



**Oak Grove Fire/Public Safety Committee
Special Session Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, February 18, 2026
Oak Grove Council Chambers**

CALL TO ORDER

The Special Session of the Oak Grove Fire/Public Safety Committee was called to order by Chairperson Edward Cook at 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 18, 2026, in the Oak Grove Council Chambers at 8505 Pembroke Oak Grove Road, Oak Grove, Kentucky.

ROLL CALL

The following members were present:

- Chairperson/Committee Member Edward Cook (Chairperson at the time of attendance)
- Committee Member Isaiah Spencer
- Committee Member John Campbell

Also present were Police Chief Victor Lynch, Fire Chief Bill Johnson, Finance Director Matt Egbert, and City Clerk Lorelynn Fisher. Approximately zero members of the public were in attendance.

REVIEW OF MINUTES-OCTOBER 9, 2025

Motion: Committee Member John Campbell moved to approve the minutes

Second: Committee Member Isaiah Spencer

Vote: Voice vote

Results: Motion passed

AGENDA ITEMS

- **2026 Election of Chairperson**
Selection of a board member to serve as Chairperson for the 2026 term:
Motion: Committee Member Cook elected John Campbell as Chairperson
Second: Committee Member John Campbell
Vote: Voice
Results: Motion passed
- **2026 Election of Vice Chairperson**

Selection of a board member to serve as Vice Chairperson for the 2026 term:

Motion: Committee Member Cook elected Isaiah Spencer as Vice Chairperson

Second: Chairperson/Committee Member John Campbell

Vote: Voice

Results: Motion passed

- **Discussion of Rescue Boats and Related Equipment**

Committee discussion regarding rescue boat needs and equipment options for emergency response personnel: Chief Johnson is exploring different options and identifying other entities that could support us through mutual aid.

Campbell asked whether the funds should be used for electrical vehicle lockout equipment. Chief Johnson stated that, at this time, the money would be more beneficial for that purpose rather than for rescue boats. He recommended allocating funds for boats in the next budget cycle.

Chief Lynch inquired about contacting the Game Warden to determine if they have any surplus items available

Motion: Chairperson/Committee Member John Campbell moved to send the budget to City Council, changing the allocation from rescue equipment to EV car tools.

Second: Vice Chairperson/Committee Member Isaiah Spencer

Vote: Voice

Results: Motion passed

- **Budget Considerations**

Committee discussion of budgetary needs and funding considerations for the Police and Fire Departments: Chief Lynch emphasized the importance of saving money. He stated that he respects the effort being made to create a full-time Fire Department and does not want to take anything away from that goal. He has no plans to purchase any vehicles this budget season, as he is focused on cost savings. He is, however, looking into upgrading the in-vehicle camera systems, as they are becoming outdated. He is also considering the purchase of new Tasers, noting that they are typically only effective for 5–6 years. The cost of Taser 10 units for 24 officers is approximately \$176,000. Chief Lynch believes purchasing them in phases would be more fiscally responsible—possibly acquiring five at a time instead of ten to avoid a large one-time expense. Chief Johnson stated he would like to see the station parking lot completed, depending on the road widening project. He would also like the front and rear aprons redone. The road widening project is expected to be completed in November of this year. The mayor has expressed interest in relocating the Connex container to a different area at the Fire Department. Chief Johnson is also looking at purchasing an SUV or truck to replace the 2010 Explorer, which is in poor condition. Additionally, he is

considering upgrading some portable radios to newer models with enhanced features beneficial to firefighters; the radios are compatible with P25. There are also plans to replace one apparatus that has required significant repair costs. PPE purchases may also be considered.

- **Equipment Status Update**

Committee to receive an update on the condition, readiness, and operational status of Police and Fire equipment: Chief Lynch is declaring five vehicles as surplus, in addition to two vehicles recently acquired. Please see above for Chief Johnson's update.

- **Grant Opportunities for Departments**

Committee discussion of potential grant opportunities and funding sources for both Police and Fire Departments: The AFG, SAFER, and other grant opportunities are opening at the same time. Chief Johnson stated he can proceed with the applications if the Committee would like him to do so. He also discussed potential challenges associated with grants and how they could impact the Department. Finance Director Egbert spoke about the CDBG grant, noting that the funds can be used for projects but not for salaries. Committee Member Cook reported contacting Dossett regarding Bill 33 and stated that he believes it would be beneficial to City services.

- **Part-Time Firefighter Staffing**

Committee discussion regarding strategies, needs, and considerations related to part-time firefighter staffing: Chief Johnson discussed different scheduling options for the Fire Department. He stated that if the department staffs one engine or apparatus per day, there would be a crew available to respond to calls. Chairperson/Committee Member Campbell asked whether transitioning to a part-time paid Fire Department would result in the city losing its stipend. Chief Johnson responded that he would need to review the bylaws but believes the city should be able to retain the stipend as long as the department remains a combination Fire Department. Chairperson/Committee Member Campbell and Chief Johnson also discussed the possibility of implementing two shifts—one during the busiest daytime hours (5:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.) and another in the evening (4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.). However, firefighters are limited to earning \$8,000 per year. A significant challenge would be maintaining an adequate number of firefighters, as well as the cost of providing gear for each firefighter, which could be substantial. Discussion was held on the EMS contract that correlates with the Fire Department.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Chairperson/Committee Member John Campbell moved to adjourn the meeting

Second: Committee Member Edward Cook

Vote: Voice

Results: Motion passed

Adjournment: 6:09 p.m.

APPROVED:

Chairperson/Committee Member John Campbell

DATE

ATTEST:

City Clerk Lorelynn Fisher, MMC, CKMC

DATE

DRAFT