



# THE REVIEW

Central Arizona Fire and Medical - 8603 E. Eastridge Dr., Prescott Valley, AZ 86314 – **April 21, 2023**

## **This Edition:**

The Chief's Desk .....Page 2  
Senate passes bill to reauthorize federal fire grants  
for 7 years .....Page 3  
Are officers allowed to have a bad day? .....Page 3

**“Character is doing the right thing when nobody’s looking. There are too many people who think that the only thing that’s right is to get by, and the only thing that’s wrong is to get caught.”**

**J.C. Watts**

**[The CAFMA Connect YouTube Channel](#) – Like, Subscribe, Watch, and Learn**



The co-staffed units are in service and on the road at stations 58 and 62.

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## The Chief's Desk

Don't forget to get with Chief Niemynski to set yourself on a path to success – Paramedic school wants you!!

This has been another crazy busy week. Let's start at the beginning – Monday. The Chino, Central, and CAFMA Boards met Monday afternoon for the Budget Work Study Session. We provided an overall view related to our needs, including additional staffing, paramedic pay, etc. I talked with them regarding the meetings I've had with community leaders and stakeholders, which have been positive. Let's be clear, no one is happy when tax rates increase; however, those I've visited with have been understanding and supportive. When you take time to visit with people one on one and clearly articulate the challenges, potential solutions, and ask for input, they'll generally be more accepting.

Chief Tharp walked the Board through the budget highlights, specifically the larger increases in the budget, e.g., new personnel, paramedic pay, fuel, etc. They had good questions, and overall seemed supportive of where the budget is as of this week. The Board may provide additional direction at the Board meeting on Monday. They'll approve a tentative budget at the May meeting. Once the tentative budget is set, it can be decreased, but not increased. The final budget will be set in June.

Union Chapter VP Shaun Jones spoke at the Budget Work Study regarding the Union's input as well as requests for increased paramedic pay and increased PEHP. The paramedic pay is a strategic market correction as our paramedic positions are woefully behind. Increases in PEHP will be for all CAFMA employees; our current 1% contribution will be increased to 2% going into next fiscal year if the budget is approved.

Chief Tharp informed the Board that we're negotiating a contract with a third party to complete a wage and comp study for the next fiscal year. The goal is to have the study completed and back to us by September which will give us ample time to review the study and start working needed changes into the 2024/2025 budget.

I spent all day Tuesday at the Arizona Department of Emergency Management (ADEM) in their State Emergency Response and Resiliency Plan (SERRP) update. This is the first update that includes the Arizona Fire Service in the plan as part of the ESF4 position. Historically, the Department of Forestry and Fire Management (DFFM) served as the ESF4 – the fire service position within an emergency operations center.

**Cont. Page 4**

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### **Upcoming Events:**

April 24 – Meet with NAU regarding attainable housing study, Record podcast, Board meetings

April 25 – Chiefs interviews for Engineer

April 26 – Flag ceremony for Chief Mayhall, CPR class, West Valley Fire Chiefs Meeting in Glendale

April 27 – PV Department head meeting, Yavapai County Chiefs meeting, Facilitated strategic planning session board of directors

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### **Board Meeting:**

Board Meeting: April 24

CVFD – 1600-1630

CYFD – 1630-1700

CAFMA – 1700-1830

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## **Senate passes bill to reauthorize federal fire grants for 7 years**

**By: Associated Press**

The Senate on Thursday passed a bill to reauthorize federal grants for local fire departments after the legislation stalled for weeks amid debates on amendments.

The measure passed 95-2 with Republican Sens. Mike Lee and Rand Paul voting against it.

The bill, which next heads to the House, would allow grant programs for local fire departments to continue for seven more years. It also allots \$95 million a year to the U.S. Fire Administration, which collects data on fires and supports fire safety nationwide.

"We desperately need this legislation. We need it for firefighters, both paid and volunteer, around the country," Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer said in remarks on the Senate floor.

Schumer, a Democrat, added that the bipartisan vote and amendment process showed how the Senate can still operate in a "very good and productive way."

The bill was on track to pass the Senate earlier this month, but Paul objected to its quick passage.

Paul had previously objected to the grants because "they should be offset by cuts elsewhere in the budget."

Republicans and Democrats worked out an agreement to vote on four amendments while advancing the bill. None of the amendments succeeded.

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## **Are officers allowed to have a bad day?**

**By: Michael Sedlack**

When I was growing up, my parents would often give these little directives or admonishments, many of which were common for kids to hear:

"Start what you finish."

