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FIRE AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION

COUNTY OF MAUI

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

REGULAR MEETING

Held at via BlueJeans, commencing at 10:05 a.m., on
September 17, 2020.

REPORTED BY: SANDRA J. GRAN, RPR/CSR #424

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ATTENDANCE

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:

- Kyle Ginoza, Chair
- Lisa Vares, Vice Chair
- Jack Freitas, Member
- Travis Tancayo, Member
- Gregg Lundberg, Member
- Dwight Burns, Member
- Donna Sterling, Member
- Punahuele Alcon, Member

STAFF:

- Bradford Ventura, Deputy Fire Chief
- Michael Werner, Battalion Chief
- Hanalei Lindo, Battalion Chief
- Reza Azman, Captain
- Gary Murai, Deputy Corporation Counsel
- Richelle Wakamatsu, Commission Secretary
- Herman Andaya, Maui Emergency Management Agency

1 (September 17, 2020, 10:05 a.m.)

2 * * *

3 CHAIR GINOZA: Call the meeting, the fire and public
4 safety commission meeting to order. I'd first start to --
5 like to start off with roll call. So I'm Kyle Ginoza, I'm
6 present.

7 Vice Chair Lisa Vares.

8 VICE CHAIR VARES: Present.

9 CHAIR GINOZA: Jack Freitas.

10 COMMISSIONER FREITAS: Present.

11 CHAIR GINOZA: Travis Tancayo.

12 COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: Here.

13 CHAIR GINOZA: Dwight Burns.

14 COMMISSIONER BURNS: Here.

15 CHAIR GINOZA: Gregg Lundberg.

16 COMMISSIONER LUNDBERG: Here.

17 CHAIR GINOZA: Donna Sterling.

18 COMMISSIONER STERLING: Here.

19 CHAIR GINOZA: Punahеле Alcon.

20 COMMISSIONER ALCON: Here.

21 CHAIR GINOZA: And Max Kincaid, Jr.

22 (No response.)

23 CHAIR GINOZA: I don't think we have max. So
24 everyone but Max.

25 And from corporation counsel, we have Moana Lutey

1 and from emergency management, we have looks like Herman
2 Andaya. Anybody with you guys?

3 MEMA OFFICER ANDAYA: I'm by myself, Chair.

4 CHAIR GINOZA: Okay. And, Brad, could you introduce
5 the fire personnel you have.

6 CHIEF VENTURA: Sure. This meeting we have myself,
7 Deputy Chief Brad Ventura. TA for Fire 3, for Chief Kawasaki,
8 is Hanalei Lindo. We have Chief Werner, who is here as our
9 Fire 4. And our guest speaker today is Captain Reza Azman.
10 Richelle's also in the background, as she always is.

11 CHAIR GINOZA: Okay. Perfect.

12 MR. MURAI: And Kyle.

13 CHAIR GINOZA: Is there anybody -- oh, go ahead.

14 MR. MURAI: Kyle, this is Gary. Sorry, I just
15 joined a couple minutes ago. I lost track of time, so I'm a
16 little bit late, but I'm on.

17 CHAIR GINOZA: Okay. Perfect. No problem. Thanks
18 for joining. So we just started.

19 Okay. I think we recognized everybody, so let's
20 move on to the approval of the minutes. Does anyone have any
21 corrections to the minutes they'd like to note?

22 (No response.)

23 CHAIR GINOZA: Okay. Seeing none, could I have a
24 motion to approve the minutes?

25 VICE CHAIR VARES: Motion to approve.

1 COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: Motion to approve.

2 COMMISSIONER BURNS: Second.

3 COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: Then I'll second.

4 CHAIR GINOZA: Wait, wait. Sorry. Could you just
5 raise your hand?

6 (Response.)

7 CHAIR GINOZA: So Lisa and Travis second. All in
8 favor, raise your hand.

9 (Response.)

10 CHAIR GINOZA: I don't think anybody's opposed, so
11 approval of the minutes passed.

12 COMMISSIONER LUNDBERG: Wait. Travis, did you
13 oppose?

14 COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: No, I didn't.

15 CHAIR GINOZA: Sorry.

16 COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: I was -- I agree.

17 CHAIR GINOZA: So I'd like to move on to the public
18 testimony. Is there anyone -- Richelle, is there anyone here
19 to testify? I notice we have a guest, but it says no
20 testimony.

21 CHIEF VENTURA: Nobody here with us today.

22 CHAIR GINOZA: Okay. If there's no objections, I'd
23 like to close public testimony and move on to Maui Emergency
24 Management Agency. Herman.

25 COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: Herman.

1 CHAIR GINOZA: Herman, are you there?

2 MEMA OFFICER ANDAYA: Sorry, Mr. Chair. I had to
3 unmute myself.

4 Mr. Chair, Members of the Commission, I -- you have
5 my report. It should be transmitted to you shortly. Sorry
6 for the delay in getting it to you.

7 Our hazard mitigation plan update is completed and
8 so we have now received approvals from HI-EMA, the Hawaii
9 Emergency Management Agency, as well as the Federal Emergency
10 Management Agency, and it's currently with the mayor right now
11 for approval. Once we get that, then we will have a -- an
12 updated hazard mitigation plan. And it's -- this is important
13 because only plans -- I'm sorry, only projects that are listed
14 in the hazard mitigation plan is eligible for federal funding
15 and so we want to make sure that we get this in place and now
16 we'll be able to apply for some federal grants.

17 We are still in partial activation due to COVID-19.
18 In fact, a lot of our projects that we were planning to do is
19 suspended for now as a result of COVID-19. There's a --
20 there's a lot of activity here related to COVID-19 still, so
21 we're working on that.

22 With respect to public outreach, again, we've had to
23 suspend a lot of activities because of COVID, but we are still
24 trying to reach out to the public and we're doing this through
25 public messaging through social media and other -- other types

1 of media.

