



Montana Sheriffs & Peace Officers Association
PO Box 794 • Helena, MT 59624 • (406) 443-5669 • www.mspsoa.org

Search and Rescue Subcommittee

Quarterly Meeting

Date: Tuesday, April 9, 2024
Time: 10 am – 12 pm
In-person: Fort Harrison, HAFRC, Room 113
Remote: Via Microsoft Teams

MINUTES

Introductions *Matt Boxmeyer (Chair); Scott Van Dyken (Vice Chair); Nanette Gilbertson (MSPOA); Jake Ganieany (DES)*

Attendees

Matt Boxmeyer, Chair – Gallatin County SAR
Jon Kadner – Cascade County SAR
Landon Kotesky – Cascade County SAR
Kevin Wright – Lewis and Clark County SAR
Bill Pandis – Lewis and Clark County SAR
Cece Weldon – Madison County/Ruby Valley SAR
Darrin Wise – Flathead County SAR
Frank Finnegan – Butte Silver Bow County/15-90 SAR
Frank Pelli – Carbon County/Red Lodge SAR
Gary Burke – Yellowstone County SAR
Jason Jarrett – Gallatin County/MSPOA Sheriffs Mutual Aid Program
Kent O'Donnell – Yellowstone County SAR
Tom Curtis – Lake County SAR
Ty Williams – Stillwater County SAR
Duncan Hedges – Madison County SAR
Corey Hansen – Cascade County SAR
Anthony Jenson – Lincoln County/David Thompson SAR

Jake Ganieany – DES
Scott Secor – MSPOA
Nanette Gilbertson – MSPOA

Review and approve minutes from previous meeting (1-9-24)

*Motion to approve the minutes from the January 9, 2024 meeting as distributed via email (O'Donnell).
Second (Kotesky). Passed unanimous.*

Old Business (Issues previously discussed which require follow-up)

- Scope of Practice for Medical Response in SAR Teams – Presentation by Jason Revisky
 - *SAR Teams/Units in Montana should select an appropriate Medical Scope of Practice or Level of Service appropriate for the organization and membership.*
 - *For many Teams/Units, CPR/First Aid/AED certification (such as that offered by the AHA) might be all that is needed.*
 - *For those that want to offer a higher level of service, they can choose to operate at the level of an EMR, EMT, Advanced EMT, or Paramedic.*
 - *In order to do that, they must first apply for an EMS License with the State. The State has license levels for BLS Non-Transport, BLS Transport, ALS Non-Transport, and ALS Transport. For EMR and EMT levels of service, a BLS Non-Transport license is appropriate (a Transport license is only needed to perform routine ambulance transport). For Advanced EMT or Paramedic levels of service, an ALS license is required. Contact is Shari Graham 406-444-3895*
 - *To have an EMS license, a group must have a Medical Control Physician to approve and oversee the program.*
 - *It's important to know that as a group chooses a successively higher level of service, the burden of certification, recertification, and continuing education increases significantly. Its prudent to start with an achievable target for your Medical Scope of Practice and then increase in the future when there is both the time and money available to achieve and maintain a higher level of care.*
 - *Jason is happy to speak with Teams or Units individually to assist in this process. Jason Revisky, Training Coordinator with the Gallatin County Sheriff's Office SAR Division. 406-580-9473 or Jason.Revisky@gallatin.mt.gov.*
 - Questions
 - *Tom Curtis – Would like this subcommittee to determine the level of training which will be supported for purposes of reimbursement requests because the training is expensive.*
 - *Nanette Gilbertson – Such a determination would be outside the scope of this subcommittee. The subcommittee members review training reimbursement requests based on objective information such as the training meeting the requirements in the reimbursement guidelines and providing all required documentation. It is not the role of the subcommittee to make a subjective determination on the necessity of the training. Each SAR Team/Unit should provide and support the training for their members which are determined to be necessary and relevant for the specific team and submit a reimbursement request. There are no guarantees on reimbursement for any request, but each request is evaluated objectively and determinations made based on funding available.*

New Business (Emerging issues which require attention from the SAR Subcommittee)

- SAR Asset Insurance
 - *This issue has come up in more than one county so this is simply to inform Counties and SAR units of a potential issue which may arise. The historical practice has been for counties to able to supply a list of assets to the insurance carrier and include all SAR vehicles and equipment, which would then be covered under the county insurance.*

- *It is unfortunate for sure that a past practice is being changed, on the other hand, there is logic in why the insurance carrier providing insurance to a governmental entity would not provide insurance to separate, non-governmental, non-profit associations.*
- *The likely outcome is that the 501(c)(3)s will need to start procuring and paying for insurance coverage on the vehicles and equipment that they own. If the nonprofit cannot afford that outright, it is possible that the county could reimburse them, but that would depend on the individual county and SO budget.*
- *Alternatively, the Gallatin County model could be followed in which the entire SAR operation comes under the Sheriff's Office, which would mean the vehicles and equipment would be owned and titled by the county.*
- *Another option for consideration is to have the county lease the equipment through the 501(c)(3) for a minimal annual amount and then the equipment is insurable under the county.*
- *If the SO/County and the 501(c)(3) have assets which are jointly owned, the county can likely continue to cover the insurance on those pieces of equipment/vehicles since they are jointly owned.*
- *For the assets that are 100% owned by the 501(c)(3), they will likely have to procure their own insurance, but ultimately the county could to pay the insurance premium if there is an agreement in place such as suggested above.*

