Metro Emergency Operations Center
Finance Committee/Executive Board
December 9, 2025 – 11:00am

Attendance:

Board Members
Chad Jones, for Charleston Mayor Amy Goodwin
Sheriff Joey Crawford
Jeremy Young, for Commission President Ben Salango
Chuck Boggs
Dave Armstrong, via phone
Chris Settles
Chief Virgil White, for South Charleston Mayor Frank Mullens
Derek Johnson

Staff
Director Michael Rutherford
Dep. Director Russell Emrick
Dep. Director Rick McElhaney
Dep. Director Lindsay White
Josh Knox
Tara Backus
Lisa Moore
Courtney Kidd

Guests
Josh Sharp, CPA – Suttle & Stalnaker

Meeting Summary

The meeting of the Metro 911 Finance Committee and Executive Board was called to order at 11:00 am by Jeremy Young. The meeting focused on the fiscal year 2025 audit report, financial updates for fiscal year 2026, budgeting processes, staffing challenges, and proposed employee raises. Josh Sharp from Suttle and Stalnaker presented the audit report, confirming a clean opinion on the financial statements for 2024 and 2025 and explaining the impact of new government accounting standards (GASB 101 and 102) on the financials, particularly related to compensated absences like sick leave. The audit revealed no material weaknesses or significant deficiencies in internal controls. The financial review highlighted steady assets and liabilities, with minor fluctuations mainly due to ongoing projects and actuarial adjustments.

The Board discussed the conservative budgeting approach, which includes projected large expenditures that often do not materialize in the fiscal year, causing the budget to appear as a deficit though the actual cash position remains strong. The committee acknowledged the need for clear communication about budget assumptions and considered involving Board members more in the budget preparation process. Staff reported that revenues are generally on track and better than budgeted, with some caution about possible refunds or adjustments related to landline and wireless fees due to complaints about companies overcharging.

A significant portion of the meeting addressed staffing shortages and employee morale. Since January, 18 dispatch positions have been lost, with 11 new hires currently in training, leaving a few vacancies unfilled. The Board deliberated on a proposal to grant a 6% across-the-board raise effective December 29, 2025, funded partially by not filling three vacant positions plus expected increases in wireless revenue. The raise was approved unanimously after recognizing the challenges of high call volumes, overtime distribution, and retaining qualified personnel in a stressful environment. Discussions also touched on long-term revenue challenges, including legislative hurdles to revising phone fees and the potential for new revenue streams such as a transient lodging fee.

Additional business included approval of ongoing operating expenses like licensing fees for recording systems and appointments to personnel committees. The meeting concluded with logistical notes about upcoming meetings and formal adjournment.

Motions

- Motion made to approve the minutes from the October 9, 2025 Meeting
  - Made - Chris Settles
  - Seconded - Chuck Boggs

  Motion carried.

- Motion made to accept the FY2025 Audit Report
  - Made - Chuck Boggs
  - Seconded - Sheriff Joey Crawford

  Motion carried.

- Motion made to approve the FY26 Year-to-Date Financial Statements
  - Made - Chief Virgil White
  - Seconded - Chuck Boggs

  Motion carried.

- Motion made to approve 6% raises for all full-time staff effective 12/29/2025 and leaving 3 vacant positions unfilled – to be ratified at the next meeting
  - Made - Chris Settles
  - Seconded - Dave Armstrong

  Motion carried.

- Motion made to appoint Sheriff Joey Crawford to fill the vacancy on the Personnel Committee
  - Made - Chris Settles
  - Seconded - Dave Armstrong

  Motion carried.

- Motion made to approve Jan 1, 2026 Health Savings Account contribution for Plan C participants in the amount of $101,237.50
  - Made - Chuck Boggs
  - Seconded - Chad Jones

  Motion carried.

- Motion made to approve renewal of annual maintenance and support agreement with Carolina Recording Systems for Metro 911's logging recorder system in the amount of $25,480.00
  - Made - Chief Virgil White
  - Seconded - Chris Settles

  Motion carried.

- Motion to adjourn at 12:27 pm.
  - Made - Chris Settles
  - Seconded - Sheriff Joey Crawford

  Motion carried.

Respectfully,