2 With respect to planning, because of COVID, we are
3 preparing just in case there's a surge. On Oahu you've heard
4 about how they've created an ultimate care site at the Hawaii
5 Convention Center, we're looking at doing something like that
6 here on Maui in the event that our hospital becomes over
7 capacity, but that's -- that's not the case, but it's, you
8 know, we're just planning in the event that something like
9 that happens. We know that we would have to move quickly if
10 that was to occur and so we want to get those plans in place.

11 Other things also is vaccination distribution and so
12 we're also starting the planning process for that as well. I
13 know it's a long ways before vaccination will be made
14 available to the public; nonetheless, we want to be ready in
15 the event that it does -- it does occur.

16 There -- there's a possibility of doing surge
17 testing here on Maui. Although Maui County has been very good
18 about doing surge test -- doing testing, the mayor has been
19 very -- has been a huge advocate with respect to doing a lot
20 of testing in Maui County and so there might be an opportunity
21 to bring over surge testing that -- that's sponsored by the
22 federal government, so we're working on that as well.

23 Let's see. I also included our siren report and so
24 you'll -- you'll be able to see the same -- the same -- 56
25 were sounded, 12 there was no sound, and so we've notified

1 HI-EMA on that and -- and I understand that there is some
2 sirens that are -- they're looking at replacing and so that
3 should be occurring soon.

4 With respect to activations, there's been two
5 activations for us here at the EOC. EOC is the Emergency
6 Operations Center. The Central Maui Baseyard brush fire,
7 which occurred on August 30th, as well as, of course,
8 COVID-19, we're still in partial activation for that event.

9 That's all I have, Mr. Chair. I'm open to questions
10 if there are any.

11 CHAIR GINOZA: Does any commission member -- thank
12 you, Herman. Does any commission members have any question?

13 COMMISSIONER LUNDBERG: I have none.

14 CHAIR GINOZA: Okay.

15 VICE CHAIR VARES: I've got one for Herman real
16 fast.

17 CHAIR GINOZA: Okay. Go ahead, Lisa.

18 VICE CHAIR VARES: Commissioner Lisa Vares. Herman,
19 I had a question for you. We get the Maka'ala notices on our
20 phones, it comes through real well, it's for the fires, it's
21 for, you know, flooding and whatnot. When we also get
22 repeated kind of almost every 15-20 minute phone calls from
23 the -- I believe it's from the county kind of along the same
24 time frame. Are those associated with Maka'ala? We
25 eventually have to just block them because we get so -- I get

1 so many on my phone. Do you know if that's part of Maka'ala?

2 MEMA OFFICER ANDAYA: Mr. Chair.

3 CHAIR GINOZA: Yes, Herman. Go ahead.

4 MEMA OFFICER ANDAYA: So if it says MEMA alert, then
5 that's coming from -- that's coming from our agency. And so
6 that's something that we started to do recently, we should
7 be -- we should be doing that on all of our alerts. And so if
8 it says MEMA alert. Sometimes the telephone company will have
9 their own alerts that go out, Verizon. Some of you may have
10 signed up for other services and it could be from that. But
11 it should -- it should say MEMA alert on -- as a preface to
12 the message.

13 VICE CHAIR VARES: And the messages are coming
14 through, you know, correctly, you get one. The phone calls
15 are repeated coming from County of Maui. But if that's not
16 part of Maka'ala, then I'll try to get to the bottom of that.

17 MEMA OFFICER ANDAYA: Yeah. It -- it could be also,
18 Commissioner, that there are some alerts, if you don't
19 respond, then it will contact you again, you know. So it'll
20 say -- I think at the very end it'll say, you know, Please --
21 please press 1 if you've heard this message. And so if you
22 don't -- if you don't press 1, then it will either call you
23 again or it will -- or it will call other -- like, for
24 instance, it'll text you instead. And if you don't respond to
25 that, then it'll email you instead, you know, things like

1 that. So you just have to respond to it.

2 VICE CHAIR VARES: Thank you. I'm sorry to take up
3 commission time with that.

4 MEMA OFFICER ANDAYA: No, no.

5 VICE CHAIR VARES: I just recently signed on to
6 Maka'ala and --

7 MEMA OFFICER ANDAYA: Oh, good.

8 VICE CHAIR VARES: -- all of a sudden, I was like,
9 Ah, okay. Boy, you're really getting your money's worth with
10 this system. My goodness.

11 MEMA OFFICER ANDAYA: Did you sign up for every
12 event, Commissioner?

13 VICE CHAIR VARES: Apparently, I did.

14 (Laughter.)

15 MEMA OFFICER ANDAYA: So a lot of times people --

16 VICE CHAIR VARES: Thank you, Herman.

17 MEMA OFFICER ANDAYA: A lot of times people
18 mistakenly sign up for every event, you know, so -- so because
19 of that, they're like calling us and telling us, Oh, can you
20 please take me off Maka'ala, because, you know, I'm getting
21 these calls early in the morning and whatnot, but -- so, you
22 know, you don't have to -- like they're getting -- they're
23 getting wind advisories and whatnot, so that's something that
24 you may not necessarily want or -- you know, or need to know,
25 so --

1 VICE CHAIR VARES: I appreciate that. Thank you.

2 MR. ANDAYA: Yeah.

3 CHAIR GINOZA: Great. Thank you for the
4 clarification, Herman, and for the report.

5 Does anyone else have any questions?

6 (No response.)

7 CHAIR GINOZA: Looks like none, so let's move on to
8 the fire department and Chief Ventura.

9 DEPUTY CHIEF VENTURA: Good morning, everybody.
10 Thank you for taking time out of your day to be with us. I'm
11 going to touch a little on what Chief Thyne usually reports
12 out on and then I'll go into my report. In your -- in your
13 packet you have our call volume sheet, we'll look at that
14 first, kind of the breakdown of the calls. You'll see the
15 trends. We're still in the peak of our brush fire season and
16 that's -- the islands are all still pretty dry throughout the
17 county and that kind of connects to our -- our weather
18 prediction coming in before us. We -- we have drier than
19 normal weather coming up and less rain, is what they're
20 predicting, through October, so we might not see consistent
21 showers till later in the year.

