



UNIFIED FIRE SERVICE AREA FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

August 26, 2024

Meeting held both electronically via Zoom Webinar/UFA Headquarters

Committee Members Present:

Council Member Hull
Mayor Silvestrini
Council Member Bailey

Mayor Overson
Mayor Stevenson

Staff Present:

Chief Burchett
AC Pilgrim
CFO Hill

Cyndee Young
District Administrator Anderson

Guests:

AC Dern
AC Robinson
Amanda Lawrence
Calogero Ricotta
Chrystal Butterfield, Kearns
Courtney Samuel
Embret Fossum
Eric Holmes
Jared Gerber

Jon Wilde
Kate Turnbaugh
Kelly Bush, Kearns
Kenneth Aldridge
Kiley Day
Kiyoshi Young
Lana Burningham
Mike Bagley
Mike Greensides

OC Russell
Richie Rich
Shelli Fowls
Station 111
Station 118
Station 125
Station 104
Tom Westmoreland, Eagle Mountain

Meeting called to order by Chair Overson at 1:01 p.m. No quorum.

Public Comments

None

Public comment was made available live and with a posted email address.

Minutes Approval

As there was initially no quorum established, minutes were approved once committee members arrived. Mayor Silvestrini moved to approve the minutes from the June 13, 2024 Finance Committee Meeting as submitted.

Council Member Bailey seconded the motion.

All voted in favor, none opposed.

Discussion on the 2025 Budget – CFO Hill/Chief Burchett

- ◆ CFO Hill explained that a percentage for a potential tax increase is needed in order for staff to move forward with posting requirements.
- ◆ There is quite a bit of savings, (approximately \$40,000) if staff is able to work with the SLCo Treasurer to add the notices for the potential increase to the property tax notice mailings.

- ◆ The General Fund balance must be addressed.
- ◆ The 12% tax increase the Board approved for 2024 was done so with the understanding that another increase would be necessary in 2025.
- ◆ Staff is asking for direction on a possible tax increase in order to meet statutory notification deadlines.
- ◆ CFO Hill reviewed the 2024 expenditures and the impact of tax increase percentages to the fund balance through 2026.
- ◆ CFO Hill explained that a 10.2% would balance UFSA through 2026, but only for current operations, this is no additional services, stations, or personnel.
- ◆ Also discussed was funding of the following:
 - ◆ Any potential changes to the status of Station 112 temporary station (house).
 - ◆ Staffing of Station 253 in Eagle Mountain, currently only an ambulance crew.
 - ◆ Station 107 in Kearns, ambulance crew will be housed beginning January 2025.
 - ◆ 4-Handed crews at Copperton Station 115 and Emigration Canyon Station 119.
- ◆ DA Anderson explained that anytime UFSA needs more funding, this triggers a tax increase.
 - ◆ The tax rate is directly tied to property value, as the value rises, the tax rate decreases.
 - ◆ The value of a dollar does not stay consistent, so the dollar does not fund the same services it did in the past.
 - ◆ This results in the need for tax increases just to keep up.
- ◆ Chief Burchett noted that AC Robinson continues to search for options/solutions to relocate Station 112.
 - ◆ The house remains a good option, but he wants to ensure the Board is still good with keeping the property.
 - ◆ Mayor Overson agrees it is a wise decision to keep the home and see what options the future brings.
 - ◆ Mayor Silvestrini agrees, the value of the property should continue to appreciate, so there should be no risk in keeping it for now.
- ◆ In answer to Council Member Hull's question regarding holding the bond monies, CFO Hill explained that we worked with the bond counsel and are in compliance with the funds. They are collecting interest and are secure.
- ◆ Chief Burchett presented a memo outlining his recommendations to address growth and call volume, and options to be considered while discussing the potential tax increase and percentage.
 - ◆ Chief Burchett recommends that two engine companies be added, but for different reasons.
 - Kearns Station 107 to reduce reliance on neighboring fire departments and to address the high call volume.
 - Eagle Mountain Station 253 to improve response times, address the lack of nearby resources to meet NFPA standards for effective response, and keep up with the ongoing growth of the area.
 - ◆ Discussed were options to reduce the burden of adding two engine companies in one year.
 - ◆ Mayor Silvestrini agrees that it is time to add four handed staffing in Eagle Mountain to provide the service the residents expect.
 - ◆ Council Member Butterfield read a note from Mayor Bush regarding the Districts negligence in not providing ample service response.
 - Kearns was assured that Station 107 would be reopened if the need arose, and it has been 3 years since the request was made.
 - ◆ Chief Burchett agrees that Kearns continues to be one of the busiest stations each month.
 - ◆ Mayor Westmoreland stated that he does anticipate growth west and north of Eagle Mountain.

- Chief Burchett stated that there are only a few full-time departments that can respond in Eagle Mountain if needed and he is not comfortable with the numbers.
- ♦ In answer to a question, CFO Hill explained that only new growth provides tax revenue.
 - Mayor Silvestrini added that this new growth revenue is only a boost for 1-year, after that it is amortized into everything else.
- ♦ Chief Burchett noted that four person staffing is the target, he doesn't feel that the need in Copperton and Emigration outweigh the other immediate needs.
 - The Station 112 rebuild is on the horizon and 2 stations will be needed in Eagle Mountain in the future.
 - Chief Burchett is trying to stay ahead and keep up with growth.
- ♦ CFO Hill stated that the staff is looking for direction on what percentage increase the Board is willing to take for 2025 and he can then translate it into a monetary amount in order to move forward in getting the information to the SLCo Treasurer.
 - As a reminder, this is just a maximum amount, the Board can always decide on a lower tax rate.
 - There is no need to decide today.
- ♦ Mayor Silvestrini would rather give direction now so staff can prepare to engage with the public on a tax increase.
- ♦ Council Member Hull would rather not ask for a tax increase every year and would like enough to not have to consider an increase next year.
- ♦ Mayor Silvestrini feels that we need to make sure response times and 4-handed crews are provided for those paying for, but currently not receiving the service.
- ♦ It was determined that 23% would get UFSA through until the end of 2026.
 - CFO Hill explained that this would be \$96.00 on average per household yearly.
- ♦ Council Member Bailey reminded the Committee that in last year's tax presentations, communities were told to expect another increase.
- ♦ Council Member Butterfield agreed that it is hard to ask for increases, but the bandaids need to be pulled off and we need to move forward.
- ♦ Mayor Stevenson has mixed feelings and prefers smaller tax increases more often.
- ♦ Mayor Overson provided a recap, and it was decided that 23% would be the amount presented for consideration by the UFSA Board and used to move forward with public notices through the SLCo property tax notices.
- ♦ As was done last year, Chief Burchett, CFO Hill and DA Anderson will meet with councils to present the need for the potential tax increase.
- ♦ No further discussion.

Closed Session

- ♦ None

Adjournment – Chair Overson

Mayor Stevenson moved to adjourn the August 26, 2024 UFSA Finance Committee Meeting.

No second motion.

All voted in favor, none opposed.