SAR Financial Update

- **Funds Balance**
 - *Report provided on pages 7-9*
 - *As of 03/25/24 the **cash balance is \$269,637.08**. The remaining **appropriation for SFY24 is \$101,123**.*
 - *During the meeting there was a question about the statutory requirement for not less than 50% of the money available for SAR reimbursements to be utilized for mission reimbursement ([MCA 10-3-801](#)).*
 - *The long-standing interpretation of MCA 10-3-801 is that not less than 50% of the annual authority must be earmarked for mission reimbursement. This equates to the remaining 50% being available for training and equipment reimbursement. The SFY24 annual appropriation is \$132,154, which means \$66,077 must be utilized for mission reimbursement and the other \$66,077 may be utilized for training and equipment reimbursement. However, the subcommittee can approve more than 50% of the available appropriation for mission reimbursements.*
- **MSPOA Training Fund Balance**
 - *\$18,376.08 remaining*
 - *If your agency or SAR team wants to host a training, but needs assistance with the up-front costs and/or logistics, reach out to Chair Boxmeyer and Nanette Gilbertson to discuss the MSPOA training fund grant.*

Training

- Upcoming training opportunities
 - *Basic SAR*
 - *Flathead County*
 - *May 3-5*
 - *Contact Darrin Wise for additional information and seat availability (dwise@flathead.mt.gov)*
 - *Swiftwater Rescue*
 - *Flathead County*
 - *May 17-19*
 - *Contact Darrin Wise for additional information and seat availability (dwise@flathead.mt.gov)*
 - *Managing the Inland Search*
 - *Hayden, ID*
 - *Spring*
 - *Additional information forthcoming*
 - *Managing the Inland Search*
 - *Gallatin County*
 - *Fall*
 - *Watch for additional information*
 - *Flathead (Basic SAR) – May 3-5.*
 - *Reach out to Darrin (provide email)*

Resource List

- Updated Lists Provided via Email
 - *Review recent list and provide corrections.*
 - *Double check list of people for your county/team and ensure email accuracy. There are still many emails which are returned as undeliverable.*

Reimbursement Requests

- Reimbursement Submission Deadlines
 - *Submit Mission Reimbursement Requests within 90 days of the mission, when possible, to assist with record keeping, balance tracking, etc.*
 - ***Monday, June 3, 2024 – Must submit all SFY'24 Training and Equipment Reimbursement Requests.***

➤ **Mission**

→ Valley County SAR

October 26, 2023

Total = \$535.00

Reimbursement Purpose = Mileage. Tire Replacement.

Resources: 5 SAR Members 2 private vehicles 3 off road vehicles

Narrative: On October 26, 2023, at 18:20 hours, Valley County Dispatch received a call for service asking for assistance with two hunters that rolled their side by side somewhere in Timber Creek. The two hunters were not sure of their location but knew with the weather that they would be unable to walk out to their vehicle. The weather change brought heavy snow fall and cold temperatures. One hunter was elderly and would not be able to walk out. Sheriff Boyer was notified and activated Valley County SAR. Five members responded with two personal vehicles and trailers. One off road vehicle was provided by the Sheriff's Office and two other ORVs were provided by the SAR members. At 19:40 hours SAR members left Glasgow and proceeded to the area. At 22:30 hours SAR members located the two hunters and provided warmth and transportation back to the location where they were parked. The SAR members and hunting party returned to Glasgow and the mission ended at 01:20 hours on October 27, 2023.

Resolution: Both hunters were located and transported to their vehicle. The disabled ATV was retrieved at a later date.

Motion to approve the Valley County SO SAR Mission Reimbursement for \$535.00 with funding authorized by State DES (Pandis). Second (Kotesky).

Additional Discussion: Kotesky asked for clarification that the tire replacement fell within the reimbursement guidelines. Confirmed that the tire replacement for a tire on a personal rig which was damaged in the scope of the mission duties was an acceptable use of reimbursement funds.

Passed Unanimous.

→ Butte Silver Bow - 1590 SAR

January 9, 2024

Total = \$217.75

Reimbursement Purpose = Mileage

Resources: 12 Units in 9 vehicles

Narrative: After approximately 2 hours of searching north of town, the search commander received a call from dispatch that the individual had been located at the rocker exit near Butte.

Resolution: The individual was located and the units were told they could go home.

Motion to approve the Butte Silver Bow - 1590 SAR Mission Reimbursement for \$217.75 with funding authorized by State DES (Pandis). Second (Kotesky). Passed Unanimous.

