



## Operations Chief Report

# Board of Fire Commissioners Meeting

November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020

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**October 22<sup>nd</sup>** : The new engine 351 was officially placed into service and has been running as the ALS unit in zone 5. The crews are very pleased and appreciative of the new pumper and thank you for your support.

**October 27-29<sup>th</sup>** : During this week SMFR hosted the MCFCA's Command Staff training at our Admin building, COVID-19 precautions were in place the entire time. This training event brings in all the Battalion Chiefs and EMS District from the entire County for a specific training. This quarterly training was focused on Hazmat Response and an Expo of our team's equipment and capabilities. This was the first time we have been able to "show off" our new Squad since February due to all the COVID concerns. The team did an excellent job expressing on scene actions, response, and communications.

**November 2<sup>nd</sup>** : Manatee Technical College signed the last document and planned to pick up E11 (the donated fire pumper) from our station 4. All equipment, radios and SMFR documents had been removed from the engine. Again, we appreciate your generosity to MTC and their fire program.

**November 9<sup>th</sup>**: Today Myself and Captain Bloski started working on an AFG Regional Radio Grant for all the fire districts of Manatee County. The intent of this grant is to replace all the Harris radios, which are 10 plus years old County wide with new Motorola product line. Because this is a regional grant only one District can host it and Southern Manatee, as the ones who have pushed for the grant, will be writing, and hosting the grant process. This grant opens early this December and is awarded in April – June 2021. We anticipate, that if awarded, Southern Manatee could save \$145,000.00 on the cost of radios.

**November 17<sup>th</sup>**: The County's Operations Group, via MCFCA, is still working steadily on the Closes Unit Response (CUR) module for Hexagon 10. The county is ready to implement testing later this month or in December. All County Districts are on board and are agreeing on responding as such (closes unit). If any unforeseen situations take place, such as a district running an abundance of calls due to the CUR we do have a way of modify the response matrix to help ease the burden. In all we are very excited to be able to provide a better service for our citizens. I will keep you posted as we continue to move along. Currently the projected launch date is June 2021.



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November 25<sup>th</sup> : After reviewing data collected by fire agencies in Manatee County, we have determined that pursuing the AFG regional grant for Motorola radios will not be practical. The accumulated dollars held in reserve exceeds a reasonable amount for grant awards and we have chosen to pursue a reduced price, lower cost option from Motorola. Although, few of the volunteer districts are still looking into the grant as independent agencies.

December 1<sup>st</sup> : The first meeting took place regarding a County wide “funeral policy”. This meeting is a committee that was put in place by the MCFCA in response to differences that exist within the County agencies regarding funeral procedures for current, retired, or affiliated members of the first responder forces in our area. The member consists of Chief Gorski, Chief Rampion, Honor Guard Commander, and me. We should have a completed policy by early next year.

December 2<sup>nd</sup> : The meetings with manatee County over the Hexagon (CAD) project continue. The project has been moving slow and has had several problems. Again, our role in this project has been to advise on Fire Services specific needs for operation out in the field with I-mobile devices, including their functions, abilities, and practical uses. This project continues to be County lead and we are simply assisting as we can, the hope is the new Hexagon system will be up and running by June 2021.

December 3<sup>rd</sup> : I attended the Chiefs meeting via phone conference along with DC Bounds and Chief Gorski. Several topics were covered such as the AFG radio grant, election of Officers and funeral policy update.

December 7<sup>th</sup> : A decision was made by SMFR and Manatee County ECC & EMS that we should place our ALS engines back on the “fire” side of the CAD and remove them from the “EMS” side of the CAD. This was due to the lack of functionality the current CAD system has for ALS fire engines. The current CAD cannot delineate call types and or response areas for an ALS engine and this has presented challenges to our department. Therefore, the best choice was to alleviate the initial actions (“EMS Side of CAD) and to go back to a more streamline dispatch approach.