# South Arkansas Fire Protection District

## MEETING MINUTES

**Date:** September 28, 2026
**Time:** 0900 Hours
**Location:** 611 Oak Street, Salida, CO 81201

### Board Members Present

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

### 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:** Rich Edgington
- **Second by:** Art Hutchinson
- **Vote:** Passed unanimously

### 3. Approval of July Board Meeting Minutes

- Motion to accept the January Board Meeting Minutes.
- **Motion by:** Sheldon Morgan
- **Second by:** Rich Edgington
- **Vote:** Passed unanimously

### 4. Open Session

No public was present.

### 5. Reports

#### Financial Report

Financial Coordinator provided the following:

- Update on the District's financial status.
- Wildland billing activity and reimbursement processes were reviewed.
- Cash flow and budget performance were discussed.
- Progress on state billing submissions.
- Operational expenses, personnel costs, equipment expenses, and vehicle maintenance were reviewed.
- Potential future budget amendments may be necessary as revenues and expenditures continue to develop.
- Board members expressed appreciation for the improved financial reporting and presentation format.

#### Fire Chief's Report

Chief Aaron Jonke discussed several critical issues:

### Elections Update

- Board election cycles and term expirations were reviewed.
- Future election administration responsibilities were discussed.
- Recommendation of having Marilyn Marchand, SAFPD financial coordinator, as the Designated Elections Officer (DEO).
- Board members were encouraged to communicate future plans regarding continued service.

### New Wildfire Officer

- Chief Jonke provided an update on recruitment and succession planning within the wildland program.
- Wildfire Lieutenant position posted internally on September 2nd - one candidate scheduled for an interview on September 29th.

### IAFC FDX - Red Lodge, MT

- Chief Jonke and Assistant Chief Rohrich attended and fire department exchange program in Red Lodge, MT.
- Discussion included collaboration with peer agencies and sharing of best practices.
- Noted opportunities to apply lessons learned locally and highlighted continued partnerships with other fire agencies.

### Deployments

- Staff and apparatus remain assigned to ongoing wildland operations outside the District.
- Updates were provided regarding crew rotations, resource assignments, deployment activity, and anticipated operational needs throughout the remainder of the season.

## Division Chief of Wildfire

Dave DePetro, SFD / SAFPD Firefighter, reported the following:

### Grants

- FRWRM 2026/2027 application due October 8th - focus on SCC / SAFPD mitigation crews.
- Common Ground 2026/2027 application was submitted on August 28 - update on award provided by December 31st, 2026.

### Fire Conditions

- Local fire conditions have improved due to recent moisture.
- Lightning activity remains present, but fuels are becoming less receptive.

## 6. Executive Session

**Motion: Enter Executive Session (closed to the public)** - pursuant to C.R.S. 24-6-402 to receive legal advice, discuss negotiation strategy and intergovernmental agreements, and address personnel matters.

- City of Salida / South Arkansas Fire Protection District Intergovernmental Agreement
- **Motion by:** Sheldon Morgan
- **Second by:** Art Hutchinson
- **Vote:** Unanimous

**Motion:** Motion by the South Arkansas Fire Protection District Board of Directors to adjourn Executive Session and reconvene in Regular Session.

- **Motion by:** Rich Edgington
- **Second by:** Art Hutchinson

- **Vote:** Unanimous

## 7. New Business

- A joint meeting between SAFPD and CCFPD Board members is anticipated in the coming months to discuss matters of mutual interest.

## 8. Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:49.
- **Motion to adjourn:** Rich Edgington
- **Second:** Sheldon Morgan
- **Vote:** Passed unanimously

**Submitted by:** Art Hutchinson

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