



PUBLIC HEARING-ORLEANS COUNTY LEGISLATURE

February 20, 2024 at 4:25 p.m.

TO CONSIDER THE CREATION OF A TECHNICAL RESCUE TEAM IN ORLEANS COUNTY

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Present: Chairman Lynne M. Johnson, Vice Chairman William Eick, Legislators: Donald Allport, Merle Draper, John Fitzak, Fred Miller, Ed Morgan, John Gavenda; Assistant County Attorney; John C. Welch, Jr., Chief Administrative Officer.

Chairman Johnson called the public hearing to order at 4:25 p.m.

Clerk of the Legislature Stenshorn read Public Hearing Notice.

Chairman Johnson introduced Emergency Management Director Justin Niederhofer.

Justin Niederhofer stated that this Public Hearing is for the creation of the Orleans County Technical Rescue Team as required by General Municipal Law Article 10 Section 209-BB. The Technical Rescue Team will respond to high & low angle rescues, water & ice water rescues and grain entrapment rescues at the request of incident commanders at these types of incidents.

Technical rescues are what emergency services consider a high risk/low frequency event. These types of events require a great deal of specially trained personnel to safely execute and perform rescues. The counties current team was organized through a mutual aid agreement, and technical rescue capability relied upon Clarendon and Murray to respond to these types of calls. However, Carlton, Medina and Shelby also have a technical rescue capability. Due to reduced volunteerism and ever changing equipment, the Chiefs of Clarendon and Murray approached the EMO about expanding the team and organizing at the county level.

The five fire departments that have equipment & teams have met and decided that for the safety of the rescuers and victims that a team expansion at the county level would be the best option. This will allow the team to train together, become proficient with the various equipment across the county, increase grant opportunities, increase the number of trained member, and improve the efficiency and safety of rescue operations.

Members of the team will be firefighter and EMTs that are required to meet specific training requirements to join and then become proficient in rope, water and grain entrapment rescue in either an operational or support role. Members of the team must receive permission from their Chief in writing annually to continue as a member of the team. Insurance coverage will follow that of normal mutual aid requests, where team members are covered by the home department, and equipment is covered by the requesting department.

In this day of reduced volunteerism and membership within our counties fire departments, this is a necessary step to ensure that this critical capability continues to exist within our county and that we have experts trained in performing these highly technical rescues.

Chairman Johnson opened the floor for comment questions.

Chairman Johnson closed the Public Hearing at 4:27 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lisa Stenshorn".

Lisa Stenshorn, Clerk of the Legislature  
Orleans County Legislature