Financial Assistance Review Committee (FARC)
Virginia Association of First Responders
2535 Turkey Creek Rd. Oilville, VA 23129
March 20, 2026
1000

Members Present:	Members Absent:	OEMS Staff:	Others:
Robert Trimmer – Chair		**Michael Berg**	**Ed Rhodes - Virtual**
Byron Andrews –Vice Chair			
Mark Barenklau – Secretary			
Jeff Grimm			
Members Attending Virtually:			
Greg DeYoung			
Noah Hillstrom			

Topic/Subject	Discussion	Recommendations, Action/Follow-up; Responsible Person
I. Call to order/Welcome:	The meeting was called to order at 1016 by Chairman Trimmer. Motion to approve DeYoung and Hillstrom attend virtually, Grimm, 2nd Barenklau, Approved	No further action is required
II. Introductions:	Introductions of all in attendance	No further action is required
III. Approval of Minutes:	Approval of Agenda and December's minutes. Motion to approve Andrews, 2nd Barenklau, Approved	No further action is required
IV. Committee Business:	**Robert Trimmer: Asked** Ed Rhodes to update the committee on progress of several bills because we may need to have discussions in the future about a possible increase in funding. **Ed Rhodes:** SB675 and HB57 will not be moving any further until next year. Discussion of SB30 and how it affects RSAF and VAOEMS, it has no matching house bill as of today. This bill would increase the amount of RSAF funding for one year or possibly every other year. **Michael Berg:** We will need new grading rules for the cycles that have increased funding. We could use the extra funding to rebuild the reserve fund for emergency grant requests. Also, funds have been found that were taken from RSAF and are to be returned. Funding the reserve fund for emergency grants was agreed to be a priority by all committee members. **Robert Trimmer:** We will need to make sure that requests that are not graded favorable will not be funded due to extra money available. Especially if a request is graded at 5-Not Needed. Discussion on grading tiers 1-5 and funding level of the RSAF program by all committee members.	No further action is required

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1. OEMS Staff Report	**Michael Berg:** 2 extensions have been approved for encumbered grants and one modification for a grant to change the request to a different manufacturer. Any pending payments need to be completed by June for the agency to get paid. Two grant workshops were held recently, and multiple ones are scheduled in the future. Lynnwood Pulling's retirement is effective April 1st. OEMS currently has a candidate to fill that position in the hiring process. Alexandria and Chatham both declined grants from last cycle. The top four categories of this cycle are Monitor/Defibrillators, Video Laryngoscopes, Communications, and Stretchers. General committee discussion on grant submissions and grading by all committee members	No further action is required
V. Unfinished Business: **VI. Membership Adjustment**	**Workgroup reports:** **Application Workgroup** recommended changes, attached **Review Process Workgroup** recommended changes, attached **Michael Berg:** Led a discussion on the possibility of restarting a presentation to the local grant review body at the council level and if reinstated it would require "guardrails" to ensure an equable process. Committee discussion on what a possible change would look like. Application and Review process workgroups will continue to meet and present suggestions at the June meeting. Break from 11:40 to 1200 for lunch. **Funding Workgroup** recommended changes, attached **Robert Trimmer:** Presented and discussion continued, updates will be ready for the June meeting. **Mark Barenklau** has agreed to come off in June at the end of his first term to leave Region 3 with **Jeff Grimm** and new member **Marlon "Matthew" Rickman** has been nominated to represent Region 2 which will make one member from each region on the committee sans Region 1. Motion to accept Marlon "Matthew" Rickman to forward the recommendation to the EMS Advisory Board at their May 1, 2026, meeting for approval, Byron Andrews, Jeff Grimm 2nd. New Transportation workgroup member recommendations Bubby Bish, JC Bolling, Steve Reese and Dan Fellows. A member of the FARC committee needs to be a member as well; Robert Trimmer has agreed to fill that role.	

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VII. Public Comment:	No public comments	No further action is required
VIII. Date of Next Meeting:	June 4, 2026, at VAFR 1000	No further action is required
VIII. Adjournment	Meeting adjourned by Robert Trimmer	No further action is required