South Arkansas Fire Protection District

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Date: December 2, 2024
Time: 1300 hours
Location: 124 E Street, Salida, CO 81201

Board Members Present

- Harold Starbuck
- Jeff Graf
- Art Hutchinson
- Rich Edgington

Board Members Absent and Excused

- Fred Jackson (excused)

Meeting Proceedings

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by President Harold Starbuck at 1300 hours.

2. Approval of the Agenda

- Motion to approve the agenda as presented.
  - Motion: Art Hutchinson moved to accept the agenda as presented.
  - Second: Rich Edgington.
  - Vote: Passed unanimously.

Executive Session

Motion to enter Executive Session for the purpose of determining positions relative to matters that may be subject to negotiation, developing negotiation strategies, and/or instructing negotiators under C.R.S. Section 24-6-402(4)(e), specifically concerning the intergovernmental agreement with the City of Salida.

- Motion by: Jeff Graf.
- Second: Rich Edgington.
- Vote: Passed unanimously.

Motion to adjourn Executive Session at 1310.

- Motion by: Rich Edgington.
- Second: Art Hutchinson.
- Vote: Passed unanimously.

Regular Session

2025 Budget Considerations

Discussion only; no action was taken.

Resolution No. 2024-06

Chief Aaron Jonke presented Resolution No. 2024-06, which authorizes up to $1.2 million in capital expenditures to enhance wildfire response capabilities in 2025. He noted that the funds could be used for apparatus maintenance and upgrades over the coming year. Chief Jonke emphasized the need for funding to replace Brush 111 and Brush 112.

Chief Jonke provided an apparatus price range for the board to consider:

- Type 3: $560,000 to $721,000. Manufacturing time is slower, with apparatus expected by Fall 2025.
- Type 6: $190,000 to $300,000. Manufacturing time is quicker, with apparatus expected by Spring 2025.

Board members expressed concern about staffing increases if the board purchases newer, larger brush trucks.

President Harold Starbuck recommended that the board maintain the $1.2 million fund as a placeholder for apparatus purchases, as an “Apparatus Reserve Fund.”

Board members agreed to discuss Resolution No. 2024-06 at the December 9 board meeting. No further action was taken.

Resolution No. 2024-07

Chief Aaron Jonke expressed the need for a funded Wildland Chief of Operations position, contingent upon the award of the FRWRM Grant (Firefighter and Rural Workforce Resiliency Module).

- The position would be funded through the FRWRM Grant as well as a city-funded position to maintain retirement needs for the selected employee.
- The position would address the following:
  - Maintain Firewise Community requirements.
  - Aid in greater mitigation efforts.
  - Oversee staffing.

Board members agreed to discuss Resolution No. 2024-07 at the December 9 board meeting. No further action was taken.

Good of the Order

No report.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:10 p.m.

- Motion to adjourn: Rich Edgington.
- Second: Art Hutchinson.
- Vote: Passed unanimously.

Jeff Graf
Acting Secretary Treasurer

Jeff Graf (Dec 4, 2024 10:14 MST)