

## MINUTES

**Central Arizona Fire and Medical Authority  
Central Yavapai / Chino Valley / Central Arizona Fire and Medical  
Budget Work Study Session  
Monday, April 8, 2024, 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm  
Central Arizona Fire and Medical Authority, Administration, 8603 E. Eastridge Drive,  
Prescott Valley**

### **In-Person Attendance**

Andy Reinhardt; Cody Rose; Dave Dobbs; Denise Krizo; Lee Barnes; Matt Zurcher; Pete Gordon; Rick Anderson; Scott A Freitag

### **Remote Attendance**

Gayle Pickett

### **Not In Attendance**

Carrie Zambrano; Cyndy Dicus; Jodie Denike; Lorette Stewart

## **NOTICE OF MEETING**

Pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.02, notice is hereby given to the members of the Chino Valley Fire District, Central Yavapai Fire District, and Central Arizona Fire and Medical Authority Board of Directors and the general public that the Chino Valley Fire District, Central Yavapai Fire District, and **Central Arizona Fire and Medical Authority** will hold a special meeting open to the public on **Monday, April 8, 2024 at 2:00 p.m.** The meeting will be held at **Central Arizona Fire and Medical Authority, Administration, 8603 E. Eastridge Drive, Prescott Valley, Arizona.** The Board(s) may vote to go into Executive Session on any agenda item, pursuant to A.R.S. §38-431.03(A)(3) for discussion and consultation for legal advice with Agencies' Attorney on matters as set forth in the agenda item. The following topics and any variables thereto, will be subject to Board consideration, discussion, approval, or other action. All items are set for possible action. Members may attend in person or via remote methods of communication.

1. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL OF BOARD MEMBERS - CHINO VALLEY FIRE DISTRICT

**A quorum was not present for the Chino Valley Fire District.**

2. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL OF BOARD MEMBERS - CENTRAL YAVAPAI FIRE DISTRICT

**Chair Zurcher called the Central Yavapai Fire District meeting to order at 2:02 p.m.**

3. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL OF BOARD MEMBERS - CENTRAL ARIZONA FIRE AND MEDICAL AUTHORITY

**Chair Zurcher called the Central Arizona Fire and Medical Authority meeting to order at 2:02 p.m.**

4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

**Chair Zurcher led the Pledge of Allegiance.**

5. PRESENTATIONS

A. **United Yavapai Firefighters Local 3066: Wage and Benefits for Fiscal Year 2025**  
**Union President Ben Roche said there is no presentation at this time.**

B. **Budget Work Study**

**Chief Rose presented the draft budget, describing the process of how he and Chief Barnes arrived at the totals for 2024-2025. Some of the totals may be adjusted by the April board meetings. He then reminded the board members that after the tentative budget approval in May, it can be decreased, but no increases can be made. He explained our Net Assessed Valuation (NAV) history, sharing the history and forecast through budget year 2029.**

**Chief Freitag noted that our NAV amounts are higher even though we are getting back to where we were in 2008-2010 years.**

**Regarding expenditure history and projections, Chief Rose shared that the collected tax levy will cover costs of Maintenance and Operating (M & O) expenses currently; the tax levy funds are projected to continue covering M & O expenses going forward.**

**The projection basis for expenditures had to be increased. There was an equipment increase to 15% from 5% because parts and services costs, as well as fuel, have gone up significantly. Continued implementation of the staffing plan and the three year wage adjustments, insurance and retirement costs have added to the increased expenses. If the Certificate of Necessity (CON) is approved, there will be an additional 12 personnel added for ambulance service.**

**Chief Rose shared budget highlights, which included our NAV increasing by 9% and applying for several grants such as the SAFER grant for \$120,000. There are some budget challenges including keeping personnel wages at or around 75% compared to surrounding agencies, and maintaining organizational sustainability. If approved, this budget would implement wage scale adjustments over the next three years for all personnel including a 3% cost of living adjustment (COLA) in years two and three.**

**Chief Freitag stated that the Legado fire highlighted just how much we need additional fire personnel; we cannot keep pushing it off. He added that CAFMA is in need of a ladder truck to support current operations since Legado will be rebuilding. There are also plans for new hotels and multi-level housing; we need to make sure we have all the equipment in case of another structure fire. Chief Rose specified that the goal is to have two trucks in case one is unavailable due to required maintenance.**

**Director Gordon asked for clarification on the timeline for purchase of a ladder truck plus three engines. Both Chief Freitag and Chief Rose confirmed that the purchase of the ladder truck would be moved up.**

**Director Dobbs commented that it should not be at the expense of more personnel. Chief Freitag assured him that buying a ladder truck does not impact the budget on staffing, it is deferring the purchase of an engine for a ladder truck.**

Clerk Reinhardt asked what the service longevity is on engines. Chief Rose answered about 20 years, however, longevity is based use, time idling, and weight, which all create wear and tear on the engine. Union President Roche added that refurbishments do not go as far on engines.

Chair Zurcher confirmed that Chief Rose is always looking for the best prices and should something become available, he will need to be ready to purchase. Since it takes years to get engines once we've ordered, Chief Rose will also be looking for demos for purchase. Chief Freitag said staff will present the purchase request to the board in April. If the board approves, Chief Rose could purchase a demo ladder truck should one become available. Chair Zurcher offered that the board could have a special meeting to approve a purchase if need be.

Director Gordon supported adding the purchase of a ladder truck to the draft budget that will be presented at the April board meetings, stating that he recognizes that it is not just our fire district, it is a regional issue of not having the resources. Chief Freitag stated that Prescott Fire also recognizes this and is looking to pass a public safety tax; Prop 310 would have been helpful since CAFMA cannot get a public safety tax. We will be looking to ask for a tax increase.

Chair Zurcher pointed out that we have been fiscally safe in budgeting, and right now the public is supportive of CAFMA but does not have any idea how the fire district is funded and why the taxes will be going up. Had it had been drier conditions the outcome could have been worse for the town.

In the coming weeks, Chief Freitag, along with Chief Durre will be speaking at the Town of Prescott Valley and the Prescott Council meeting about the Legado fire and fire district needs.

Looking at the draft budget, Union President Roche asked for clarification about new firefighter positions and the hiring timeline. Chief Freitag explained the tentative hiring numbers and goals through the year 2029, adding that we will have to continue to bolster our personnel after the three year plan.

Director Pickett commented that we should look to move ahead with the purchase of the ladder truck while the Legado fire is still fresh in the public's minds and going forward, work to get financial assistance from local developers. With the Legado fire making state-wide news, plus continued growth and larger call volume, Director Gordon and Clerk Dobbs agreed that there is a need to purchase equipment and get people hired.

## 6. ADJOURNMENT

**The Joint Budget Work Study Session was adjourned at 3:33 p.m.**

**Signature Page For: FOR SIGNATURE 2024 04 08 Budget Study Session Minutes - Approved - Central Yavapai / Chino Valley / Central Arizona Fire and Medical - For Signature - Joint Meeting Minutes - 4/22/2024**



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Gayle Pickett 04/23/2024



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Dave Dobbs 04/23/2024