22 And then you'll see the total alarms at the bottom.
23 They're trending back up since COVID in March, so -- so things
24 are starting to open up, people are starting to get out and
25 about, they're getting a little restless at home and, you

1 know, we're going to more car accidents and more rescues and
2 more type of events that weren't happening back in March/
3 April/May when people were in their stay at home order. So
4 it's -- we're far from normal, but our call volume is
5 definitely picking back up.

6 And then the next handout is the training for the
7 month and as you know, Chief Thyne always says, you know, the
8 more we can train, the more prepared we are, so we train as
9 heavy as we can. COVID has definitely impacted our training
10 massively. For example, for us to train the whole department
11 in our -- in our required discipline like CPR, we normally
12 give 21 classes and we would be able to encompass all the
13 engines and ladders and support personnel. But because our
14 classes have been reduced in student size, we're looking at 39
15 classes to get through that one discipline. So not nearly
16 double, but instead of us teaching CPR in, let's say, a month,
17 it's two months now. And so what that does is that provides
18 less time for us to do other training because we can't have
19 multiple disciplines and multiple companies at a service going
20 on. So we're adjusting, trying to make sure, you know, we
21 meet our requirements, but it's gonna affect and impact some
22 other training that we would like to do otherwise.

23 We have a variety of CIP projects that are in
24 various stages. The Lanai Fire Station is getting an
25 expansion building, is what we're working on. The plans for

1 that are almost complete, so, hopefully, we can put that job
2 out to bid next month.

3 Haiku Fire Station is back in its reassessment
4 phase, so we are assessing a variety of properties out there,
5 'cause that's what we were asked by the council.

6 Kahului Fire Station is getting an open carport,
7 which is almost 3,000 square feet and it's going to be right
8 up against the fence line towards the Harley-Davidson side of
9 our property. And that's where we'll be able to put relief
10 apparatus, trailers, potentially boats, so that they're out of
11 the weather. That project is actually out to bid right now,
12 so it's open to the public for bids, so we'll hear back within
13 30 days of the winning bidder on that project.

14 And then the bathroom at Wailuku Fire Station, it
15 seems like a minor remodel, but when you start with, you know,
16 six or seven toilets, stand at ease, laundry facility,
17 showers, it turns into a major job. So that -- that job is
18 also being bid on so that we can get that job started. So
19 that's the different projects we have at different locations
20 within our department.

21 Moving on to my normal report, department interviews
22 and promotions, our computer -- I'm sorry, our communications
23 support tech has started and our SCBA tech has started, so
24 those are two new positions for our department. They're both
25 actively working, training, and get something reps.

1 Department improvement committee, you know, we're
2 always looking for ways to keep guys safer with the best
3 equipment that we can provide so that we can provide the best
4 service for our community. The electrostatic sprayers, which
5 were very popular and very hard to get back in April and May,
6 we've worked with department of finance and our department has
7 been able to acquire several of these and so we'll be able to
8 go through stations, if need, to spray things down for decon
9 purposes due to COVID.

10 One of our big things that we kind of had a gap
11 historically in our department was our consistent helicopter
12 operations program, so we've -- we've always had great pilots
13 and great, you know, people to work with and safety is our
14 main concern, but we have three different watches and they
15 occasionally did things just slightly different from each
16 other. So we were able to create a program and now
17 everybody's on the same page safety-wise, operations-wise,
18 equipment-wise, so the pilot and the company, our vendor can
19 know that everybody, no matter who shows up to the helicopter,
20 is gonna want to do it the same exact way, for the most part.
21 So that was a -- that was a big step, that was a big
22 undertaking. And all parties are grateful from the
23 (inaudible) to the captains to the (inaudible), they're all
24 very grateful that we're -- we're kind of united on to one
25 (inaudible) so everybody's on the same page there.

1 Union interactions, I think I mentioned earlier,
2 we -- so for social distancing, we moved our ladder company
3 out Lahaina and we moved our hazmat company out of Kahului
4 Station to create social distancing or physical distancing
5 within the stations. And so they are currently at
6 (inaudible), you know, normal resort-type properties. We have
7 a whole long set of rules for them to abide while living on
8 those properties for about 60 days and that's actually
9 happening. So there was a lot of back and forth with HFFA,
10 our firefighters association on that.

11 With HGEA, which is our ocean safety guards,
12 we're -- we're constantly working to improve things, just new
13 policies, new procedures. Something as simple as a seniority
14 policy, seems very simple, when you're hired in (inaudible)
15 but with our (inaudible) we have some people (inaudible) parks
16 and recreation, people that were hired at pools, some people
17 that were hired for the beach, so we have a whole variety of
18 different seniority perspectives in ocean safety. So we're
19 trying to make it black and white, put it in writing with the
20 union, so we know who is the most senior in every position
21 within ocean safety. And some people won't be happy, but
22 eventually the union will decide this is the way we're gonna
23 do it and then we'll all know where they're at (inaudible).
24 (Inaudible) period of time furloughs and cuts (inaudible) so
25 we're trying to make sure that's as clear as possible to

1 everybody.

2 Lastly, transmittals from the public, although we're
3 out there every day, there hasn't been a ton of feedback,
4 positive or negative, this past month from the public. We did
5 get one nice letter from a Paia family. We went to a
6 structure fire at their home and the family was very grateful
7 for the way our -- our staff provided them with personal
8 service, took care of their belongings, took care of their
9 needs, took care of them on an emotional level, you know, did
10 as little damage as they could after the fire was put out to
11 make sure that the fire wouldn't, you know, rekindle. So, you
12 know, just good customer service by our -- our three or four
13 crews that responded to that incident.

