

MINUTES
Central Arizona Fire and Medical Authority Board of Directors
Regular Meeting
Monday, March 27, 2023, 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm
Central Arizona Fire and Medical Authority, Administration, 8603 E. Eastridge Drive, Prescott Valley

In Attendance

Dave Tharp; Denise Krizo; Gayle Pickett; Lorette Stewart; Matt Zurcher; Nicolas Cornelius; Rick Anderson; Scott A Freitag; Susanne Dixon

Not In Attendance

Dave Dobbs

1. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL OF BOARD MEMBERS

Chair Zurcher called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Zurcher led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. CORRESPONDENCE AND PRESENTATIONS

A. County and Town Current Events Summaries

District 5 Supervisor Mary Mallory of the Yavapai County Board of Supervisors reported that there is a Special Board meeting scheduled tomorrow regarding Yavapai County Resolution 1967 requiring the Board to meet within five (5) days of an emergency. A Declaration of Emergency was made regarding severe flooding that occurred on March 24.

She added that the County will host the annual Free Slash Disposal program April 1, 2023 - June 1, 2023. Information can be found on their website.

Supervisor Mallory also detailed the progress of the Prescott East Highway Project. She stated she would like to add sidewalks and will look into grants or County funding to support that project.

She further reported on County wages, the progress of the County Detention Center, communications challenges, Facility space and planning issues.

Town of Chino Valley Mayor Jack Miller updated the Board regarding upcoming commercial projects, including a 40-acre recreational vehicle (RV) park, a new Circle K, and the new Police Station which should be completed soon. He reported that there were over 1,100 new housing permits submitted. He reported that Perkinsville Road has washed out and an emergency will be declared in hopes it will provide some additional funding for repairs. Additionally, the upcoming Town of Chino Valley Budget Retreat will focus on capital improvements such as infrastructure and roadway improvements. He added that two new Council members and a new Vice-Mayor were recently sworn in.

Recently appointed Town of Prescott Valley Council Member Brenda Dickinson introduced herself, stating she has been appointed to the position vacated by Don Packard, and advised the Board that Lucy Leyva has been appointed to Roger Kinsinger's vacated Council position.

B. 2022 Alarm Summary

Chief Freitag reported that our overall call volume has increased, and as such, our Insurance Services Office (ISO) rating has taken a hit, and will continue to decline if we do not address our staffing and equipment issues. He also discussed changing Urban, Suburban and Rural Standards, and noted that we will be changing our approach to provide more accurate data.

Chair Zurcher opened the floor to both Chino Valley and Central Yavapai Fire Board Members for questions.

Director Reinhardt noted the disparity between how many auto-aid calls CAFMA runs versus how many calls the other entities run. Chief Freitag explained that auto-aid with Williamson Valley Fire District is for ISO purposes, and the number of auto-aid to Prescott is typical as Station 51 is housed there.

Chief Rose presented the 2022 Alarm Summary.

C. Letters from the Public and Board Recognition

There were no additional comments.

4. REPORTS

A. Board Member Reports

Director Pickett reported that she volunteered at Arizona Wildland Academy, and heard many of positive comments about CAFMA.

B. Division Reports

Chief Freitag stated that he has been out engaging elected officials and community leaders regarding government bills that would cut funding to Fire Districts, i.e. SB1263 would exempt some significant commercial properties. With one source of funding for Fire Districts, property taxes will increase. There is a cost to running any governmental entity, and other entities have multiple sources of revenue. Specifically, citizens are paying some sort of tax for those services. The challenge we face is that we have only property tax as a source of funding; this has been impacted greatly by Proposition 117, and could potentially continue to be impacted by legislation currently being reviewed.

He noted that a Strategic Planning update has been emailed to the Board.

In regards to attainable housing for current and future personnel, Chief Freitag noted that a letter of support for sustainable plans and projects was sent. He added that we will adopt an amendment to our adopted Fire Code clarifying to developers our requirements for approved county roads, and having a true means of egress for emergency use. The standard will be an all-weather surface, as dirt roads are no longer feasible.

He added that he is expecting visits from Valley news agencies to discuss funding issues.

