

1CUMBERLAND COUNTY FIRE CHIEF'S ASSOCIATION

Air System Committee Meeting

January 6, 1999

The Air System Committee met in Room 224-D, of the Law Enforcement Center (LEC) on Wednesday January 6, 1999 at 3 PM.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

Chief Ronnie Marley	-	Committee Chairman	-	Pearces Mill
Chief Michael Midleton	-	Member	-	LaFayette Village
Chief Kevin Herndon	-	Member	-	Grays Creek
Chief Freddy Johnson Sr.	-	Member	-	Stoney Point
Chief Terry Riley	-	Member	-	Westarea
Chief David Chavis	-	Member	-	Vander
Chief Benny Nichols	-	Member	-	Fayetteville
FM Ricky Strickland	-	Member	-	Fire Marshal
Ms. Cheri Grabowski	-	Member	-	Emergency Management

1. Chairman Marley opened the meeting, and briefed all the members on the air system problem at hand. The problem was raised by Chief Midleton who brought it to the attention of all the Fire Chiefs during the December 1998 meeting. Whereas the maintenance costs his station has to pay out for costs incurred operating the system throughout Cumberland County. These are costs in addition to the routine maintenance that is paid for by the CCFCA. Chief Midleton stated that his station was no longer able to absorb these costs. **It was also brought up that Air System 281 was in need of major up-coming repairs.** Members also discussed the general violations of **Air Systems Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) already in place.** A general discussion followed by all members present concerning the air system capabilities and use in Cumberland County.
2. **Currently there are three (3) stationary air systems, and four (4) mobile air systems located within Cumberland County.**

STATIONARY SYSTEMS:

²Westarea Fire Department # 10 County Maint Contract
Fayetteville Fire Department Central Station-County Maint Contract
Spring Lake Fire Department # 22

MOBILE AIR SYSTEMS:

Vander Fire Department # 281 County Maint Contract
Fayetteville Fire Department # 9, Air 100 County Maint Contract
Stoney Point Fire Department # 1361 County Maint Contract
LaFayette Village Fire Department # 761 County Maint Contract

The state of each unit is as follows: 281 is in service however major compressor repairs are forthcoming costing in excess of 12,000.00 dollars. The unit is 13 years old and still in good general condition. Air 100 is also still in good repair although it is 14 years old. 1361 is being replaced and upgraded on a new 1999 Pierce Support Unit and should be back in service early in March 1999. 761 is in good condition and in Service.

A discussion centered around Station #2 Vander to take over the entire operation of 281 by actually giving the unit to Vander, however Chief Chavis stated that the Vander Board of Directors would not support such a move.

A discussion centering around how many air-trucks are needed throughout Cumberland County followed. The committee decided that the current four (4) mobile air units are sufficient, and the Chief's Association should not enter into the business of purchasing costly air systems. The CCFCA should however look into paying for all the maintenance on all four mobile air systems since these units respond throughout Cumberland County, and everyone benefits from this critical needed service. Chief Johnson asked all stations with a current mobile air truck to bring the associated historical maintenance costs for 1997 & 1998 and turn this information to him, or a Finance Committee Member in order for the Finance Committee to include these costs plus 20% in the up-coming budge proposals. This will only apply to mobile air systems. Current stations with county air maintenance agreements will continue to maintain maintenance costs on those systems,

with the county paying for the routine service maintenance. (It should be³ noted that on the mobile air systems, each station will continue to pay for any maintenance associated the vehicle or apparatus. Only Air system maintenance costs should be paid for by the Chiefs). The county will continue to pay for all vehicle related maintenance relating to 281.

3. Chief Chavis, recommended that we look into upgrading the compressor on 281 to a 24CMF newer computerized model rather than rebuilding the current system. Overhaul charges for the current system would exceed \$ 12,000.00 while a new system would run around \$ 20,000.00. The committee asked Chief Johnson to check with Eagle Air to get a price quote, while Chief Chavis will get a price quote from Safe Air Systems, and bring those estimates to the Finance Committee.
4. The committee also recommends that all stations follow the current Standard Operating Procedures (SOP'S). Most common violations are:
 1. Calling for Air Systems after the emergency - or prior to utilizing 50% of available air bottles.
 2. Requesting the filling of Cascade Systems during or right after an emergency in the middle of the night. (Asking air system operators to drive to the station to fill a cascade system).
 3. Not utilizing stationary air systems to fill bottles -
 4. Not providing proper notice for training events
 5. Station should use stationary systems for training fills.
5. And finally it is recommended that the CCFCA assist in replacing any of the four (4) mobile air systems when shelf life is reached. Chief's of affected mobile air stations should keep the CCFCA informed of any maintenance costs, and associated costs directly involved in the operation of the mobile air system. Also any station that wants to purchase a air system

in addition to the already in place CCFCA supported systems, will do so strictly on their own with no funding from the CCFCA.

⁴Its is recommended by the Air System's Committee that the before mentioned supplication be adopted by the CCFCA with the Finance Committee prepare a budget to include these requests and present it to the Board of Directors of the entire association.

Chief Johnson informed the members of the committee that the Sheriff's Office has over 300 UHF mobile radios and Walkie Talkies as a result of changing over to 800 MHz. These radios can be used and programmed to the EMS frequencies currently being used. A letter from the Chief's Association to the Assistant County Manager requesting that these surplus radios be transferred to the CCFCA and further distributed to county stations by the association after receiving a written request from each chief. Most of the Radios are Maxtrack Motorola 300 16 Channel Radios, and 8 Channel Motorola Wt's. He requested that the Chief's Association discuss this, if we are not interested the County will sell these radios.

Respectfully submitted:

Ronnie Marley

RONNIE MARLEY
Fire Chief
Committee Chairman