14 And then something that's going to starting to, kind
15 of with our public involvement, is we're gonna be selling the
16 pink shirts again this year, so we're working with Pacific
17 Cancer Foundation. It's all going to be online, though.
18 There will be no shirt sales at stations to stay consistent
19 with our safety protocols and keeping people out of stations.
20 So Nancy LaJoy from Pacific Cancer will -- should be here
21 sometime this morning to meet with me and then we'll be
22 kicking off that campaign to support them. Obviously, we all
23 know nonprofits have been hit really hard this year with
24 budgets being cut and so anything we can do to help the
25 nonprofits this year, we'll do.

1 That's all I have to report out to you folks. Any
2 questions?

3 COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: I have a question, Chief.

4 CHAIR GINOZA: Go ahead, Travis.

5 COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: Chief, you mentioned about
6 the electrostatic sprayers for deconning, can you tell me a
7 little bit about that? Is that a standard that the -- they're
8 recommending as a proper way by the department of health or
9 something? Can you tell me a little bit more about that?

10 DEPUTY CHIEF VENTURA: Sure. So the way the
11 electrostatic sprayer works is it takes as disinfectant,
12 whatever the chosen disinfectant is, it runs it through a
13 charge and that allows the disinfectant, when sprayed on
14 surfaces, to stick just a little bit better. It's a finer
15 mist and it's a charged (inaudible) surface. (Inaudible) the
16 cleaning product, whatever we decide to use, on the surface so
17 that it can be there to kill the COVID target, you know,
18 problem is now. So we have used -- you know, we've
19 used (inaudible) like we have, but the droplets are larger and
20 then the product may run off or dry too quickly and so it --
21 every chemical has a different contact time to kill a virus,
22 some is one minute, some is five minutes, some is on contact,
23 so the electrostatic sprayer gives the chemical a better time
24 to kind of kill the -- kill the virus. It's -- it seems to be
25 the preferred method through the nation during this COVID

1 period and it's been, like I say, hard to get, so we're happy
2 that we're soon to get our hands on them and have one
3 (inaudible).

4 COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: So my second part to that
5 question is -- you're kind of touching a little bit. So you
6 said it's the preferred way, has the department of health
7 stepped in with recommendations on a certain formula or
8 percentage of alcohol at all, anything like that? And another
9 part to the question is I haven't heard that anybody was
10 infected yet, but if someone was to get infected in the
11 department, do you guys have a plan to disinfect it yourself
12 or do you guys plan on having a contractor come in or are
13 special people getting trained to take care of this?

14 DEPUTY CHIEF VENTURA: Okay. A variety of things
15 there. The department of health has put out guidance, which
16 we follow pretty closely. It's very much in line with the
17 CDC, which we also are paying attention to. CDC kind of
18 oversees the whole nation, they have also had a learning curve
19 throughout this process. So what they may have said in the
20 beginning may have changed along the way, so we have ebbed and
21 flowed with them to make changes on our end.

22 Chemicals that are approved, there's a -- there's a
23 list out by the CDC, I believe it's the N list, and that is
24 chemicals approved to take care of COVID. And we take our
25 chemicals for -- off of that, whether it's ethyl alcohol or

1 bleach-based like a hypochlorite, those are all, you know,
2 dependent on the strength of the solution and how fast we want
3 to kill something. So we have given all those tools to the
4 people on line, they have either a variety of Clorox-type
5 bleach or alcohol at their disposal. Additionally, they have
6 wipes, spray bottles at every station in multiple locations,
7 so that is what we do for daily decon. And we've given them
8 directions to do it three times a day when they change shift,
9 so there should be continuous decon happening every time.

10 And then when they go on calls, they have a whole
11 procedure for when they reenter the apparatus and then they
12 have another procedure for when they reenter the station to
13 try to keep as much contamination out of the stations and the
14 living quarters as possible. So some stations are -- you
15 know, the boots that they wear into a home, they decon them at
16 the apparatus, but when they get back to the station, they
17 take them off and don't wear them into the dorms. So we have
18 procedures in place for that.

19 As far as infecting -- if a firefighter gets
20 infected, we do have things in place for that. We are in
21 close contact with DOH. We have some -- we have a variety of
22 quarantine facilities available if a firefighter can't
23 quarantine at home, which would be the first choice. The
24 reason we have a variety is because today they may be
25 available, tomorrow they may have to be gone. So we have

1 worked with the DOH to create a variety of avenues to
2 quarantine people.

3 And then as far as if we need to clean a facility
4 professionally, yes, we've created three levels so that we can
5 get it done. The department of finance and the county have
6 acquired a vendor who will do facility decontamination, so
7 that's our go-to, that's our protocol from the mayor's office,
8 to use that vendor.

9 Now, we know we need to be available and responding
10 to the public pretty much now, so if that vendor says, I can't
11 make it till tomorrow, we have a second vendor who we've had
12 meetings with, who we have contact information with, who uses
13 a different method, he uses a UV light product to disinfect,
14 we have him as a secondary.

15 And then we have a tertiary plan if both of those
16 vendors are not available, our hazmat company from the very
17 beginning in March has done a lot of research working on how
18 to decon facilities. We have acquired sprayers from Home
19 Depot, we now have the electrostatic sprayers, we have a
20 methodology on how we would come into a room and do it in a
21 grid form so they wouldn't miss things.

22 We've also tried to, as best as we can, declutter
23 stations so if we do have to decon a facility, there's not
24 paper everywhere, hopefully, 'cause that may be ruined.
25 Electronics need to be treated differently than a kitchen and

1 so on and so forth. So our hazmat crew has worked on all of
2 those things back since March and are prepared to be our
3 tertiary, you know, effort if we need to decon a station.

4 COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: Well, I have -- sorry. Thank
5 you, Chief, but just one more questions. Has anybody
6 addressed like air-conditioning units as far as getting those
7 filters changed more often or has that been a concern of any
8 other of the recommending departments, department of health,
9 to get those units changed more -- more often and so forth?

