

**MINUTES OF A WORK SESSION OF THE
MESCAL-J6 FIRE DISTRICT GOVERNING BOARD
HELD MONDAY, OCTOBER 24th, 2022 AT 6:30 PM**

Present at work session were Board Members: Phyllis Ellis, Robert Murray and Fire Chief John Moran.

Item 1: 2011 Ford F550: Discussion for the purpose of submitting a recommendation to the Mescal-J6 Fire District Governing Board related to the current and future status of the 2011 Ford F550.

Board member Robert Murray inquired on details of the warranty relating to how the warranty ties to the 2011 Ford F550, what plans are for use of the apparatus, and whether weight and stress on the engine would be considered and addressed. Fire Chief John Moran replied, the warranty ties to the apparatus by part numbers and receipt, which is what makes it transferrable. Board member Phyllis Ellis further elaborated that the warranty is honored through Ford, not the company implementing the work. Chief Moran added, the apparatus has been used for extrication, snake removal, smoke checks and land fires in the past. Currently the apparatus is used for snake removal and extrication. Chief Moran also added that the firefighters are aware that weight needs to be addressed, max limits will not be met and if there are issues the extrication equipment will be removed. Chief Moran added that there have been no reported issues since the apparatus has been back. Mrs. Mary McCool, chair of J6/Mescal CDO, asked how the current warranty compares to others by way of what elements are included and if preauthorization is required. Chief Moran replied that they are comparable unless otherwise stated, however some things may not be included such as towing and that yes, preauthorization is necessary. Mr. Murray asked what the differences are between the Ford turbo and the ones put on there before/now. Chief says differences are makers, size, RPM intake and propellers. Mrs. McCool asked if the new Ford turbo will prevent some of the issues and if an upgrade is available. Chief Moran replied no, but this turbo is warrantied now, and damages caused by it will be covered for the 2 years. After the 2 years, will want to replace the turbo with a better one if it has not already been done through the warranty. Mr. Murray asked if it has the ceramic barring's to which Chief Moran replied, he couldn't tell you about the ATS one but the Ford one does. Mr. Murray inquired about sensor issues had through Fords warranty. Chief Moran replied they had to work out a lot of bugs on new year models and there haven't been issues since. Mrs. Ellis added, from experience with a personal vehicle, she understands how first editions can be an issue but also that once the kinks are worked out, they can be really good vehicles. Chief Moran added, bugs that have been worked out won't be present, but it will have the same model engine that it had when it came to us with more modern electrical parts/plate pieces. Mrs. Ellis added that Ford is still using that engine which says a lot for that engine. Mrs. Ellis went on to add that based on opinions obtained from diesel mechanics, the right choice was made, and we are moving in the right direction. Mrs. McCool asked if the best out there was bought, the best complete combination, meaning was it the best preassembled obtainable and less likely to have mistakes. Chief confirmed yes and we looked at a lot of different options. Mr. Murray asked how many of Mr. Bruce Andrews concerns could be an issue on the apparatus. Chief replied, he thinks they