"Chew your food – and stop eating so fast!"

"Close that door – you're letting all the heat out."

There was one phrase that really stuck with me, though – one my uncle had shared with my mother years before. He has been working in Cleveland emergency rooms for years, so you know he has seen some stuff. When someone would tell him they were having a bad day, he would simply say, "Make it a good day. The choice is yours."

I heard this in my head for years, but it took me a long time to have the proper context to really understand the power I held over my day. I did try my best to make conscious decisions to better my day whenever I was having a rough one, but I needed tools. I would too often become a “victim” of my day or circumstance and would be left wondering why or how I ended up in a mental or emotional hole.

Recently I was visiting family and had the opportunity to see my uncle. I let him know that I remembered his words from my childhood. He laughed and then added to his previous guidance: “You can have a bad 10 minutes or a bad hour. But the decision to have a whole bad day or a good day is totally on you.”

[firechief.com](http://firechief.com)

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## **The Chief's Desk Cont.**

They're perfect for that job in a lot of ways, especially when the EOC is opened for a wildfire event; however, it's more the local fire service agencies that deal with all hazard events, e.g., hazardous materials, train derailments, significant technical rescue call outs, etc. DFFM tracks wildfire resources in the state, not all hazard resources. To that end, we worked through the Arizona Fire Chiefs Association's (AFCA) Statewide Aid Committee with DFFM and ADEM to have a 10-member team from the AFCA added to ESF4 to handle all hazards incidents. This change will also help when requests for assistance come in from other states through the Emergency Mutual Aid Assistant Compacts (EMAC). EMAC requests are typically for things like earthquakes, hurricanes, tsunamis, etc.

On Wednesday I met with members of Senator Kelly's team regarding support for our SAFER Grant, and then met with other members of his team regarding wildfire response. We're working through the AFCA with our federal elected officials on a plan to reimburse agencies that backfill fire stations during a wildfire event who are not assigned to the event itself, i.e., agencies not assigned incident numbers for reimbursement.

For example, we pulled the trigger on statewide mutual aid last year during an early season wildfire event in Flagstaff. Firefighters in Flagstaff and the surrounding area were needed on the fire while they worked to bring in additional resources. However, this meant that the fire stations were unstaffed for other 911 traffic. Statewide aid was called to backfill those stations, but no one responding to backfill would have been reimbursed. We're hoping to change that.

Wednesday evening we held our bi-annual retirement/promotional/swearing in ceremony. Rick Chase was honored for his 26 years of service to our community. We also celebrated several promotions along with multiple new folks that were officially sworn into their positions. It was a great evening with a lot of family on hand to support their loved ones.

Thursday morning we held our community partners engagement as part of our strategic planning process. This was completed in person at Admin and facilitated by the same person who handled our

online engagements. We had great turn out and good feedback from our elected officials and community leaders. Next week, we'll have our Fire Board members in for their engagement session. Once complete, we'll be working to take all the input and turn them into goals and objectives as well as work on the narrative piece of the plan.

Staff met after the community session to unpack the information we heard to use as part of our community engagement related to our budget and plans to hire new personnel over the next three years. The plan is to create a one-page sheet with talking points that can be used when we engage the public, or when you receive questions in the field. We'll also be developing a webpage, strategic social media engagement, and a card that can be handed to community members that will have a QR code that can be scanned to get them direct engagement with our website. Our webpage will be interactive to better engage and explain.

Attorney Cornelius and I met with Prescott staff and legal regarding ambulance response in the Quad Cities. Ultimately, we need to deal with the CAD link challenges between PRCC and AMR, AMR's AVL issues, and closest ambulance response as determined by the CAD system. In the end, AMR will likely end up focused on Prescott while CAFMA relies on Priority. Additionally, we need to work out the bugs in the joint staffed units housed at Stations 58 and 62. Our hope is to have things dialed in regarding ambulance response in the next few weeks.

We closed out the week with our quarterly joint Prescott Fire/CAFMA staff meeting. There was a lot of good dialogue regarding station alerting, accreditation, joint staffing for the wildfire season, ambulance response, etc. In short, a very productive meeting between the partners.

Hopefully, I'll see some of you over the weekend for Fire Ops 101. The participants will be with us tonight (Friday) at CARTA for an overview of our agencies and introduction to the program. Saturday morning, we'll hit the ground running with the scenarios. This is a fantastic program and has garnered a lot of support for our agencies from past participants.

Don't blink, Monday will be here before you know it 😊

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