10 DEPUTY CHIEF VENTURA: Yeah. So there's a --
11 there's a variety of ways to -- to attack that, you know,
12 issue. We have definitely ramped up our maintenance. We have
13 directed our Fire Service Officer Yatushiro to make ACs are
14 being regularly cleaned and checked. We have put in for CARES
15 Act funding, which we have not received yet, for additional
16 HEPA filters that we could change regularly at the station.
17 There's also a -- I don't know if you want to call it a
18 device, but something you can add to like a split air-
19 conditioning unit where it kills all the COVID, so that's
20 something that we would consider doing if we got a chunk of
21 CARES Act funding to add to the, you know, cleaning of the
22 station's AC.

23 COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: Thank you, Chief. Thank you.

24 CHAIR GINOZA: Does any other commissioner have any
25 questions?

1 (No response.)

2 CHAIR GINOZA: I have a question. So based on
3 needing to get other equipment or other supplies for COVID
4 response, are -- are those items coming out of some other
5 department's funds, like a -- ULA funds from the county, or is
6 that from your department? And I'm wondering if it's part of
7 your department, I know we're only two and a half months into
8 the new fiscal year, but does it look like you would be --
9 you're on a trajectory to go over budget?

10 DEPUTY CHIEF VENTURA: Great questions. Chief
11 Werner works with -- closely with our health and safety bureau
12 to try to monitor as best we can our burn rate of PPE. The
13 mayor's office has directed all departments that needs to
14 order PPE, masks, gowns, you know, that sort of thing, that
15 Maui Emergency Management, Herman's agency, is -- department
16 is actually heading that. So they are doing large procurement
17 amounts and then we would request things through him for that
18 sort of thing. We still know, though, that we need to be able
19 to operate immediately. Both our ocean safety guards on the
20 beach need, you know, additional protection, masks, so we've
21 bought stuff out of our own budget because we need to protect
22 both firefighters and guards the same way.

23 I don't anticipate any immediate shortages this
24 early in the year, but, again, we also put in for CARES Act
25 funding to support some of this stuff as well. So if we could

1 get CARES Act support, then that would stretch out our annual
2 budget a little bit more.

3 CHAIR GINOZA: Okay. Great. Thank you.

4 If there are no other questions, do we go to Chief
5 Lindo or to Chief Werner? Chief Lindo.

6 DEPUTY CHIEF VENTURA: Chief Lindo for Chief
7 Kawasaki.

8 BATTALION CHIEF LINDO: Good morning, everybody.
9 I'm Hanalei Lindo, filling in, again, for Chief Rick. So you
10 guys can go to the assistant chief operations report, it
11 should be real quick. I mean, the major incident summary, the
12 biggest thing that we had was that August 30th fire which
13 burned 1500 acres, a couple of exposures, the guys did a good
14 job in putting the fire out.

15 So we're working on -- we're actually completed the
16 2020 revisions and sending that out to the stations as we
17 speak.

18 As far as apparatus and equipment is concerned,
19 Engine 11 and Ladder 14, the new ones, was delivered on 8/20.
20 Ladder 14 has done initial training with the men. Engine 6 is
21 expected -- hopefully, we can pick it up this Friday and then
22 we'll have trainings and a blessing coming up on Monday. Mini
23 7 has been spec'ed and Utility 4 and Engine 2.

24 As far as training is concerned, the heli-ops dunker
25 for our rescue personnel was done. Due to the COVID, we had a

1 hazardous materials tech class that had to be dropped from 20
2 personnel to ten. We had to also cancel safety officer class.
3 And the recruit class is going in its second month -- well,
4 actually, it's in its third month now, but second month in
5 August.

6 And then ocean safety, we got these things going on
7 and chief kind of mentioned it.

8 That's pretty much all I got. You guys got any
9 questions?

10 Except for that guy.

11 (Laughter.)

12 BATTALION CHIEF LINDO: Anybody else has any
13 questions?

14 COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: Chief, is the -- the last
15 time we got a report that Tanker 10 was damaged, is that truck
16 fixed? What's the status on that truck? Is it returned to
17 service or not?

18 ASSISTANT CHIEF LINDO: Tanker 14 got damaged.

19 COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: Oh, 14. Okay. Sorry.

20 ASSISTANT CHIEF LINDO: Yeah. Tanker 10 is good.
21 We have Relief Tanker 10 being used in its place.

22 COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: Okay.

23 BATTALION CHIEF LINDO: So Tanker 14, it may be a
24 couple of months and it's --

25 COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: Are they just using a --

1 another engine to cover with that truck -- for that truck, is
2 that (inaudible) --

3 ASSISTANT CHIEF LINDO: A relief tanker.

4 COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: Okay.

5 ASSISTANT CHIEF LINDO: Yeah. We're using Relief
6 Tanker 10. Sorry about that. Yeah. That's the tanker that I
7 remember driving when I was a firefighter over there, so it's
8 still going awesome.

9 COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: Thank you.

10 CHAIR GINOZA: Does any other commissioner have any
11 questions?

12 (No response.)

13 CHAIR GINOZA: Okay. Thank you, Chief Lindo.

14 Let's move on to Chief Werner.

15 BATTALION CHIEF WERNER: Good morning. So for our
16 bureau updates, if you look at the fire prevention section
17 under plans review, I just wanted to go over real quickly what
18 those totals mean off to the side. So it says total of number
19 of plans waiting is 68, those are plans that have not been
20 looked at all and they're pending, waiting to get looked at.
21 Total of plans pending, those are plans that have been
22 reviewed, but they didn't get signed off or approved because
23 there was something wrong with them.

24 So that number represents plans that have been
25 looked at and they may be looked at several times. Somebody

1 will submit the plan, they'll look at it, there's an issue
2 with this plan, they'll go back to that person, and then that
3 person will submit it again, they'll look at it, there may
4 still be issues. So it's kind of deceiving, that number.

5 When you look down to number of plans reviewed,
6 which is 89, total number of plans reviewed, that's their
7 initial looking at a plan. So that doesn't include that plans
8 pending, so I -- it's a little bit -- it doesn't give a real
9 clear picture of how much work these guys are doing. So the
10 plans pending, they could be looked at several times.

