



## **Central Arizona Fire and Medical Authority Board of Directors**

Monday, March 24, 2025 at 5:30 PM

Central Arizona Fire and Medical Authority, Administration, 8603 E. Eastridge Drive, Prescott Valley

### **Present:**

Dave Dobbs, Gayle Pickett, Andy Reinhardt, Andrea Sansone, Lorette Stewart, Lee Barnes, Nicolas Cornelius, Susanne Dixon, John Feddema, Denise Krizo, Cody Rose

### **1. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL OF BOARD MEMBERS**

Chair Dobbs called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.

Attorney Cornelius attended the meeting remotely.

### **2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chair Dobbs led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **3. CORRESPONDENCE AND PRESENTATIONS**

#### **A. County and Town Current Events Summaries**

Town of Dewey-Humboldt Council Member Mike Donovan shared some highlights going on in their area. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will be spending \$500 million dollars to remove hazardous waste on all properties as well as the clean-up plans for the Iron King Mine and Humboldt Smelter. It will take three (3) years to move eight (8) million tons of materials and may create construction traffic. The work on the Iron King Mine and Humboldt Smelter will take 10-20 years. He will keep the Board updated.

For about the last eight (8) years they have been working on an evacuation route out of Blue Hills. The Council has decided that they would like to pursue a path through Stoneridge. They must appease the Town of Prescott Valley, State Land, Prescott National Forest and the Fain Group. They are hoping for CAFMA's participation in looking at turnarounds and road widening.

The Firewise group is trying to get firefighting water within 1,000 feet of 98% of Dewey-Humboldt to help with the increasing insurance premiums; they think it can be done with 163 water tanks but will need coordination with CAFMA and grant funds. The Town of Dewey-Humboldt is also working with a resident who wants to put in a 10,000-gallon, elevated water tank for fire use.

Town staff is now being tasked with looking at roads from the perspective of fire safety and would appreciate any insight or concerns regarding roads.

The 900th street sign has been installed. More residents have requested the sign installations since the big fires in California.

Finally, the *Fifth Annual Don't Get Burned* event is scheduled for May 3rd at Mortimer Farms. Students from around the County will participate in an art contest. Dewey-Humboldt is embracing wildfire safety and looking to partner with whomever they can.

Matt Zurcher, Vice Mayor of the Town of Prescott Valley shared that Jasper Parkway will be opening April 5th. The road was not built by the town; it was built by the developer and had several safety issues to correct before they could hand it over to the Town. The Jasper Parkway should help alleviate traffic on Glassford Hill Road and Prescott East Highway and allow faster emergency response times.

At the last meeting, the Council approved for ALDI to come to town; the new store will be located between Walmart and Kohl's.

Lastly, he shared a fire hydrant presentation. In older sections of town, there are a lot of gaps, mostly due to water mains being 4" in diameter. Anywhere with 6" plus water mains, will

get hydrants. The town has budgeted \$150,000 per year to add hydrants.

B. 2024 Alarm Summary

GIS Analyst Michael Freeman presented the 2024 Alarm Summary.

Director Reinhardt noted that CAFMA responds to Prescott's jurisdiction more than they respond to ours and asked if Prescott Regional Communications Center (PRCC) bills us for those calls. GIS Analyst Freeman answered in the affirmative; Chief Feddema explained that although CAFMA has responded to more calls in the City of Prescott, we benefit from their response to some of our areas which are farther out. We have a relationship and partnership that is a key to CAFMA's success in some of those outlying areas. We are using a tiered dispatching procedure to work on benchmarks and looking at Alternative Response Units (ARU) to improve our response to low-acuity calls. The number of calls over the past few years remains steady.

Director Sansone asked if response times are affected by communications? Chief Feddema responded there does not seem to be a definitive answer but some time delays may be technology, PRCC is looking at new programs to speed up call transfer times.

C. Letters from the Public and Board Recognition

Chief Feddema did not have anything to add.