5. CALL TO THE PUBLIC

There were no public comments.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approve Regular Session Minutes - February 27, 2023

B. Approve General Fund Financial Statements

C. Approve Fire Protection Agreements: Schuler

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda.

Move: Rick Anderson Second: Gayle Pickett Status: Passed

Yes: Matt Zurcher, Lorette Stewart, Rick Anderson, Gayle Pickett

7. VOTE TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION

A. Legal Advice Pursuant to A.R.S. §38-431.03(A)(3) Regarding Selection of Third Party Legal Counsel for Fee Schedule Matters

Motion to go into Executive Session at 5:42 p.m.

Move: Gayle Pickett Second: Lorette Stewart Status: Passed

Yes: Matt Zurcher, Lorette Stewart, Rick Anderson, Gayle Pickett

8. OLD BUSINESS

Public session reconvened at 6:05 p.m.

A. Discussion and Possible Selection of Third Party Legal Counsel for Fee Schedule Matters

Chair Zurcher provided direction to Attorney Cornelius to proceed with negotiations.

9. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Discussion and Possible Approval to Purchase Four (4) Half-Ton Pickup Trucks, Not to Exceed \$240,000

Chief Rose reminded the Board that getting vehicles has been very difficult over the past few years, and government contracts are limited. Chief Rose has found vehicles locally for less than the quotes we received from our government contract providers.

He advised the Board that two of the proposed vehicles will go to Prevention, and two will go to Operations. He added that if approved, these items will be taken out of the Capital Plan for next year, and asked that the Board grant permission to utilize contingency funds if necessary.

Chief Freitag mentioned that we still have \$300,000 in Capital Budget funds remaining, and this purchase would save \$40,000.00 over what we planned for.

Motion to approve the purchase of four (4) Half-Ton Pickup Trucks, not to exceed \$240,000, utilizing contingency funds if necessary.

Move: Gayle Pickett Second: Rick Anderson Status: Passed

Yes: Matt Zurcher, Lorette Stewart, Rick Anderson, Gayle Pickett

- B. Discussion and Possible Approval of Fiscal Year 2024 Capital Acquisition/Replacement Schedule

Chief Rose presented the Fiscal Year 2024 Capital Acquisition Plan, and explained that they moved as many things back as possible. We are scheduled to purchase two Type-1 engines next year; however, it will take 24-months or more to get them if ordered on July 1. Also, they are now \$1.1 million; there has been an industry-wide increase in cost. He reminded the Board that approving the plan today does not obligate the Board to approve the purchases in future fiscal years.

Chief Freitag added that he is not comfortable expending these funds with our current Capital reserve funds, and stated that we will need to come up with a plan to build up the Capital Plan. The scheduled purchase of apparatus has been left in the Capital Plan to keep the issue in front of the Board.

Director Anderson asked what our needs will be, and what costs and wait-time will be in two years if we're already looking at two plus years wait-time to receive new apparatus. He stated he hopes we can come up with a long-term fix. Chief Freitag agreed with Director Anderson, and stated that he hopes our supply chain challenges will start to

correct. He added that we are exploring ideas to extend the life of our apparatus and to put apparatus in place without having to purchase something new.

Chair Zurcher confirmed that the engines currently at Stations 54 and 63 will be replaced with newer engines.

Chief Rose provided additional information on several other upcoming vehicle replacements, and a new apparatus building at Station 59, using a contractor to erect the building, then having the completion work done in-house.

Chair Zurcher inquired as to the status of the Station 63 remodel. Chief Rose provided an update of the work that has been completed and the work that is still ongoing. The living area will be addressed next.

Motion to approve the FY 2024 Capital Acquisition and Replacement Schedule.

Move: Lorette Stewart Second: Rick Anderson Status: Passed

Yes: Matt Zurcher, Lorette Stewart, Rick Anderson, Gayle Pickett

- C. Discussion and Possible Direction to Staff Regarding Budget Update and Scheduling of April Budget Work Study Session

Chair Zurcher confirmed this item has been scheduled.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 6:27 p.m.

Move: Gayle Pickett Second: Rick Anderson Status: Passed

Yes: Matt Zurcher, Lorette Stewart, Rick Anderson, Gayle Pickett