

**AT A WORKSHOP OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY  
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN  
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON AUGUST 13, 2024 AT 4:00 P.M.,  
THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:**

**Present:** Ronterious Green, Chair, District 5  
Alonzetta Simpkins, Vice-Chair, District 2  
Kimblin NeSmith, District 3  
Brenda Holt, District 4  
Eric Hinson, District 1  
Edward J. Dixon, County Administrator  
Clayton Knowles, County Attorney  
Adriana Quijada, Deputy Clerk

**Call to Order, Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance**

Chair Green called the workshop to order at 4 p.m. Chair Green led into Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

**Citizens Requesting to be Heard on Non-Agenda Items (3-minutes Limit)**

The Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners welcomes and encourages public participation at all meetings of the Board. Citizens are free to speak for up to three (3) minutes on non-agenda items. Public comments and participation are also encouraged for items on the agenda. Additionally, if you are unable to attend a meeting in person, comments from the Public can also be submitted via email to [CitizensToBeHeard@gadsdencountyfl.gov](mailto:CitizensToBeHeard@gadsdencountyfl.gov) until noon on the date of the meeting. Comments submitted after the deadline, but prior to the meeting, will be added to the official record, but the County cannot guarantee that Commissioners and staff will have adequate time to review comments prior to the meeting. Citizens are further encouraged to participate on the County's website at [www.gadsdencountyfl.gov](http://www.gadsdencountyfl.gov).

Chair Green read aloud the above statement.

**General Business**

**1. Introduction**

Mr. Dixon stated they are here to talk about fire and EMS.

**2. Fire and Emergency Management Services Presentation**

Chief Hood appeared and stated Chief Walker was unable to attend so he will be presenting on behalf of him.

Chief Hood provided a brief overview on Fire and Emergency Management Services. Last year, they responded to approximately 10,000 calls just for EMS. They currently have 6 ambulances 24/7 on the road.

**FY 2024 Recap:**

- CPR and AED training for citizens and county employees
- Received 2 new ambulances – total amount \$368,060,000
- Received \$12,173 County EMS Grant for the purchase of radio and medical equipment
- Received \$94,335.31 EMS Matching grant for the purchase of 20 sets of bullet proof vest and helmets for EMS crews. One stretcher and mount for new ambulance
- Participated in several community outreach events
- Public Safety Summer Initiative
- Regularly attend TCC and Chipola Colleges EMT/PMD programs to showcase Gadsden County
- The agency and county administration have completed 50% of the new EMS station design. Goal is to break ground in late 2024.

**FY 2025 Future Outlook:**

- Board approved \$360,000 from the RPA to remount two ambulances
- Transition to 24/72 work schedule
- Receive additional state and federal grants
- Implement 10 Step pay plan with HR direction

**Full time employees operate on a 48/96 schedule.**

- Full time staff work 48 hours on duty and 96 hours off duty
- Regular hours = 2,080
- Built in overtime hours = 848
- Total hours = 2,928
- Weekly average hours = 56.3

Chief Hood went through their staffing needs:

- Paramedics – 8 full time
- EMT – 0
- What is GCES currently doing to improve staff shortages?
  - Implemented a tuition reimbursement program for current EMT's. Three EMT's are scheduled to complete Paramedic school in the fall of 2024 and have signed a three-year commitment to the agency. Additionally, three more EMT's have signed the commitment for the reimbursement program and set to begin Paramedic school in the fall of 2024, with a completion date in the fall of 2025.
  - Implemented FTO's with the agency, these officers are responsible for training all students, new hires and are a huge part of our recruitment efforts.

*Commissioner Simpkins appeared at 4:18 p.m.*

*Commissioner Hinson appeared at 4:20 p.m.*

Chief Hood stated there are continued efforts to apply for grants and work with their new billing company.

Chief Hood went through suggestions of what they could do:

- reduce burnout
- plan for launch of new work schedule
- remodel/reconstruct current stations

*Chair Green stepped out at 4:47 p.m.*

### **3. Questions**

Commissioner Holt asked about in-house transport and non-emergency transports. Chief Hood stated for 2023 they did a total of 1,059 transports. Commissioner Holt stated if they are non-emergency transports, then they should not be transporting them.

*Chair Green returned at 4:55 p.m.*

*Commissioner Hinson stepped out at 5:02 p.m.*

Commissioner Simpkins asked about the PMT program. Chief Hood stated it was built around the Medicare/Medicaid reimbursement. If a patient had Medicaid, there is an allowable rate. So, if they charge \$900 to CHP, CHP is going to pay it all.

*Commissioner Hinson returned at 5:14 p.m.*

*Commissioner Holt stepped out at 5:20 p.m.*

NeSmith stated need to go talk about hospital contract

NeSmith asked Hood where they are not receiving reimbursement

*Commissioner Holt returned at 5:23 p.m.*

Hood went on to Fire services and presented on behalf of Chief Walker

brief overview of fire

2024 recap

- provided emergency vehicle operator course
- renewed the interlocal fire and rescue agreements

- increased funding for volunteer fire depts.
- established stipends for volunteer firefighters
- invested in new fire trucks
- participated in summer youth program
- installed and replaced smoke detectors.

2025 Outlook for fire services

new fire stations

installation of fire hydrants

potential locations for fire hydrants

\$8500 to \$9500 per hydrant

Chair asked about other options for...

Chair asked if there was schedule with maintenance for fire hydrants

Simpkins stated only have couple fire stations that are a 10?

Hood stated more than half of depts.

Hinson stated he just wanted to listen in this workshop.

Holt stated with TDC looked at grass being cut. Need to hire more during summer if possible

**Motion to Adjourn**

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR GREEN DECLARED THE WORKSHOP ADJOURNED AT 6:00 PM.**

**GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA**

---

**Ronterious Green, Chair  
Board of County Commissioners**

**ATTEST:**

---

**NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk**