South Arkansas Fire Protection District

MEETING MINUTES

Date: 7/28/2025

Time: 0900 Hours

Location: 611 Oak Street, Salida, CO 81201

Board Members Present

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

Board Members Absent & Excused

- Rich Edgington

1. call to Order

The meeting was called to order by President Harold Starbuck at 0900 hours.

2. Approval of the Agenda

- Motion to accept the agenda as presented:
  - **Motion by:** Art Hutchinson
  - **Second by:** Phillip Gamache
  - **Vote:** Passed unanimously

3. Approval of June Board Meeting Minutes

- Motion to accept the June Board Meeting Minutes
  - **Motion By:** Sheldon Morgan
  - **Second By:** Phillip Gamache
  - **Vote:** Passed unanimously

4. Open Session: No public comments were received.

5. Reports

Sarah Marques of Walke and Associates reported that bank transfers were initiated to cover

expenses including payroll, workers' compensation, and obligations under the intergovernmental agreement (IGA) with the City of Salida.

Laurie Todesco reported on apparatus deployments, noting substantial revenue generation-over $2 million to date, with $429,556 from apparatus profit. Engines 112, 114, and especially 311 are significant contributors.

Financial Report

- **Motion to accept the June financials:**

® Motion: Art Hutchinson ® Second: Sheldon Morgan

- **Vote:** Passed unanimously

Fire Chief's Report

Chief Aaron Jonke discussed the following:

- Operational Planning
  - **Policy and Procedure Update:** An ongoing review of operating procedures and standard operating procedures (SOPs) is underway to ensure alignment with the District's current standards.

© Reserve Program: The Reserve Program is currently under evaluation to improve engagement with existing personnel and to increase the number of available staff to ensure adequate coverage during emergencies.

® SFD Staffing / Personnel

  - **Firefighter Position:** Job description was posted on July 21 and will close on August 8TM. Anticipating hands-on testing and interviews to be held on August 22nd,
  - **Lieutenant Position:** Testing for lieutenant position will be held in the fall.
  - **Engineer Position:** Testing for Engineer position will be held in the fall.
- Apparatus
  - **New Type 6's:** Equipment ordering was completed to equip both Engine 111 and
  - **Engine 114:** The unit will be returned to the station from California due to issues

with the braking system and a differential fluid leak affecting the steering.

- Discussion of Recent Emergency Response Effort
  - **Mountain View Wildfire:** The incident occurred on Thursday, July 10th, and was fully contained by the morning of Friday, July 11th. Two structures were destroyed, and a total of 57 acres were burned. Performance of South Arkansas & Salida fire were reviewed.
  - Division Chief Bainbridge is developing an updated 'Size-Up Card' with revised district maps, water sources, structure risk information, and safety zones to improve incident communication.
- Legislation
  - **House Bill 25-1009 Fuel Mitigation:** District to require homeowners to clear hazardous vegetation (14-day notice); effective August 6, 2025.
  - **Big, Beautiful Bill:** Projected state revenue shortfall (5600-5800 million) may impact local funding; Chief Jonke monitoring for budget effects.

Assistant Fire Chief Report

Chief Jonke reported on a few administrative items for Assistant Chief Rohrich:

- **Insurance:** The administrative team addressed the issue, and all personnel are now adequately covered under workers' compensation.
- **Grants:** The Firehouse Subs Grant application was denied in early July. Staff will reapply when the next application cycle opens.
- **Operational Planning:**
  - Remove both Fred Jackson and Jeff Graf from Collegiate Peaks account and add Art Hutchinson and Rich Edgington as signers.
  - Sarah Marques will begin initiating monthly transfers to prevent account inactivity notices with Collegiate Peaks.
  - A payment in lieu of installing a cistern was received from the Divided Skies Subdivision in the amount of $22,000.
  - Confirmed whether new board members received the 2025 Special District Association (SDA) Board Manual.

Division Chief of Wildfire

Division Chief Bainbridge reported on the following:

- Deployments
  - Three (3) trucks and twenty-nine (29) people are currently deployed
- E112 is on the South Rim Fire in Montrose with the last day of work scheduled for August 3".
  - E114 is being sent back to the station for maintenance.
  - E311 is projected to stay out in California until October.
  - Crew swap took place on Monday, July 28th
- **Grants:** CYCA/AmeriCorps grant application submitted with Kent Maxwell on July 30 via GOCO.
- Operational Planning
  - Meeting with Colorado State Forest Service (CSFS) to update risk maps.
  - Mitigation efforts to be conducted on Methodist Mountain.
- Community Initiatives
  - Attending HOA meetings starting in August beginning with Methodist

Mountain to assess community needs.

6. New Business

A. Motion: By the South Arkansas Fire Protection District Board of Directors to increase the

credit card limit from $100,000 to $150,000 to ensure the continued efficiency and responsiveness of SAFPD operations.

- **Motion By:** Sheldon Morgan
- **Second:** Art Hutchinson
- **Vote:** Unanimous

B. Motion: By the South Arkansas Fire Protection District Board of Directors to remove Jeff

Graf and Fred Jackson from the SAFPD accounts and add Art Hutchinson and Rich Edgington.

- **Motion By:** Sheldon Morgan
- **Second:** Phillip Gamache
- **Vote:** Unanimous

C. Motion: Motion by the South Arkansas Fire Protection District Board of Directors to

pursue the purchase of two Starlink Mobile units to maintain reliable field connectivity and support operational efficiency during emergency responses.

- **Motion By:** Sheldon Morgan
- **Second:** Art Hutchinson
- **Vote:** Unanimous

7. Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn the meeting at 1016
  - **Motion to Adjourn:** Sheldon Morgan
  - **Second:** Phillip Gamache
  - **Vote:** Passed Unanimously

Submitted by: CEOS

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Art Hutchinson, Secretary Treasurer