



# **Marion County**

## **Fire Rescue and EMS Advisory Board**

### **Meeting Agenda**

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**Wednesday, August 17, 2022      4:00 PM      2631 SE Third Street, Ocala, FL  
34471**

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- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance**
- 3. Roll Call & Quorum Determination**
- 4. Approval of Minutes**
  - 4.1. [Click or tap here to enter text.](#)
- 5. Department Updates**
  - 5.1. [Budget Update](#)
  - 5.2. [Inter-Facility Update](#)
  - 5.3. [Community Paramedicine Update](#)
- 6. Board Items**
  - 6.1. [FY 2021-2022 Quarter 3 Report](#)
- 7. Next Meeting Date: Wednesday, November 16, 2022 - 4:00 p.m.  
We**
- 8. Adjournment**



# Marion County

## Fire Rescue and EMS Advisory Board

### Agenda Item

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**File No.:** 2022-7803

**Agenda Date:** 8/17/2022

**Agenda No.:** 4.1.

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**SUBJECT:**

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**DESCRIPTION/BACKGROUND:**

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**Marion County Fire and EMS Advisory Board  
May 18, 2022 Minutes - DRAFT**

1. Call to Order – The Marion County Fire and EMS Advisory Board met in the Training Room at Marion County Fire Rescue Headquarters, 2631 SE Third Street, Ocala, FL 34471 on May 18, 2022. Patricia Gabriel called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

2. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

3. Members Present:

Patricia Gabriel, Chairperson  
Chief Clint Welborn, Fire Chief, Ocala Fire Rescue  
Joe Reichel, Ocala/Marion County Chamber & Economic Partnership  
Dr. Frank Fraunfelter, Medical Director, Marion County Fire Rescue  
Shane Alexander

Members Absent:

Chad Christianson, CEO, HCA Florida Ocala Hospital  
Joe Johnson, President and CEO, AdventHealth Ocala  
Adam Woods

Others in Attendance:

James Banta, Fire Chief, Marion County Fire Rescue  
Bart Walker, Deputy Chief of Administration, Marion County Fire Rescue  
Robert Graff, Deputy Chief of Operations, Marion County Fire Rescue  
Cassandra Li, Administrative and Financial Services Manager, Marion County Fire Rescue  
Tyrone Edwards, Lieutenant, Community Paramedicine, Marion County Fire Rescue  
James Lucas, Public Information Officer, Marion County Fire Rescue  
Robert Kruger, Battalion Chief, Marion County Fire Rescue  
Lisa Cahill, Communications Manager, Public Safety Communications  
Jason Mann, Community Paramedic, Marion County Fire Rescue  
Nilo Sierra, Paramedic, Marion County Fire Rescue

A quorum was met.

4. Approval of Minutes – The February 16, 2022 minutes were submitted for approval. Dr. Fraunfelter made a motion to adopt the minutes and Shane Alexander seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously 4-0.

5. Marion County Fire Rescue Updates

- Budget Update by Chief Banta – The budget workshops will be held in July. Marion County Fire Rescue (MCFR) is asking for 22 additional positions to staff an additional tower truck constructed by E-One that will provide concurrency relief for Engine 21. The balance of the personnel will cover an additional station at either the Orange Springs location or the SW 49<sup>th</sup> Avenue and SW 80<sup>th</sup> Street location near Station 32. The second location is identified where additional capacity is needed in our system. It will reduce the call load out of Station 21. MCFR currently has 3 acres in this vicinity. The plan was presented on May 9, 2022 at the workshop regarding Growth and Development Projects. Five locations were prioritized

based on current need at this workshop. EMS is asking for six additional high performance personnel. A rank structure was created and three EMS Captains were just promoted. The six high performance personnel are to backfill the six Lieutenants that will be extras on the trucks and not primary Paramedics on the truck. If these are approved, the Lieutenants will provide true guidance, leadership and evaluation.

Growth and call volume in Marion County are outpacing the Strategic Plan. There was discussion on bringing in modular structures to keep up with the growth while building stations to serve the needs in the area. The Citra (Station 2), Lowell (Station 11) and Ocala Central station projects are fully funded and waiting on construction to start. This has been a slow process.

