username and password. You will have the same permissions you have now on your phone, but you can see more information on the computer than in the app. Todd Duncan asked if there was any idea on when they could get pre plans and hydrants. Billy Lloyd stated hydrants are completely different. He went on to state he recently spoke with the Fire Marshal, and he has set up how he would like the pattern to be. The Fire Marshal has gone to Indian Land and trained them but information about the pre plans will come from him when he is ready. Billy Lloyd stated there are responders opening reports that do not pertain to them or their station. He clarified information in First Due, Active 911, on radios, and on pagers is private and not for the general public. When you do something in First Due, it is tagged with your name so if something were to happen, it will come back on you as the last person that opened it. Chairman Clint Sowell asked if we are keeping a log of that person. Billy Lloyd stated the Chiefs of the station have been notified and he can go back and make a list of the reports they have logged into. Greg Nicholson stated the issue with this is if something goes to court and they pull the records; you are the last person that opened the report and will be called. There will be questions as to why you are on that call if you were not meant to be. Todd Duncan asked if there is a check off list for QC as he believed this would help rectify the issue. Billy Lloyd explained the reason they have not pushed out stations doing reports yet is because a lot of information will validate without anything in there on First Due and they are working on getting the rules in the system changed to prevent this. When NERIS swapped over, it did not take over the rules for reports; therefore, those are having to be reestablished. No action taken.

- c. Discussion concerning Fire Reports Summary – Chairman Clint Sowell stated there are still a lot of missing and incomplete reports that everyone needs to work on. No action taken.



New Business:

- a. Discussion concerning Fire Commission Budget – Greg Nicholson stated the current budget numbers are included in your packet. He went on to explain we have about a month and a half left for this budget. He noted both the overtime and employer retirement contribution line items in the 144 budget are over, but everything else looked good. He clarified we are trying to get all the equipment finished and the PO's cut in the budget. He noted a lot will be coming out of the budget this month. Billy Lloyd stated matching funds are over. No action taken.
- b. Discussion concerning Call Types – Todd Duncan stated the March 20th hazmat call in Pageland shows somewhere in Van Wyck when you go to Active 911 and map it. He stated there is a second call he noticed this same issue with but could not remember the details. Billy Lloyd clarified the reason this occurs is because of how our dispatchers enter the address in. If it is not an address of ours, it will not map correctly. The system uses GIS verified addresses. He stated it is best to swap to apple maps on your First Due app if you have an apple device as google maps will take you to the wrong address. No action taken.
- e. Discussion concerning Approval of Fire Department AFG Grants – Nothing to report. No action taken.

Miscellaneous Items:

- a. Grants Update – Chairman Clint Sowell stated everyone should have already received their v-safe grant checks in the mail. As far as he could see, everyone in Lancaster County was approved for this.
- b. Training Report – Britt Blackmon presented the training report. If anyone has any questions, please contact the training division.

Britt Blackmon stated very recently there has been a breach of test in the state. Due to this, certain tests are going to be destroyed in South Carolina. He explained one test leads into another and so on; therefore, multiple tests will have to be destroyed. These tests will go through Hazmat Ops to Fire Fighter 2. Considering this, there will be a big shift in testing and retesting moving forward. Your packet includes a list of the retest dates through the end of the year. Every month, York County hosts two retests on the first and third Thursday of the month. Kershaw County, Lancaster County, and Newberry County rotate every three months. Moving forward, if a test is hosted in Lancaster County and you have a person that fails, he will not be able to get a retest box and have them retest here in two weeks. Everyone will be required to follow the schedule



in your packet. With this, classes are moving away from hard copy textbooks and instead implementing eBooks. He noted this goes against many instructors' wishes. Testing will be computer based in the future as well. Mike Metcalf asked if instruction moves to eBooks, will the students be responsible for providing their own iPads or computers. Britt Blackmon stated this has been a discussion each time the topic is brought up. Matt Harris stated recruits at the academy work with chrome books provided through the academy this week. Instructors found the chrome books are not fully locked out as they were supposed to be which resulted in many students playing games and not staying on task. He did state it was nice to receive immediate test results instead of having to wait for an instructor to grade everything as in the past. He also noted where the textbook may have a photo of someone pulling rope and a written explanation, the eBook photos can be clicked on and a short clip will play to demonstrate what is being done. He noted this can be helpful for some students. Britt Blackmon stated the high school students will be in Atlanta June 1st – 5th.

SCFA

County SCFA Catalog Courses

- July - December 2026 Lancaster County SCFA Catalog Courses are in your packet. Members can sign up for classes via the portal. Please look at cutoff dates and prerequisites.
- Retest Policy
- Classes / Books / Testing

High School Program

- Students are now in NIMS

Rescue

Rescue Drills:

- Large Truck Extrication training May timeframe. PowerPoint May 5th and skills May 9th

Social Media / Station History

Boat Operator class July 16th and 17th

Art of Reading Smoke July 27th or 28th. See flyer in packet

- c. Maintenance Report – Billy Lloyd stated Tower 2 was moved back to Spartan, the manufacturer, for repairs from the bus swipe last week. Insurance will be paying for the repairs. He stated the 98's are still an issue and there is no more status on the throttle position sensor.
- d. Commissioner Station Announcements – None.



Adjournment:

Jason Laney made a motion to adjourn. Chris Gardner seconded the motion, which received unanimous approval. The meeting adjourned at 7:35p.m.

***For the Commission,
Sarah Jane Goode***