**4. REPORTS**

A. Board Member Reports

Director Pickett reported that she assisted with the Arizona Wildfire Academy hosted by Department of Forestry and Fire Management (DFFM) last week at Embry-Riddle.

B. Division Reports

Chief Feddema stated that CAFMA had personnel attending and teaching at DFFM as well as helping with organizing the academy. Next month, a joint study session has been scheduled to review the budget. Some items we will be looking for direction on include our staffing plan and thoughts on tax rate increases. Legal costs over the past few years will be sent to all board members later this week; we can add to the agenda if the board wants to have further discussion.

**5. CALL TO THE PUBLIC**

There were no public comments.

**6. CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. Approve Regular Session Minutes - February 17, 2025
  - B. Approve Joint Regular Session Minutes - February 17, 2025
  - C. Approve Joint Executive Session Minutes
  - D. Approve General Fund Financial Statements - February 28, 2025
  - E. Approve Fire Protection Agreements: Andersh, Beck, Reddish, Wilhide
- Motion to approve the Consent Agenda.

*Moved by:* Gayle Pickett

*Seconded by:* Andrea Sansone

**7. VOTE TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Executive Session was waived.

**8. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

- A. Legal Advice Pursuant to A.R.S. §38-431.03(A)(3) Regarding Civil Litigation Between CAFMA and AMR in Maricopa and Yavapai Counties

## 9. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Civil Litigation Between CAFMA and AMR in Maricopa and Yavapai Counties

Attorney Cornelius provided an update regarding this matter. He stated that Attorney Crawford has filed a response brief on behalf of CAFMA, but we do not have a date yet for this hearing; he will keep the board updated as information becomes available.

## 10. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Back-Up Agreement with Priority Ambulance

Chief Barnes stated that unlike automatic aid used for fire apparatus, ambulances are heavily regulated and are not allowed to proceed outside of their CON area except on rare occurrences. This system is archaic and prevents effective emergency response. CAFMA is trying to enter into backup agreements that will facilitate a cross-border response when necessary. If a need arises, we would be able to help and if we are short, they would be able to come into our area. We are working with Mayer Fire and Lifeline for similar agreements.

Director Reinhardt asked how many of the billable hours have not been collected, and if the service was supposed to be self-supporting. Chief Barnes explained the program is more of a cost recovery, it would support itself as much as it could but would not be 100% self-sustaining. CAFMA only has two (2) units running since October 2024 and is just starting to see revenue. There will not be good data for another couple of months. The way the other ambulance companies make money is volume, we do not have the volume a private company has. Chief Feddema added that inter-facility

transports make money, we are leaving that to private entities.

Motion to accept the back-up agreement with Priority Ambulance.

*Moved by:* Lorette Stewart

*Seconded by:* Andrea Sansone

B. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Purchase of Aviat Microwave Equipment Pursuant to Item 1(d)(i) of the Telecommunications Maintenance IGA with the City of Prescott

Tech Services Manager Van Tuyl explained that CAFMA took over managing the City of Prescott's communication system and found there is a lot of interference at their communication sites, the root cause being issues with hardware purchased from a previous vendor. We need to replace it and due to the high dollar amount, the Board must approve the purchase. The City of Prescott will then get billed and CAFMA will be reimbursed. Director Reinhardt asked why we are purchasing instead of the City of Prescott; Tech Services Manager Van Tuyl explained that it is standard with any of the agencies we support. Chief Feddema added that our IT Department is heavily sought after by other agencies because of their expertise.

Motion to approve the purchase of Aviat Microwave Equipment Pursuant to Item 1(d) (i) of the Telecommunications Maintenance IGA with the City of Prescott.

