



SOUTHERN MANATEE FIRE RESCUE DISTRICT

Interoffice Memorandum

TO: The Southern Manatee Board of Fire Commissioners

FROM: Robert Bounds, Fire Chief

RE: **Chief's Report**

DATE: March 18, 2021

NOTE: From this point forward until, an unspecified time, we are going to generate a separate report regarding all COVID-19 issues, to include personnel updates, cumulative numbers, vaccine administration, the latest updates from CDC, etc. This report will be an addendum to the "Chief's" report.

February 18, 2021 – I was unable to attend the monthly Board of Commission meeting due to a death in the family. D/C Blanco was briefed, and I understand he did a very good job. I thank you all again for your sympathies and understanding.

February 22, 2021 – I received a call from Atlas Builders who are handling the repairs to station 5. They were contacted by VFIS with a request to lower their proposed bid by \$12,000. Atlas declined to accept the new pricing so VFIS is re-reviewing their original estimate. Consequently, the repairs to station 5 have not begun as of this date.

February 23, 2021 – We are wrapping up our first reimbursement under House Bill 426 (Florida FF Cancer Bill) utilizing Amerysis. The process has been a little daunting due to this being the initial claim, but we have identified several areas we can improve in. We will continue to refine the process, but hopefully this does not become a common item.

The Paramedic Preceptor Program is progressing and the 3 personnel who will serve in these positions are:

FF/PM Dave Wernet
FF/PM Justin Young
LT/PM Dan Anderson

These are three (3) highly motivated individuals who will do great things in this position and will help the District to train/develop our paramedics to obtain an even greater presence in the field of emergency medicine.

We also received letters of intent from two more personnel to attend the upcoming paramedic class beginning in June 2021. The two personnel are:

1st Class FF – Logan Savitsky
1st Class FF – Mike Dunois

February 25, 2021 – We have accepted the final rendition on station 2. We have a pre-application meeting scheduled with the county on March 5th.

Annual Awards were presented at the administration building due to restrictions based on Covid-19. Normally these awards would have been presented with much more pomp and circumstance at our yearly gathering, but social distancing prevented this. Nevertheless, the personnel who received them were very well deserving and I could not be prouder of these individuals, they are:

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|-----------------------------|---|
| Staff Employee of the Year: | Captain/Paramedic Robert Thayer |
| Officer of the Year: | Lieutenant Derek Foss |
| Firefighter of the Year: | Firefighter/Paramedic Justin Young |
| Rookie of the Year: | Firefighter/Paramedic Ian Segnari |

February 25, 2021 – Enrolled two (2) more students in STC's Paramedic Program beginning in June, Mike Dunois & Logan Savitsky.

I am working with Karen Morenelli (labor attorney) on a re-write of our FMLA policy to bring us in-line with federal guidelines and best practices.

March 1, 2021 – Received draft 2020 audit from CS&L. We reviewed it and have scheduled a “go to meeting” for March 11th to finalize it. The audit will be presented via “zoom” by Randy Dillingham at the March BOC meeting.

I am continuing to try and get Atlas Builders and VFIS to agree on a price for the station 5 repairs. I believe we are close and as soon as the agreement is signed

Atlas said they can begin the permitting process. Due to the nature of the repairs the permitting process is short (appx. 1-2 weeks) and as soon as Atlas has it in-hand they can start without delay.

March 4, 2021 – The testing for the Deputy Fire Marshal position concluded and the candidate that came out on top was Frank Meola. A formal job offer was made at that point and Frank accepted. He will continue to work closely with Fire Marshal Adent until her retirement on March 31, 2021. Frank will do a fine job in his new role.

March 5, 2021 – D/C Blanco and I attended the Pre-Application meeting for the station 2 renovation. The meeting went well with no concerns expressed by the County and the project is proceeding on the latest timeline we have from Sweet/Sparkman.

March 9, 2021 – Capt. Bloski, D/C Blanco, D/C Gorski and I met with our VFIS assigned counsel, Todd Smayda in regards to the Gas Explosion legal issue. Mr. Smayda believes we are in good standing given the information he received and the very detailed run report that was produced.

March 10, 2021 – We had a “Zoom” meeting with Pam Hancock from Preferred Governmental Insurance Trust (PGIT) who is our Worker’s Comp. provider. SMFR had a very good year (2020) regarding W/C claims. Ms. Hancock believes our current experience modification rating of .94 will drop for the upcoming FY22. The experience modification plays a large part in determining the W/C rates so, SMFR could see a decent reduction in this area.

March 11, 2021 – The final adjustments to the 2020 Annual Report are being completed. The report will be finalized and distributed by the end of March. Given the complications of 2020 I am very pleased with the product that is being produced and look forward to your review/comments on this document.

The camera has been installed in the Commission chambers and we will be doing a trial run with Randy Dillingham during our draft audit review. Shawn Myles will be present at the BOC March meeting to ensure everything works as planned.