11 Plans received, that's just the number of plans that
12 came into the bureau that add to do that pile of plans
13 waiting.

14 And then plans approved, that's when they finally
15 gave the approval and then those plans have gone back.

16 These totals do not include subdivisions, so that's
17 a whole 'nother section.

18 Sorry, I just wanted to -- it's real important to us
19 as a department to get these plans out as soon as possible,
20 because we don't want to be holding up production, so I -- I
21 wanted to start tracking this to see what we could do to hurry
22 that up. At one point we were -- the plans waiting to be
23 reviewed was a pretty large number, so the guys have been
24 working very hard and we're getting that number down, getting
25 a good (inaudible).

1 As far as the health and safety, Chief Ventura kind
2 of went over it. We had a vendor come in to go over those new
3 electrostatic sprayers and we all agreed that those were a
4 good thing, so we put in a CAFA request for 14 of them. It
5 looks like right off the bat we're gonna get four of them and
6 then hopefully down the line we will get 14 of those. Like
7 chief said, that's -- that PPE is all being managed now at the
8 mayor's level, so we can't just go out and buy it from our
9 budget. So we're hoping to get 14 of them, we've been
10 guaranteed four of them right away.

11 As chief also mentioned, we had our SCBA tech, the
12 new one start. He's been training, doing really well, going
13 out, and they've been doing fit testing with all of the crews,
14 fit testing them for their SCBA masks. It's required to get
15 fit tested each year, so that's where he's jumped into the
16 pool doing that.

17 Moving on to our planning and appropriations
18 committees, our grants. We got our two Holmatro Combi Units.
19 They arrived, our vendor inspected them and gave training, and
20 those are now on line with Mini 11 and Mini 13. And what
21 those units are, they're a combination tool. So our jaws
22 units, they usually have a big motor with lines and you can
23 select which tool you're going use. We have the cutters, we
24 have the spreaders, we have the ram. This is a bit of a
25 combination of all of those tools. And we strategically put

1 those on our Minis like that have to go out to Kahakuloa,
2 which they can only get the Mini out there, or if they're
3 heading out to Kahikinui in Mini 13, they'll have those tools
4 available for them and it's kind of an all-in-one type of
5 thing.

6 So those are the major highlights I have from my
7 report. So if you have any questions, I'd be happy to answer
8 them.

9 CHAIR GINOZA: Does anybody have any questions?

10 COMMISSIONER STERLING: Chair, I'd like to say
11 something. You know, we have Goodfellow's out at Kahikinui
12 doing the 2,200 lineal feet of paving and swales, so that's
13 going to be on the upper lots. And, hopefully, we can get
14 some drone footage after its completed and submit it to Paul
15 or to Engine 13. So it's a welcome project at Kahikinui.
16 Concrete. Thank you, Chair.

17 CHAIR GINOZA: Okay. Thank you, Donna. And please
18 recognize your -- your name so we have it on the recording.

19 Anybody else have any questions?

20 (No response.)

21 CHAIR GINOZA: One question I had was on the total
22 plans, is that year to date?

23 ASSISTANT CHIEF WERNER: Yes.

24 CHAIR GINOZA: Calendar year to date?

25 ASSISTANT CHIEF WERNER: Yes. And so each month I'm

1 having them update them, so this is a -- every month you'll
2 get an updated one year to date, yes.

3 CHAIR GINOZA: Okay. Any more questions?

4 (No response.)

5 CHAIR GINOZA: Seeing none, Chief Ventura, do you
6 want to recognize or introduce Captain Azman.

7 DEPUTY CHIEF VENTURA: Sure. So one of the things
8 that we've really tried to do in the last two years was kind
9 of restoke the fire with our grant writing. We all know how
10 grants can really fill gaps in our budget. So Chief Werner
11 has worked with Captain Azman to create a group of
12 firefighters, they all do it partially at the station on duty
13 and then some overtime hours, you know, on their days off.
14 It's not required of them to do it, so they kind of volunteer.
15 We are very grateful for that because our department does not
16 have a specific grant person in our fiscal section, so we need
17 to rely on firefighters to do this kind of work.

18 So I'll let Captain Azman speak to you folks and see
19 if you have any questions. Without further ado.

20 CAPTAIN AZMAN: Good morning, guys. My name, again,
21 is Reza Azman. I'm a captain over on Engine 3 at the Lahaina
22 Station. A little background, I've been in the department 18
23 years now. Chief Travis Tancayo was my first captain. Good
24 to see you, Chief. It's been a while.

25 I started writing grants for the department about 15

1 years ago and I wrote for about ten years and in that time we
2 were fortunate enough to get maybe around 10-11 million
3 dollars within that decade, funding for everything from
4 engines and rescue boats, tankers, to training, equipment, and
5 PPE. After that ten years, I kind of took a little hiatus,
6 took a handful of years off, but now I'm back. I've been
7 helping again for the last year now more in a management role.
8 Our current grant cadre consists of five people. We have
9 three writers, I manage those guys, and, of course, Chief
10 Werner oversees the entire program.

11 Every year we apply for grants through three main
12 agencies: That's FEMA; CDBG, which is the Community
13 Development Block Grant; and the Department of Transportation.
14 And I'll go ahead and explain all the characteristics of each
15 one as we go along here.

16 Starting with FEMA, this is probably our most
17 competitive grant. We have to compete with every fire
18 department in the entire nation. So in terms of need, it's
19 very challenging for us sometimes because the reality of it is
20 that in the nation, there are a lot of underfunded fire
21 departments out there. So when -- even if we were to submit a
22 very polished, excellent grant proposal, when we're put up
23 against some of these people that are in so much need, it's
24 just hard to be high on that totem pole.