→ Butte Silver Bow - 1590 SAR

February 3, 2024

Total = \$484.41

Reimbursement Purpose = Mileage

Resources: 19 Units in 12 vehicles

Narrative: After approximately 7 hours of searching the individuals in the broken down side by side were located and transported home via SAR personnel. The initial report came in and it was said that the side by side had a busted belt and was stranded in the highlands. Dispatch gave the SAR team a cell phone location ping. The original cell phone ping wasn't correct and it took some time for dispatch to get in contact with the lost individuals to get a more accurate location. Once that location was given incident command was able to send a GPS ping to the group on sleds and ATV's and they located the victims.

Resolution: The individuals were located and transported home.

Motion to approve the Butte Silver Bow - 1590 SAR Mission Reimbursement for \$484.41 with funding authorized by State DES (Kotesky). Second (Pandis). Passed Unanimous.

➤ **Training**

See addendum for SFY24 Training Reimbursement Requests to date.

➤ **Equipment**

See addendum for SFY24 Equipment Reimbursement Requests to date.

Open Comment/Public Comment

None

Next Meetings

- Tuesday, June 11, 2024 at 10:30 am
 - Meetings will start at 10:30 in the future.

State Fiscal Year 2024 Training and Equipment Reimbursement Requests

Requests can be submitted throughout the year, but will be evaluated and voted on at the last meeting of the state fiscal year.

1st Quarter Reimbursement Requests

➤ Training

→ Butte-Silver Bow County – 15-90 SAR

July 8, 2023

Total = \$ 365.88

Training Type: *Montana Rescue Training, Emergency first aid and packaging and Helicopter extrication*

Description: *25 members responded to Highland Mountains July 8th, 2023. Where 4 victims in moulage were located by ELT and drone. Victims treated and packaged and transported to LZ, picked up 1 victim by LifeFlight. Training dealt with plane location by ELT, triage, treatment, triage, transport and helicopter procedures.*

Training Provided By: *In-House & Lifeflight*

→ Butte-Silver Bow County – 15-90 SAR

September 15, 2023

Total = \$1,200.00

Training Type: *Emergency Medical Technician*

Description: *EMT training for member with teaching experience. The course is 13 weeks long, approx. 150 hours for Basic certification. In 4th week of course now.*

Training Provided By: *Whiteline Training*

Total Training Reimbursement Request for Q1:

\$1565.88

➤ Equipment

None to date

2nd Quarter Reimbursement Requests

➤ Training

→ Stillwater County – Stillwater County SAR

September 30, 2023

Total = \$4,740.00

Training Type: *Swiftwater Tech Training*

Description: *Training for 12 Stillwater SAR members to become certified swift water technicians. The class was taught by WRI out of Missoula. The training was opened to local fire departments, along with Sweetgrass County SAR and Carbon County SAR.*

Training Provided By: *WRI*

Total Training Reimbursement Request for Q2:

\$4740.00

- **Equipment**
None to date

3rd Quarter Reimbursement Requests

- **Training**
 - Toole County SAR
March 15, 2024
Total = \$757.43
Training Type: *Fundamentals of Search and Rescue*
Description: *Hosted by Lewis and Clark search and rescue. These courses focus on those brand new to Search and Rescue and many jurisdictions use them as the basis for their SAR Academy training for new members. We focus on the National SAR System, what happens on a SAR mission, followed by practical exercises on how to search and operate safely in any environment.*
Training Provided By: *ERI*

Total Training Reimbursement Request for Q2:

\$757.43

- **Equipment**
None to date

Total Training Reimbursement Request for FY '24:

\$7,063.31

Financial Update from DES

As of 03/25/24 the cash balance is **\$269,637.08**. The remaining appropriation is **\$101,123**.

Amount		Business Unit		
Acct Lvl 0	Account	52010	67010	Total
10000 Assets		226,420.00	43,217.08	269,637.08
	1104 Cash In Bank	227,170.75	43,217.08	270,387.83
	1203A Acct Rec Ext - Non Open Item	(750.75)		(750.75)
20000 Liabilities		0.00	0.00	0.00
	2107 Vouchers Payable	0.00	0.00	0.00
40000 Fund Equity		686.25	(31,950.43)	(31,264.18)
	4130 Fund Balance - Committed	686.25	(31,950.43)	(31,264.18)
50000 Revenues		(227,106.25)	(46,034.13)	(273,140.38)
	501509 OHV Temporary Use Permits	(9,798.00)		(9,798.00)
	502015 License Dealer Receipts	(0.50)		(0.50)
	502505 Winter Trail Pass	(2,165.50)		(2,165.50)
	581432 Donations	(215,142.25)		(215,142.25)
	582800 Transfers In-General		(29,818.71)	(29,818.71)
	582886 NonFA Residual Equity Rev - NB		(16,215.42)	(16,215.42)
60000 Expenditures			34,767.48	34,767.48
	66156 Special Projects		34,767.48	34,767.48
Total		0.00	0.00	0.00

Below are the recent deposits received from FWP:

(3,566.50) 11/23 Search & Rescue
 (4,356.08) 12/24 SAR
 (4,683.66) 01/24 Search & Rescue
 (3,717.91) 02/24 Search & Rescue

Also, of note, the \$16,215.42 is the final transfer of cash from 02156. I was able to work with FWP to transfer the remaining cash in 02156 to 02170!