South Arkansas Fire Protection District

MEETING MINUTES

Date: 10/27/2025

Time: 0900 Hours

Location: 611 Oak Street, Salida, CO 81201

Board Members Present

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

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:** Sheldon Morgan
  - **Vote:** Passed unanimously

3. Approval of September Board Meeting Minutes

- Motion to accept the September Board Meeting Minutes
  - **Motion By:** Sheldon Morgan
  - **Second By:** Art Hutchinson
  - **Vote:** Passed unanimously

4. Open Session

Christy Doon, City Administrator, and Dan Shore, Mayor of Salida, attended the open session to discuss collaboration between Salida Fire and South Arkansas Fire Protection District.

Topics included apparatus investments, maintenance, county-wide partnerships, and the upcoming City Council election in November,

5. Reports

Laurie Todesco reported that the next billing period will be higher than the previous one, and truck-related revenues continue to be strong. The payment system shows more pending payments than what has already been received, indicating good progress toward year-end goals. Final revenue totals may change based on late-season deployments.

Sarah Marques reported that personnel costs remain the largest expense and confirmed that the third-quarter IGA payment has been completed.

Financial Report

© Motion to accept the September financials:

® Motion: Rich Edgington

- **Second:** Art Hutchinson

® Vote: Passed unanimously

Fire Chief's Report

Chief Aaron Jonke discussed several critical issues:

¢ Resolution No. 2025-10 - New District Direction

- Chief Jonke discussed the intent behind Resolution No. 2025-10, emphasizing the importance of board member input in guiding the District's future direction. He noted that the recent decision to limit out-of-state deployments was a sound financial measure but stated that additional board feedback is needed to ensure decisions best serve the District's interests.

© 2026 Draft Budget

- Chief Jonke presented the 2026 Draft Budgets, outlining allocations for the Ranch Hand Mitigation Program and expanded mitigation efforts, vehicle maintenance, garage door replacement, DMV checks for personnel, office supplies, a cost-of-

living salary adjustment for the Wildland Division Chief, insurance, training and travel, and Swift Water program needs.

- Chief Jonke encouraged board members to review the draft budgets by November's board meeting.

- CCFPD Burn Ordinance
  - An ordinance was submitted by Chaffee County Fire and presented to the Chaffee County Commissioners without prior notification to stakeholders. This action affects community partners, including Colorado Firecamp and members of the agriculture and ranching community.

c Board members will communicate with County Commissioners on behalf of SAFPD.

- 2023 DFPC Audit
  - A clarification about 2023 will be sent to DFPC; however, since Chief Jonke was not serving as chief at that time, some questions were more difficult to answer.

Assistant Fire Chief Report

Chief Rohrich reported on a few administrative items:

- Insurance
  - SAFPD will switch insurance coverage to High Street effective November 1.

The District will review and clarify insurance budget line items for 2026.

Division Chief of Wildfire

Captain Bainbridge reported the following:

- Grants
  - The FRWRM and CYCA grant applications have been submitted.

Administration is currently preparing the COSWAP grant application, which is scheduled for submission by November 3.

- Mitigation

    - The NCCC crew has completed mitigation work on approximately 17 acres. It was noted that, due to the current government shutdown, crew members are not receiving wages, and providing meals for the crew is appreciated.
    - Mapping of treated areas is progressing well, with all fuel treatments accurately documented.
- Dispatch
    - All trucks are currently stationed at home, with efforts ongoing to deploy the Type 3 unit to Texas.
- Inclusion Pamphlet
    - An informational pamphlet on inclusion has been prepared for homeowners, as requested by those interested in the process.

6. New Business

A. Resolution No. 2025-10 - Resolution to establish a new direction for district operations

and wildfire program management.

- **Motion By:** Rich Edgington
- **Second:** Sheldon Morgan
- **Vote:** Unanimous

B. Motion: Motion to table the policy requiring all staff to submit proposed annual budget

to secretary / treasurer no later than the regularly scheduled board meeting in September.

© Motion By: Rich Edgington

- **Second:** Art Hutchinson
- **Vote:** Unanimous

7. Unfinished Business

Harold Starbuck, President of the Board of Directors, discussed a potential medical supply program in which SAFPD could store items such as wheelchairs and crutches and loan them to community members as needed. Chief Jonke stated he will review the program and evaluate options for implementation.

8. Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn the meeting at 1116
    - **Motion to Adjourn:** Rich Edgington
    - **Second:** Art Hutchinson
    - **Vote:** Passed Unanimously

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Art Hutchinson, Secretary Treasurer