25 An example of that is maybe 12-15 years ago we wrote

1 a Safer Grant, which is a grant under the -- under FEMA, and
2 the Safer Grant funds staffing. So, basically, at that time
3 we put in for maybe five to seven firefighter trainees and the
4 Safer Grant would have paid for their salaries and benefits
5 for the first year, kind of get us started with the whole
6 hiring process. But at that time, it was shortly after 9/11,
7 and there was plenty of fire departments out there that had
8 lost seasoned veterans, twenty plus years, and they had to let
9 those guys go, so they were using the Safer Grant to try and
10 get those firefighters back. So when you put us up against
11 them, we didn't -- luckily, fortunately, we didn't lose any
12 firefighters, we just happened to drop to the bottom of that
13 totem pole as far as need, but -- so that's one of the
14 challenges we kind face with this, these FEMA grants.

15 But moving on to the kind of grants that FEMA offers
16 that we do apply for, there are two that we go for pretty
17 consistent. The first is the AFG, Assistance to Firefighters
18 Grant, and the second is the Fire Prevention Grant. And the
19 AFG grant, it funds mainly equipment and training projects.
20 In the past, we've been awarded things like our blue card
21 training, which gave us funding for a series of computers and
22 training modules that help our officers really fine-tune their
23 ability to perceive, size up, and management of fire scenes.

24 More recently, we were able to use AFG funds for
25 SCBA bottles. We transitioned over from Scotts to MSAs and

1 AFG was able to get us started with buying our first round of
2 SCB bottles -- SCBA bottles for our men. Usually the AFG asks
3 for a 20 percent match from our department and that's what we
4 have to come on our end.

5 Moving on, the second grant under that FEMA umbrella
6 is the fire prevention grant and basically this will fund
7 anything that's related to fire prevention. That's classes
8 for any of the prevention officers, any school fire education,
9 anything prevention related. What we did have four years ago
10 is we applied for smoke alarms for our SAM program, our Smoke
11 Alarm Maui program, and we were funded roughly 500 smoke alarm
12 units where employees of the fire department volunteered their
13 time to install these smoke alarms into homes that needed
14 them. And again this year we applied for more smoke alarms,
15 another 500 to try and keep our program going.

16 And this year also for AFG, I forgot to mention that
17 we -- this year we applied for extractors for our stations,
18 which is basically a heavy duty washing machine that cleans
19 all of our turnouts should they be contaminated from smoke and
20 soot from structure fires or blood from car accident scenes.
21 And we're still waiting on the reply. During this COVID
22 pandemic, everything's been kind of -- hit the back burner a
23 little bit, so we'll see what happens hopefully in the near
24 future.

25 The second agency that we consistently apply through

1 is the CDBG, the Community Development Block Grant, and these
2 grants mainly apply to low- and moderate-income communities,
3 so basically Molokai/Lanai. And over the years, this has
4 probably been our most successful grant opportunities that for
5 about ten years we were consistently getting engines and minis
6 and are tankers and (inaudible) for Molokai. And this year --
7 and there's also no cost match for that, whatever we apply
8 for, they fund that out. This grant isn't as competitive as
9 the FEMA grant, since we're only dealing with Maui applicants,
10 but from a grant writer's point -- perspective, it's probably
11 the most difficult and labor intensive of all of them. This
12 year we put in for a mini pumper and a -- and an engine for
13 the Hana District. We were awarded roughly around 250,000 for
14 the mini pumper and at least -- possibly more, another 250,000
15 more to put towards that engine.

16 The third agency that we go through every -- every
17 year for grants is the Department of Transportation. They
18 basically fund anything highway related. So for fire, that --
19 for us, that means anything EMS related or, you know, having
20 to deal with car accidents. In the past, we've been awarded
21 things like Rescue 42s, these are struts that we use to
22 stabilize any cars that have flipped over in an accident.
23 Like Chief Werner had mentioned earlier, last year we put in
24 for extrication tools, those combi tools for Kula, Napili, and
25 we got awarded those funds.

1 And we've also received funds before for an
2 automated CPR tool. Basically, it's a device that you strap
3 to a patient and it helps give consistent compressions to a
4 patient while you're transporting them. Because whenever you
5 put a patient on a gurney and get them from wherever we found
6 them to the ambulance, the level of compressions as you're
7 traveling isn't as efficient, so what this tool did was give
8 you those -- those efficient compressions while you're
9 transporting.

10 And this agency also has no cost match, so they
11 supply a hundred percent of what we ask for. Normally, they
12 will give us, if awarded, roughly 30 to 40 grand, is what
13 they -- they normally help us out with.

14 So, overall, those are the three agencies that we
15 apply to every year. I know that three doesn't seem like it's
16 a whole lot, but that is kind of one of our main challenges.
17 I know a lot of people think that, you know, if we're lacking
18 something in the budget, Oh, just write a grant for it, but,
19 unfortunately, it's not easy. The challenge is trying to find
20 a grantor that aligns with our needs. And what I mean by that
21 is that if there's an agency that wants to give money to the
22 public, they -- before the application comes out, they already
23 have their grant goals of what kind of things they want to
24 fund and so if we don't fall along those guidelines, then that
25 level of need just isn't there for that opportunity. So we

1 spend a lot of time, the guys in the cadre, trying to, you
2 know, scour the internet or talk to friends in the whole fire
3 department to see what kind of opportunities are out there.
4 But it is a little bit difficult to find those. We -- like
5 Chief Ventura said, we do not have a -- a paid position, a
6 grant coordinator like Honolulu does where they can handle
7 those kind of things and -- but we do -- our guys are very
8 dedicated and very passionate about trying to find money and
9 helping our department to get funds so we can better help our
10 community.

11 I do want to thank Chief Werner, he's been probably
12 the main reason why I've been so successful lately with what
13 we've been getting.

14 And if you guys have any questions, I'm ready to
15 answer them.

16 CHAIR GINOZA: Does any commissioner have any
17 questions?

18 COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: Just a comment. Good job.

19 CAPTAIN AZMAN: Thank you, Chief.

20 CHAIR GINOZA: Thank you, Travis.

21 Anyone else?

22 (No response.)

