



Board of Commissioners Meeting Agenda Item Submittal

Item To Be Considered: **Onslow County Fire Rescue Commission Representation**

Board Meeting Date: **February 10, 2026**

Prepared By: **Jon Barlow – Town Manager**

Overview: A background and clarification regarding the Fire-Rescue Commission, its reinstatement and restructuring, and the discussion surrounding municipal representation on behalf of the Town of Swansboro will be provided.

The Onslow County Fire-Rescue Commission has been identified through the County's Fire Services Master Plan Study as a critical body to support coordination, planning, and standardization across the fire-rescue system. Based on that study, Onslow County recommended reinstating the Fire-Rescue Commission and restructuring its composition to better reflect the current and future service delivery model. The County has since begun rebuilding the Commission.

The restructured Commission includes representation from each designated fire zone, with volunteer fire agencies serving as zone representatives. Additional seats are allocated to community stakeholders who are not affiliated with the fire service, providing a broader public perspective. Municipal fire agencies, specifically Swansboro, North Topsail Beach, and Jacksonville, share a single seat intended to represent municipal fire service interests.

The Onslow County Fire Commission will be composed of ten members as follows:

1. One representative from the northern fire service quadrant, served by Pumpkin Center, Half Moon, Richlands, and Rhodestown Volunteer Fire Departments.
2. One representative from the eastern fire service quadrant, served by Hubert, Piney Green, and Maysville Volunteer Fire Departments.
3. One representative from the southern fire service quadrant, served by Turkey Creek, Holly Ridge, and Verona Volunteer Fire Departments.
4. One representative from the western fire service quadrant, served by Haws Run, Southwest, Nine Mile, and Backswamp Volunteer Fire Departments.
5. One licensed insurance agent representing the insurance industry with no affiliation with a Fire Agency
6. The Onslow County Finance Officer
7. The Onslow County Emergency Service Director
8. One Member of the Onslow County Board of Commissioners
9. One Representative from municipal government with local government run fire service
10. One Representative from Camp Lejeune Fire Service (ex-officio seat; non-voting member)

During the most recent Fire Chiefs' meeting, it was communicated that representation for the municipal seat would likely rotate among the municipal agencies. However, the public posting for the position identified the seat as open to a municipal partner, without specifying a rotation process.

Action: _____

Given the Commission's purpose to recommend standardization of fire services, operational practices, and other initiatives that directly affect day-to-day operations, municipal representation is critical.

In recognition of the significance of the Commission's work and its potential impact on municipal fire agencies, Chief Randall has applied to serve on the Fire-Rescue Commission on behalf of the Town of Swansboro.

Background Attachment(s): None

Recommended Action: Receive update