The Union Contract was ratified by the firefighters and EMS personnel and approved by the Marion County Board of County Commissioners. This took effect in March of 2022, and is currently in place. Retro pay has been paid back through March, 2022. The new wage package includes EMTs receiving an increase of \$3.00 per hour to starting rates and Paramedics receiving 3% per year per life of contract and 3% when coming off probation. The wage package is good and the contract is solid for labor and management. The County conducted a salary study. The initial focus was on non-union employees. Position and salary changes have been made for these employees.

The department is down to one bargaining unit. Both collective bargaining agreements with the Rank and File and Supervisory Unit were combined when the Captains went back to the stations as hourly employees.

Hiring has been successful, but retention has not been. Since October of 2021, almost 50 personnel have resigned. Chiefs Graff and Rogers have changed the hiring process to capture applicants sooner to offer them jobs so they do not lose people in the hiring queue. The applicants will still attend the complete orientation.

AdventHealth and HCA Florida Ocala Hospital (HCA) have both been issued a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (COPCN) for ALS transports. COPCN and transport agreements are approved together with financial incentive to ensure the hospitals will handle the workload agreements for Marion County. AdventHealth's truck will go into service on June 7, 2022, and HCA's truck will go into service on July 1, 2022. MCFR will form a committee to look at ways to respond to 9-1-1 calls and provide service to the community now that it is growing so fast.

MCFR is implementing second sets of turnout gear over the next two to three years. The gear has a 10-year shelf life. The ultimate goal is for the firefighters to have a new set of gear every 5 years. They will be able to rotate the gear throughout the day, if needed.

- Community Paramedicine Update from Chief Graff: Currently there are 20 people enrolled in the program and 34 have graduated. Budgets have been submitted for next year. The program is looking at expanding to a second truck due to people using the program in different geographical locations. Dr. Fraunfelter mentioned there may be more money coming from the State for the opioid and suboxone epidemic. The Walmart grants have come in. Chief Banta said there has been preliminary discussions with the hospital districts about expanding the program. Joe Reichel will do a weekly buzz feature on the paramedicine program. Community Paramedicine staff were introduced to include Tyrone Edwards, Lieutenant; Jason Mann, Community Paramedic; and Nilo Sierra, Paramedic, currently shadowing the program.

6. FY 2021-2022 Quarter 2 Report

The Marion County Fire Rescue FY 2021-2022 Quarter 2 Report was distributed and reviewed. Crews responded to 25,652 calls this quarter, an increase of 9.29% over the same quarter during the prior fiscal year. The return of spontaneous circulation (ROSC) in cardiac arrest patients transported is at 24 already this year. Highlighted in this report is Public Safety, which is in charge of the radio system. Significant investments to this system are being made and there will be a workshop on July 7, 2022, to discuss this with the Board. Part of the funding will come from sales tax and part will come from state and federal grants. The goal is to achieve 95% portable radio coverage countywide. This will entail adding additional towers and equipment. Another part of this is building a second prime site.

7. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 17, 2022 at 4:00 p.m. in the Training Room at Marion County Fire Rescue, 2631 SE Third Street, Ocala, FL 34471.
8. Adjournment: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 4:40 pm.

Approved:

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Pat Gabriel, Chairperson

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Date



# Marion County

## Fire Rescue and EMS Advisory Board

### Agenda Item

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**File No.:** 2022-7804

**Agenda Date:** 8/17/2022

**Agenda No.:** 5.1.

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**SUBJECT:**  
**Budget Update**

**DESCRIPTION/BACKGROUND:**  
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# Marion County

## Fire Rescue and EMS Advisory Board

### Agenda Item

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**File No.:** 2022-7805

**Agenda Date:** 8/17/2022

**Agenda No.:** 5.2.

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**SUBJECT:**  
**Inter-Facility Update**

**DESCRIPTION/BACKGROUND:**  
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# Marion County

## Fire Rescue and EMS Advisory Board

### Agenda Item

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**File No.:** 2022-7806

**Agenda Date:** 8/17/2022

**Agenda No.:** 5.3.

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**SUBJECT:**

**Community Paramedicine Update**

**DESCRIPTION/BACKGROUND:**

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# Marion County

## Fire Rescue and EMS Advisory Board

### Agenda Item

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**File No.:** 2022-7807

**Agenda Date:** 8/17/2022

**Agenda No.:** 6.1.

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**SUBJECT:**

**FY 2021-2022 Quarter 3 Report**

**DESCRIPTION/BACKGROUND:**

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