23 DEPUTY CHIEF VENTURA: Commissioner Ginoza, if I
24 could just add something.

25 CHAIR GINOZA: Sure.

1 DEPUTY CHIEF VENTURA: So --

2 CHAIR GINOZA: Chief Ventura.

3 DEPUTY CHIEF VENTURA: Yeah. The CDBG grant that we
4 applied for and Captain Azman spoke about, we did get two
5 awards: One was, basically, a hundred percent payment of that
6 mini apparatus, which we'll be pursuing; the second one was
7 about 260,000 or so for the engine. The council did not
8 support the difference, which is about another \$600,000, so
9 that -- that money that we have, we will hold on to in case
10 more funds become available in CDBG to pursue that engine.
11 But for now, we'll -- we're definitely going through with the
12 mini apparatus in Hana and we're on hold for the engine in
13 Hana.

14 That engine in Hana definitely does need to be
15 replaced. Due to the salt air out there, it came in for,
16 like, a one-year refurbishing two years ago, they had to,
17 basically, sand grind and reweld the frame of the apparatus
18 'cause there was so much welding. So we've definitely used
19 that truck's -- you know, as long as we can and we want to
20 replace it as soon as we can.

21 COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: Chief, a question.

22 CHAIR GINOZA: Go ahead, Travis.

23 COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: This is Travis. So, Chief,
24 what you're saying is you can -- you can stack the years, you
25 can -- how many years can you collect them in a row, a couple,

1 two years?

2 DEPUTY CHIEF VENTURA: So they probably won't let us
3 stack it, but we're not the only recipient of this grant, so
4 if there is another grant awardee who defaults on their
5 project, that money could become available for us. So we've
6 been told that that always has -- there's always potential for
7 that. So there's timelines, there's requirements, but if you
8 have -- you know, you might have a project in mind and have a
9 vendor in mind, but if they can't get compliant and can't sell
10 things in the state of Hawaii, you can't go through with your
11 project. So we'll always have our projects ready kind of on
12 the, you know, back burner and if monies become available,
13 additional monies become available from CDBG, then we would
14 add that in this fiscal year to the current funding and try to
15 get that engine.

16 COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: Thank you.

17 Any --

18 VICE CHAIR VARES: Question.

19 CHAIR GINOZA: Yes, Lisa.

20 VICE CHAIR VARES: This is for Captain Azman. You
21 said that there are -- there are four in your cadre that are
22 grant writers with you? Is that correct.

23 CAPTAIN AZMAN: Correct.

24 VICE CHAIR VARES: And is -- I guess, is everyone a
25 firefighter 2 or are they -- probably civilian grant writers

1 in there at all or is it all firefighters working admin.?

2 CAPTAIN AZMAN: Right now we have all -- right now
3 it consists of two firefighters and a third -- the third
4 writer is a driver. We don't have any civilian writers.
5 Basically, we kind of take help from anyone who is passionate
6 and willing to help out. So we have a lot of people who, you
7 know, have college degrees and majored in English and whatnot
8 and if they want to, you know, step up and -- and help out,
9 then we let them and give them an overview of what needs to be
10 done. But, yeah, we kind of work together as a team and just
11 try and hammer these out.

12 VICE CHAIR VARES: Good job, guys. That's not an
13 easy task. Thank you.

14 CHAIR GINOZA: Anyone else have any questions?

15 (No response.)

16 CHAIR GINOZA: I have a question for Chief Ventura.
17 So I used to be a CDBG grant rater and I remember when I was a
18 rater, the fire department would come in for a hundred percent
19 funding from CDBG. So are you saying that there's that
20 shortfall because they didn't grant you the full amount or is
21 it because you've changed your philosophy and you try to get a
22 hybrid of county funding as well as CDBG funding?

23 DEPUTY CHIEF VENTURA: So in this year's CDBG
24 request, we did ask for a hundred percent funding and when
25 they allocated the money to all of the winners of CDBG, that's

1 what was left for the engine. We would be happy to hybrid it
2 with county budget money, but it just didn't go through. And
3 understandably, you know, we're in COVID right now, so, you
4 know, there's not just bountiful amounts of money to be given
5 out. So we've just put that engine on the back burner because
6 we don't have full funding for it.

7 CHAIR GINOZA: Okay. I just wanted to make sure
8 that you guys didn't change your philosophy, 'cause in my
9 experience, it's easier to get CDBG money. Although as
10 Captain Azman had mentioned, it's a lot of regulatory
11 reporting requirements, but, you know, I know how it is to
12 battle for general fund money from the county budget, so I
13 just wanted a clarification. Thank you.

14 Does anybody else have any other questions?

15 (No response.)

16 CHAIR GINOZA: Okay. Well, thank you, everyone. I
17 forgot to mention at the beginning of the meeting, thank you,
18 Lisa, Vice Chair Lisa Vares, for running the meeting the last
19 time in my absence. You did a superb job. I went over the
20 minutes and it went really well, so thank you very much.

21 VICE CHAIR VARES: You're welcome. You make it look
22 so easy, Kyle.

23 CHAIR GINOZA: A reminder to -- oh. And as a
24 reminder to other commission members, if you want hear or
25 speak about something on the agenda, please feel free to

1 contact either myself or Lisa -- and/or Lisa to -- to put it
2 on the agenda, because we kind of go over it prior to the --
3 the next meeting.

4 And thank you, everyone, for your time and your
5 volunteerism.

6 The next meeting is Thursday, October 15th, and it
7 will be via BlueJeans again. Unless anyone has any
8 announcements or any other comments, I'd like to adjourn the
9 meeting. So do we have a motion to adjourn the meeting?
10 Travis.

11 COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: Motion to adjourn.

12 CHAIR GINOZA: Thank you, Travis. A second?

13 VICE CHAIR VARES: Seconded.

14 CHAIR GINOZA: Second, Lisa. Okay. All in favor,
15 raise your hand.

16 (Response.)

17 CHAIR GINOZA: Great. Thank you very much. Meeting
18 is adjourned. Have a good day.

19 (The proceedings were adjourned at 11:30 a.m.)
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