



GARLAND

MINUTES

The Fire and EMS Stakeholder Committee of the Public Safety Committee of the City of Garland convened a special meeting at 6:00 PM on September 10, 2025, in the Community Room at the Central Library, 625 Austin Street, Garland, Texas, with the following members present:

Present: Chair, Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Chris Ott
Mayor Pro Tem Margaret Lucht
Councilmember Carissa Dutton
Judson Rex, City Manager
Matt Watson, Chief Financial Officer
Allyson Bell-Steadman, Director of Budget & Financial Strategy
Mark Lee, Fire Chief
Tyler Little, Driver-Engineer
Bill Crews, President, Garland Firefighter's Association
Dr. Matthew Tice, Medical Director
Tim Nowack, Emergency Medical Solutions, LLC
Melissa Garner, Community Leader
Merill Balanciere, Community Leader
Scott LeMay, Community Leader

Staff Present: Letecia McNatt, Public Safety Committee Liaison

1. WELCOME - Introductions & Purpose

- Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Chris Ott opened the meeting, outlining the committee's mission: a nine-month review of Garland's fire and EMS operations, with a focus on staffing and service delivery.
- Mayor Hedrick emphasized the importance of the work.
- Introductions followed from council members, city staff, fire department, medical experts, and community stakeholders.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Persons who desire to address the Committee on any item on the agenda are allowed three minutes to speak.

- No public comments were submitted.

3. ITEMS FOR INDIVIDUAL CONSIDERATION

a. Where Are We Going? Defining Our Scope of Work

The committee will evaluate:

- 24/48 firefighter shift schedule.
- EMS service delivery model.
- Sustainability and effectiveness of recommendations.

b. Garland Fire Department 101

Chief Mark Lee presented:

- 11 stations, 11 ambulances, \$46.6M budget.
- 285 personnel; nearly all are or will be paramedics.
- Calls up 26% over 9 years; staffing up only 12%.
- Station renovations and apparatus updates ongoing.

c. Questions & Discussion

- **Shift Schedules:** Interest in exploring 24/72; concerns about managing overtime.
- **Overtime:** \$2–3.5M/year; one firefighter logged over 2,000 hours.
- **EMS Strain:** Frequent ambulance overload; hospital wall times impact availability.
- **Growth & Staffing:** Multi-family and vertical construction may require additional staffing.
- **Wellness & Safety:** Emphasis on firefighter recovery, retention, and safe response.

d. Establish Future Meeting Schedule & Committee Logistics

- Monthly meetings: 2nd Wednesday at 6 PM.
- Next meeting: **October 8, 2025.**
- Microsoft Teams will host materials.

4. ADJOURN

Submitted By:

/S/ Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Chris Ott, Chair

/S/ Letecia McNatt, Secretary