won't be that big a concern. The apparatus has been operational for over a month now, parked on paper to look for oil drips/evidence of an engine block crack, no reports on calls run all lead to the apparatus is in good shape. Chief Moran added, we put a ton of money in it and while he thinks it may not have been the best decision, it's here, it's in service, it's in good shape and should be used responsibly. Mrs. McCool inquired as to if an estimate of mileage to be reached was included to which Chief Moran replied no, not to his knowledge and that's not typically done. Mrs. McCool inquired as to what public records, invoices and minutes are available relating to this vehicle. Mrs. McCool further inquired as to training and/or special maintenance criteria has been implemented to which Chief Moran replied, absolutely, we have changed our training and maintenance. Mrs. McCool further inquired if this could also be reported in a Chiefs report to which Chief Moran replied, the information is public record and he is happy to answer questions, but he is busy running a fire department and does not always have time to add extended documentation requests. Mrs. McCool also asked if after-market parts lowered the warranty, per verbiage on an invoice. Chief Moran replied, no, we didn't start with after-market until the warranty ran out and in regard to the instance Mrs. McCool referenced, we were still in warranty. Mrs. Ellis added in the last 6 months we are seeing better Chief reports, we are getting more in-depth communications overall in the records and are moving in the right direction. Mrs. McCool continued, we just want the information documented. Mrs. Ellis responded, with the new engine in, to go back and re-document would not be an efficient use of time but moving forward, yes. Mrs. McCool further inquired if maintenance is performed by our maintenance people does it void the warranty, is everyone on the same page. Chief replied, he thinks so. It goes to the shop for repairs, and no one gets behind the wheel until Captain Olander gives the ok. This has been working for us for what we have and when we get bigger, we can do more. Mr. Murray asked about seeing that an oil change hasn't been done in almost a year. Chief replied, that might be, as oil changes were done by mileage previously but now, they will be done quarterly and by hours. Mr. Murray stated his main concern is if the truck is viable to keep now. Chief Moran responded, only if we use it as we are using it today and if it's not overloaded, we can get the 2 years out of it. If we were going to have issues with a suspected crack in the block, that would have already manifested. Mrs. Ellis asked Chief Moran what the firefighter's stance on the apparatus is. Chief responded that while they do like new trucks and its good for moral by way of having new needed equipment, it's also a safety issue. Chief added, he doesn't think prop 310 is going to pass, the SAFER grant is very important to us and we hope we get it because when we have people here regularly, and as actual employees, we can expect more of them. We can only push these volunteers so far, can only ask so much of them with the wages we pay them and the work we ask them to do. That doesn't mean they don't have responsibilities and minimums, but we have to be careful because they will go somewhere else if we ask to much of them. Mrs. McCool added, she agrees the Ford F550 apparatus does give the impression that we are updated although several newer apparatuses have the same look. Mrs. McCool went on to ask how many people the apparatus sits. Chief replied, it carries 5 and the new engine could hold more but 5 is the max. Chief added, that it's not a problem though because we don't even have 5 people to put in it. Mrs. Ellis added, based on what she'd heard from people at the dollar store that neighboring fire departments don't necessarily have what our Rescue apparatus has and they like us to have that one. Chief replied, that could be the prewired extrication tools, but we do that with our engines as well, so he is not so sure about that. Mrs. McCool went back to topic of documentation and pointed out personal readings of submitted letters to be negative versus

informative of information received when Chief Moran and board member Brian Hughes went to see the owner at K and R Automotive and asked if as a result, if there is any documentation showing that the apparatus has a quality block and what made Hughes and Moran both feel comfortable with the answers received, to follow through with the boards directive, bringing the apparatus home as well as the things put in place to lengthen its longevity for its future. Mrs. McCool added, this could help counteract the negativity that is out there at the moment. Mrs. Ellis added, even if it's in the Chiefs report. Chief Moran replied yes, I think that's reasonable. Mr. Murray added, apart from the negativity out there, he is trying to see what would be best for the taxpayers, would it be better to sell it and unload it or we think we can get some good services out of it. Chief Moran replied, what that vehicle would go for today, we would take a hard hit. We have a lot of money in that thing, and it will never come back to us but at some point, you have to cut your losses, but I don't think we are there. Mrs. McCool asked if the firefighters trust the vehicle. Chief Moran replied, they are trusting it more and more, but we have had a lot of issues with it. Chief Moran went on to explain, the loan for the tender will be paid off in 2 years. If we intend to build a facility, it's a 2-year process now and we would want the USDA involved if there is the possibility of going after some money. We are going to have to call in some professionals and it's going to cost us money to do. Mrs. McCool replied, at many conferences, it was warned to use lots of scrutiny because it was good for 3 years and then they had to fire everyone. Chief Moran said, he agrees and that it's a problem, but we have to at least start investigating these possibilities and start planning for them. There's a chance we will get done with the SAFER application and decide this is not for us because we can't afford it and in that case, we will take those funds and put it towards an AFG grant, we are already putting in for a regional grant for a SCBA and then we can put in one for an apparatus or training. Mrs. McCool added personnel is really, really important to which Chief Moran replied, its critical and we have a lot of growing pains ahead of us.

No official business of the Mescal-J6 Fire District Governing Board was conducted at this meeting.

Minutes compiled and submitted by:
Denise Serna
Office Administrator