Harlan Fire Department Meeting 10.19.26

Department Meeting was called to order by President Jacub Hazen at 2002. One correction to Sept meeting minutes made - Captain Ryne Nelsen made motion to not have Open House not Board Member Alex Blum. Motion to approve September's minutes were given by 1st Lieutenant Russ Lacy and 2nd by Madi Nelsen. All were in favor of motion. Motion carried.

No new applications/resignations received.

It was asked if Jack Gubles' resignation was officially accepted. It was done in last month's meeting. He would like to come get his personal belongings. We still need to get pager, radio, and keyfob from him – he was using Westphalia's pager and radio. No record of Jack getting a pager or radio from Harlan Fire. It was asked if he was taken off IAR. Yes, Jack, Chad B, and Zach were all removed from IAR. Chad K will be added. It was mentioned that IAR will be going away and we will use Tango Tango in the future.

1st Assistant Chief Bruce Blum:

What happened to the back of 32? 2nd Lieutenant Justin Schechinger will attempt to fix. It was asked if we got coolant for 32? No, we are still trying to figure out the type of coolant to obtain.

Captain Ryne Nelsen:

- Countywide talking about a box alarm system. For all grass and house fires, they will automatically auto dispatch three departments. Car accident talking about two departments. Kirkman area is a concern. Due to their numbers, they are not considered a "full" department. We are all short on people. Dispatch 5 departments to the Elk Horn area. Discussing boundaries.
- We need to get batteries for our radios. Cost is $250/battery. Alex L may be able to get a better deal if they go through Motorola. He is checking on it. Have a possible price of $150/battery. He will be ordering soon. How many should we get? We will discuss in Association meeting.
- Dispatch is discussing how they should call out departments – especially for things like the Bomgaar's fire.
- HazMat will be going through Council Bluffs or Crawford County. Looking into HazMat being redone. Harlan is being considered as the "main hub" for Tri-County. It would be called Special Ops not HazMat.

1st Lieutenant Russ Lacy:

We have had a major drought over the last two years. The tube out at Nishna Bend has been above water. We have had lots of rain this season. We can use Nishna Bend as a viable source of water. Be sure to flush first. It is underwater and we need to flush the strainer.

2nd Lieutenant Justin Schechinger:

- We have 30ish radios. Need batteries ASAP. Grant for Wildland gear and equipment is a 50/50 match. Must be applied for in 16 days. Will bring up in Association Meeting.
- We will obtain 4-5 short antennas for the radios to try out. They are like $14 each.

- 34 is back in service. We took it to Carroll. The DPF filter was cracked and plugged. Got OEM. There was a hole in the exhaust. Total cost for repairs was $12,000. Our vehicle budget is $30,000.
- 29 will need to go into the shop after the grass season. It needs an air cleaner assembly and new front tires. Cost will be over half of the budget.
- 31's engine oil pan is seeping. It needs a new gasket.
- 33's PTO output shaft that runs the generator is leaking. PTO gear box.
- We can try to get the budget increased to fix the trucks.
- The fill downspout is not fully closing. The valve on the wall has been dripping for years. Need to fix. Also need to fix the urinals and the bathroom sinks. Need to discuss with City Hall since it is a city building. This falls under the building & grounds budget. Quick fix & cheapest – can put valve on top and get up on a ladder every time to turn on & off.
- Reminder: nomax hoods are in the officer's office. All washed and cleaned. Trying to keep them clean.

Fire Calls

Old Business:

- Winter Fire School is in Altoona on Jan 30th and 31st
- SAFER grant – this grant is for advanced training. No one has been using since 2024. Anyone that goes to the fire school, etc. If you have a bill, you can turn it in and will be reimbursed. Can include a hotel bill if it is over 90 miles.

New Business/Good for the Department:

- Received Conway Shields bill for gear. We are now $4500 over budget for gear. We will need to figure where to pay from somewhere else. Evidently, the bill for the gas monitors was forgotten when we figured out the gear. Cannot use salaries and insurance line items to help pay for other items.
- We need to winterize the trucks. We will keep an eye on the weather.
- We need to replace the Tyvex suits and boots that were used to help funeral homes.
- Captain Ryne Nelsen stated Board Member Alex Blum wanted to bring up suggestions for placing markings on floor with blocks or something so we don't back into another truck. Please bring ideas to the next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 2056.

Submitted by Mary Yates, Secretary

These minutes are as recorded by the secretary and are subject to Department approval at the next regular meeting.