*Moved by:* Andrea Sansone

*Seconded by:* Andy Reinhardt

C. Discussion and Possible Approval of FY 2026 Capital Acquisition and Replacement Schedule

Chief Rose presented the FY 2026 Capital Replacement Plan and pointed out that the schedule is broken down by apparatus type. It is taking three (3) years to get apparatus once it's ordered; we have an apparatus plan with a goal of 12 years of frontline service and then 10 years of reserve status. After 22 years, engines start having issues. According to this plan there are five (5) Type 1 engines to replace over the next five (5) years. Prices have increased, the last engine we ordered was \$1.1 million; the City of Prescott just paid \$1.3 million. We will be ordering in the year indicated, but we will not see the apparatus for three (3) years after. Regarding a water tender, Chief Barnes worked hard to get a grant to fund this purchase.

A scissor lift is in the plan because we currently have one, however, it keeps breaking down and Fleet is unable to get parts for it due to it being old.

The Highlander and Tahoe swap was done because the Administration Division personnel drive within the area most of the time. At 160,000 - 180,000 miles we start looking to surplus Staff and support vehicles because we do not want personnel driving out of town to have any major issues.

In a new contract effective July 1, 2025, the Tech Services vehicle provided by Yavapai County Sheriff's Office (YCSO) will be given back and instead will give us a stipend annually for a vehicle.

The Capital Reserve account has a balance of \$7.3 million, before we do our carryover transfer of \$1.4 to \$1.6 million. We still have two (2) engines, and two (2) ambulances not paid for. The goal is to get the account at 15% to 20% of our maintenance and operations (M&O) budget. In the years we plan to make big purchases, we try to pay expenses at 50% out of M&O and 50% out of our Capital Reserve account. If we have smaller purchases in a year, we pay 75% out of M&O and 25% out of the Capital Reserve account. The plan before the board is for approval based on a 75% M&O and 25% Capital Reserve year because there are no major engine purchases in 2026.

Motion to approve of FY 2026 Capital Acquisition and Replacement Schedule.

*Moved by:* Gayle Pickett

*Seconded by:* Andy Reinhardt

- D. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding the Town of Prescott Valley Request to Grant a Slope Easement on Parcel 103-52-834

Chief Rose explained that he worked with Attorney Cornelius on this item; the Town of Prescott Valley requires an easement on our property located on Glassford Hill at Santa Fe Loop. This is not a complete purchase of the property; this is for their rights to the easement to add a turn lane. Chief Feddema added that the agency supports this for safety.

Motion to approve Town of Prescott Valley request to grant a slope easement on Parcel 103-52-834.

*Moved by:* Lorette Stewart

*Seconded by:* Gayle Pickett

- E. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding the Purchase of an Enterprise Resource Planning Solution (ERP) from Tyler Technologies

Tech Services Manager Van Tuyl explained that the divisions at CAFMA have been working with senior staff to improve the ability to work more efficiently as an organization. The current software we are using does not meet our needs in many ways. Thankfully, Chief Barnes and Chief Durre from Prescott Fire recommended that we work with a consultant to help us navigate the purchasing of the new platform. ERP Advisors Group was selected and worked with us to create a needs assessment then helped us select a software that would meet our needs. Now it is before the board for approval to move forward in the process, however the purchase cannot be approved until the final budget is approved by the board in June.



Chief Rose added that by approving this we can move forward to get it implemented by July 1, 2026.

Chief Feddema said we have already prepared the budget for this purchase to be included.

Tech Services Manager Van Tuyl concluded that this type of software purchase would not be needed again for another 20 plus years.

Motion to purchase of an Enterprise Resource Planning Solution (ERP) from Tyler Technologies.

*Moved by:* Andrea Sansone

*Seconded by:* Andy Reinhardt

F. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Extending the Interim Fire Chief Appointment

Attorney Cornelius stated six (6) months is appropriate and can be lessened if needed.

Motion to extend the current Interim Fire Chief appointment.

*Moved by:* Gayle Pickett

*Seconded by:* Lorette Stewart

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn at 6:51 p.m.

*Moved by:* Gayle Pickett

*Seconded by:* Lorette Stewart

---

Clerk