



**Snohomish County Chiefs' Association**  
**Board Meeting**  
**1:00 p.m.**  
**October 26, 2022**

**PRESENT:**

Dave Kraski  
Jim Haverfield  
Keith Strotz  
Travis Hots  
Eric Andrews  
Roger Vares  
Susan Bjorling

**Vice-President** North County Fire  
**Secretary/Treasurer** Snohomish County FPD 17  
**Medium Zone Representative** Snohomish County FPD 19  
**Immediate Past President** SCFD 22  
Sky Valley Fire  
Everett Fire  
South County Fire

- A. **Call to Order** Meeting called to order at 1306 hours.
- B. **Adopt/Adjust Agenda** No adjustments to the agenda
- C. **Minutes**  
Action: A motion was made by Chief Andrews to approve the minutes. Chief Hots seconded the motion. Minutes were unanimously approved.
- D. **Old Business**
- Nominations**  
Nominations for the roles of Vice President and Secretary/Treasurer are still being accepted.
  - SCEMS 2023 Budget – Roger Vares**  

Roger presented the proposed budget, approved by the SCEMS Board, that includes an increase from 255k to 277k. Kelly Fox (office administrator) left her position mid-year, but it's yet to be seen what remains of her salary for the year. Savings reserves are plentiful, so there should be no issue.

Roger feels it would be beneficial to introduce a County Data Coordinator position. That employee would manage data and provide an overview of various reports.

The plan is to have the administrative employees be cross trained and the expectation would be that they would cover other staff in the event of illness or vacations.

SCFD4 has not committed to joining.

The budget has been increased based on a 9% rate of inflation. CPI came in at 10.3%.

Chief Strotz questioned how the 9% rate of inflation was determined. Chief Haverfield asked why the budget includes 9% this year and only 5% next year.

The admin does receive a CPI increase, as does the MPD. That position hasn't had an increase in several years. Skagit County pays \$125k to their MPD to cover an area that handles half as many calls as Snohomish County.

Chief Haverfield asked Roger Vares to specifically pinpoint where the 9% increase will be going. Roger stated that he'd like to increase salaries based on CPI. The majority of the 9% increase will be going to the MPD position salary.

Chief Kraski inquired whether, if Dr. Cooper should resign, we have the ability to negotiate with a new applicant, if necessary. Roger shared that SCEMS would be prepared to negotiate up to approximately 120k.

The position is part time, as the MPD typically also works at Providence Hospital.

The budget reserve is currently at 168-169k.

Chief Andrews suggested hiring one full-time doctor to manage the entire County. Roger questioned losing ground with Providence Hospital if we don't have a physician working there and observing issues with the system in real time.

Chief Andrews shared that he feels that if any agency is choosing to opt out, they should be out. If they'd like to come back, they should be required to sign a multi-year agreement to commit to the organization. Roger Vares stated that we are still obligated to provide QA, etc. for them whether they're paying or not. Chief Kraski agreed that groups should be required to notify SCFCA by the last few months of the year, to be voted on by the group for the following year.

Chief Haverfield asked what the plans are for the reserve funds. The plan was to expand the number of employees. A second full-time position has been proposed. A discussion with the SCEMS board resulted in the consensus being the idea that having more staff would allow more flexibility in the position. Certifications and QAs vary, month to month. The plan is to keep the positions as contract positions.

Chief Haverfield questioned why rates would increase at all if funds are simply being placed into reserves. Chief Andrews would like to see a set goal for reserves.

Roger stated that the unknown factor of not knowing how many hours we will need the contract employees to work for the year has impacted the budget.

Chief Haverfield reminded the group that SCFCA receives 1% plus new construction, rather than CPI.

The question Chief Haverfield posed for the group is what dollar amount is appropriate to be held in the reserve account? If tax money doesn't come in, will SCFCA be able to pay wages and benefits for 6 months?

Chief Andrews would like the Chiefs to provide Roger with guidance as to what reserve number the Chiefs feel is a sufficient fund balance.

Roger offered to email the budget spreadsheet to the group for their review. He will appoint a designee to present the budget for further discussion at the general membership meeting on November 7<sup>th</sup>.

### **3. Dr. Cooper's (SCEMS MPD) Status**

It is anticipated by some that Dr. Cooper will likely retire prior to the end of 2022. Chief Andrews shared that he has heard that Dr. Cooper has no intention of resigning and has recently made public records requests for documents related to the EMS council.

### **4. Letter of support - Darrington Fire/Sky Valley Fire IMT Equipment Availability Proposal - Drew Bono**

This agenda item will be addressed at a subsequent meeting.

### **5. Wall wait times – Jeremy Stocker**

Wall wait times within the county have been consistently exceeding reasonable expectations. Representatives from Everett Fire and South County Fire have been meeting with Providence hospital and a plan has been put in place to gather comprehensive data from medics on patient transfer times. This information will be used to work toward developing solutions that will improve patient care and enable fire agency personnel to continue to efficiently serve our communities.

Roger Vares has been attending these meetings and stated that staffing shortages at local facilities are largely thought to be a root cause of the problem.

Chief Hots has requested that this issue be addressed at the next general membership meeting, suggesting that it is time for the SCFCA to highlight this problem for the public and elected officials.

Chief Kraski suggested that a focus group be formed within SCFCA. One course of action that could be examined may be for medics to transport some patients to outlying facilities, when medically appropriate, thereby reducing some wait times at the larger hospitals.

## **E.**

### **New Business**

#### **1. New Snohomish County DEM Director, Dara Salmon**

Chief Kraski shared that there is a new interim DEM Director working in the County. Dara plans to attend the next general meeting.

## **F. Committee Updates**

Finance Committee - Chief Haverfield will meet the Executive Board Officers at Sound Credit Union at the close of the next General Membership meeting to be held on November 7<sup>th</sup> so that they may complete signature cards related to the SCFCA accounts.

Signers will be Thad Hovis as President, Dave Kraski as Vice President, Travis Hots as Immediate Past President, and Jim Haverfield as Secretary/Treasurer.

**G. Announcements/Good of the Order**

**H. Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 1415 hours. The motion was made by Chief Kraski and was seconded by Chief Andrews.

**Minutes prepared and submitted by: Susan Bjorling**  
Executive Assistant, Office of the Fire Chief  
South County Fire

**Next Meeting: Wednesday, November 30, 2022**  
**1:00 pm**

**Attachments:**