South Arkansas Fire Protection District

MEETING MINUTES

Date: May 18, 2026

Time: 0900 Hours

Location: 611 Oak Street, Salida, CO 81201

Board Members Present

- Harold Starbuck
- Sheldon Morgan
- Phillip Gamache
- Rich Edgington

Board Members Excused

- Art Hutchinson

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by President Harold Starbuck at 0903 hours.

2. Approval of the Agenda

- Motion to accept the agenda as presented.
  - **Motion by:** Sheldon Morgan
  - **Second by:** Rich Edgington
  - **Vote:** Passed unanimously

3. Approval of Board Meeting Minutes

- The source heading states January Board Meeting Minutes; the motion text states April Board Meeting Minutes. Motion to accept the April Board Meeting Minutes.
  - **Motion by:** Sheldon Morgan
  - **Second by:** Harold Starbuck
  - **Vote:** Passed unanimously

4. Open Session

No public was present.

5. Reports

Sarah Marques of Walke and Associates reported stable financial activity, with expenditures consistent with income. The largest expense was reimbursement to the City for personnel costs. The Board agreed that boat-related equipment costs should be reclassified under Capital Outlay.

Laurie Todesco detailed received and outstanding amounts for the current billing cycle. The billing backlog was largely processed, pending final state billing-rate approval before submission.

Financial Report

- Motion to accept April financials.
  - **Motion by:** Sheldon Morgan

- **Second by:** Rich Edgington
- **Vote:** Passed unanimously

Fire Chief's Report

- Resiliency Code
  - The new state Resiliency Code would replace the WUI code.
  - Adoption was delayed while SAFPD coordinated with Chaffee County.
  - The recommendation was to delay adoption until the next month and include local amendments.
- DFPC Audit
  - The audit remained ongoing and continued to require staff time.
  - Issues were identified with state-provided spreadsheets and data inconsistencies.
  - The Chief continued working to resolve outstanding items and expressed frustration with delays.
- Capital Improvement Plan
  - A formal capital improvement plan was needed.
  - Discussion emphasized balancing revenue-generating operations with community responsibility.
  - Equipment investments and staffing impacts remained under evaluation.
- Common Ground Meeting
  - SAFPD hosted community stakeholders and grant partners for a field tour.
  - Positive feedback was received on mitigation strategy, including fuel breaks and home-hardening efforts.
  - Continued grant funding and regional coordination were emphasized.

Assistant Fire Chief's Report

No formal report was given.

Division Chief of Wildfire

- Grants
  - COSWAP crew would return in fall 2026.
  - Common Ground mitigation continued.
  - For FRWRM, the bumper on the MOD truck was fixed and vehicle decals were being developed with Rebel Brush Trucks and the Department of Corrections.
  - The chipper and MOD truck would be added to the CRFF agreement for potential deployment.
- Deployments
  - Engine 112 was deployed in Colorado.
  - Engine 311 was in Kansas and Oklahoma.
- Personnel
  - Staffing levels were strong with seasonal personnel returning.
  - Discussion continued regarding growth, staffing capacity, and management needs.

6. New Business

- Enter Executive Session pursuant to C.R.S. 24-6-402(4)(b), (e), and (f) for legal advice, negotiation strategy and intergovernmental agreements, and personnel matters related to a command-staff position. Topics: resiliency code, personnel matters, strategy, and negotiations.
    - **Motion by:** Rich Edgington
    - **Second by:** Sheldon Morgan
    - **Vote:** Unanimous
- Adjourn Executive Session and reconvene in Regular Session.
    - **Motion by:** Rich Edgington
    - **Second by:** Sheldon Morgan
    - **Vote:** Unanimous

Resolution No. 2026-02, concerning adoption of the Wildfire Resiliency Code with local amendments: no action was taken.

- Authorize hiring Hansen Communications for professional communications and community-engagement services to assess community fire and emergency-service needs, at a cost not to exceed $2,000.
    - **Motion by:** Rich Edgington
    - **Second by:** Sheldon Morgan
    - **Vote:** Unanimous

7. Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn the meeting at 1034 hours.
    - **Motion by:** Rich Edgington
    - **Second by:** Sheldon Morgan
    - **Vote:** Passed unanimously

Submitted by Rich Edgington, Vice President / Acting Secretary Treasurer. Scanned signature removed.