The Board of Directors of the Marion County Ambulance District met on Thursday, March 21, 2024, at the Marion County Ambulance District Administrative Office. Board members attending were Chairman Dorothea Lake, Vice Chairman Branson Wells, Marie Frankenbach, Cheryl Arntzen, Brian Fowler, and Larry Coleman. Also attending were EMS Chief John Nemes, Deputy Chief Marty Miller, Division Chief Eric Murfin, Finance Director Claudette Moss, Assistant Finance Director Kari Garrett, and AED Program Director Patty Cheffey.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Chairman Dorothea Lake.

A motion was made by Larry Coleman to approve the minutes from the meeting held on February 15, 2024. The motion was seconded by Brian Fowler and was approved on a roll call vote.

The treasurer’s report, accounts receivable reconciliation, profit and loss, and financial reports for February 2024 were reviewed.

Chief Nemes presented the Board with the Chief’s report. MCAD answered 495 calls for emergency service in February. Base 1 (Hannibal) – 2711 handled 121 calls, 2721 handled 123 calls, Base 2 (Hannibal) handled 154 calls, Base 3 (Palmyra) handled 62 calls, and we had 22 off-duty transfers.

A grant has been written for funds to help purchase a new Zoll Z-vent portable ventilator for our inventory if awarded to us. The grant is being sponsored by the Savvik Buying Group and recipients are scheduled to be announced April 1st. Five (5) awards of $2000 each will be given out to various applicants. The cost of a new vent is $10,653.30.

The District has been in a battle with Quad Med, who supplied our Baxter IV Pumps. One of our pumps is being held by Baxter due to the serial number on the case not matching the serial number on the components inside. Apparently, this is a refurbished pump with incorrect labeling. The issue was found when the pump was sent in for a recall repair at Baxter. Quad Med is blaming their supplier of pumps, refusing to accept responsibility, and claims to be addressing it with them. In the meantime, we have been without that pump, and nothing is moving forward despite our exhaustive efforts to find a solution. Quad Med continues to pursue their vendor and is not taking any steps to refund or replace the pump since they were originally purchased over a year ago. The next step will be exploring civil litigation to seek a full refund from Quad Med as they are our supplier of the pumps and have ultimate responsibility for us receiving a “defective” unit. After this discussion, a motion was made by Branson Wells to support Chief Nemes in moving forward with litigation against Quad Med and to approve up to $20,000.00 to replace the defective pump. The motion was seconded by Marie Frankenbach and approved on a roll call vote.

The equipment for the ambulance dash cams has arrived. Staff met with Verizon Connect technicians to learn how to operate the system, which is currently scheduled to be installed by March 15th. The administration staff is also doing an online tutorial to get a feel for how the system works.

Admin staff met with each Assistant Chief and their respective crew to discuss improvements made to scheduling and to get crew opinion on mandated workdays. The crews overwhelmingly supported staying with the existing mandate of 12 hours before/12 hours after an existing shift. They were also supportive of the schedule modifications made to allow for changes with scheduling.

The old Missouri Tourism Center is still an option for a possible base in the future. Chief Medical Officer Clemens was able to get some information. Apparently, the property is in limbo due to a conflict with OA and Mo Dot (one owns the land, the other the building). While it does not have a covered garage, the current facility can become functional crew quarters and the location is ideal. Chief Nemes is currently discussing options with Rep. Louis Riggs and will be meeting with the parties involved on April 2nd.

Another grant has been submitted to Missouri Employers Mutual, the District work comp carrier. They sponsor a safety grant, which we were awarded last year on the Stryker Power Load for the van. This year, we are applying for the Technimount parts to mount the cardiac monitor arms and base to the new Stryker cots. The ones we previously had would not retrofit the cots when we upgraded.

The District had a patient complaint regarding a new hire. It was addressed immediately, and they will work on correcting the problem. There was also an employee complaint over an incident at a local nursing home and it is being addressed by the Admin staff as well.

Under Old Business was the Audit. Chief Nemes reported that the new auditors are very meticulous and thorough, which is welcomed. They anticipate being finished by the June 30 deadline.

Under New Business was the Fixed Asset Resolution. This would raise the limit for capital expenses from $1,500.00 to $3,000.00. A motion to approve the resolution was made by Larry Coleman. The motion was seconded by Chery Arntzen and approved on a roll call vote.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, April 25, 2024, at 6:00 pm at the Marion County Ambulance District Administration Building.

With no new business to discuss, a motion was made by Larry Coleman to adjourn sine die. The motion was seconded by Branson Wells and approved on a roll call vote.

A motion was motion by Larry Coleman to go into closed session to discuss personnel. The motion was seconded by Branson Wells and approved on a roll call vote. After discussion, a motion was made by Larry Coleman to end the closed session and return to the open session. The motion was seconded by Branson Wells and approved on a roll call vote.

After returning to open session, Chairman Dorothea Lake expressed appreciation for EMS Chief John Nemes and would like to renew his contract and give him a 4% raise. A motion to renew the contract and give Chief Nemes a 4% raise was made by Brian Fowler, the motion was seconded by Cheryl Arntzen and approved on a roll call vote.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Larry Coleman and seconded by Brian Fowler. The motion was approved on a roll call vote.