



UNIFIED FIRE AUTHORITY BOARD MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 16, 2025, 7:30 AM

Electronically via Zoom Webinar/UFA Headquarters-3380 South 900 West SLC, UT 84119

- Call to Order

Quorum present

Chair Fotheringham called the meeting to order at 7:30am.

- Public Comment

Mayor Knopp read a public comment from a citizen, Greg Wheat. While visiting Brighton ski resort, Greg suffered a massive heart attack in March this year. Greg expressed his gratitude to the crews that responded from Station 108 as they were able to restart his heart and aid in saving his life. Greg requested the responding crew members be recognized in a council meeting for their outstanding service.

No other public comments were made.

- Minutes Approval

a. July 15, 2025

b. August 19, 2025

Council Member Hull made a motion to approve the minutes from the July 15, 2025 UFA Board Meeting as well as the minutes from the August 19, 2025 Board Meeting as submitted. Mayor Gettel seconded the motion, and all voted in favor; none opposed.

- Consent Agenda-CFO Hill

a. Review of July Disbursements

b. Review of August Disbursements

CFO Hill stated that the disbursements for July and August are standard disbursements. The Board did not have any questions regarding the disbursements.

Mayor Gettel made a motion to approve the July and August disbursements as submitted. Mayor Overson seconded the motion, and all voted in favor; none opposed.

- Committee Updates

a. Benefits and Compensation-Chair election will be in January 2025

No meeting was held

b. Governance Committee-Chair Gettel

No meeting was held

c. Finance Committee-Chair Henderson

No meeting was held

- Initial Approval for Financing Arrangement with JPMorgan Chase Bank for UFA's Lease Purchase Agreement-CFO Hill/Chair Fotheringham

As part of this current budget, UFA will be issuing a new round of financing for apparatus and equipment. An RFP process was conducted in July, and UFA received seven responses. The committee selected JPMorgan Chase as the financing company. CFO Hill stated the approval from the Board will allow UFA to finalize the documents and lock in the best rate possible. The final approval and finalized rate will be reviewed by the UFA Board Members in the October Board Meeting.

This lease will be for \$20.8 million, and the bulk of the lease will be for five engines, three trucks and the rest of the equipment that was listed in the current budget. Chair Fotheringham reminded the Board that this lease is part of the regular three-year cycle, rotating three different packages every three years.

Council Member Hull made a motion to approve the financing arrangement with JPMorgan Chase Bank for UFA's lease purchase agreement. Mayor Knopp seconded the motion, and all voted in favor; none opposed.

- Quarterly Financial Report-CFO Hill

This report is the last one for FY25 and is the preliminary first look at the final FY25 budget. The auditor will be at UFA headquarters next week to start the onsite process of the audit. Although not final, this report gives the board a good idea of the FY25 closing budget.

The member fee and ambulance revenue line items are coming in exactly as expected. CFO Hill highlighted the expenditures for the general fund, starting with salary and benefits and the overtime line items. Overall, the general fund is right where it is expected to be.

The Wildland enterprise fund has collected \$4.7 million in revenue and expenses came in just a little under that. The fund will be able to put some towards the net assets for the fiscal year.

The Emergency Services Special Revenue Fund received \$4.3 million of revenue as anticipated. Emergency Services did appropriate \$254,000 of fund balance to make a one-time planned purchase.

CFO Hill also highlighted the two capital replacement funds for the Board. Council Member Buroker asked for clarification regarding the transfer from the General Fund to Wildland and if it was expected. CFO Hill stated that it is part of the budget every year and the transfer is for services that the wildland employees

provide the general fund. The Finance Division will continue to work to finalize the numbers and bring them back to the full Board in the coming months.

Council Member Stewart made a motion to approve the quarterly financial report as presented. Council Member Buroker seconded the motion, and all voted in favor; none opposed.

- Operations Report-AC Dern

- a. Operations Report

- UFA has responded to almost 27,000 calls so far this year, 3,500 calls in the month of August.
 - Configurations have been made to the CAD to correct the error in the data regarding turn-out times, and they are starting to show the correct data.
 - Review of the five busiest stations, with Station 101 remaining the busiest with 363 calls for August.
 - Low-acuity unit is responding from Station 101, and the call data will be captured under Station 101.
 - UFA responded to 22 building fires. Brush fires and vegetation fires have started to drop.
 - Crews responded to almost 2000 EMS incidents-standard data and not much changed from August.

- b. Eagle Mountain Incident

- AC Dern highlighted an apartment fire that occurred in Eagle Mountain on August 26, 2025.
 - Units were dispatched to an apartment fire with a possible trapped occupant.
 - Ultimately the incident grew to three alarms and seven agencies responded before the fire was brought under control.
 - Medic Ladder 253 performed what is called a VEIS (Vent, Enter, Isolate, Search), which is a technical high-risk operation. Crews entered the apartment from a third-floor window, closed the bedroom door and isolated themselves and the victim from the fire.
 - The crews were able to locate the unconscious victim and remove them from the burning apartment. After the rescue, crews shifted the focus to fire attack and additional searches. The fire extended across the attic to four units and two balconies.
 - Suppression required two ladder trucks and multiple units that rotated through the next several hours to bring the fire under control.
 - Six firefighters were treated for smoke inhalation, but all were treated and released on the scene.
 - Special thanks to the crews on shift, and all agencies that supported the fire and our personnel while on scene.

- c. Wildland Division Update

- DC Widdison provided a summary of the 2025 wildfire season. The fire season has been an active season within Utah and the Great Basin with extreme heat and wind that have complicated suppression efforts and contributed to several large fires.

- Salt Lake 1, our hand crew, has had a successful season so far. They remain focused on continual improvement and maintaining the highest standards of safety and operational effectiveness. Even with the disappointing outcome of the hot shot status, the crew remains resilient and have worked hard to build their qualifications and experience.
 - The engine program continues to focus on providing opportunities to gain wildfire experience and qualifications as the engines are staffed with seasonal and full-time operations personnel.
 - The single resources program has been busy as several of our operations personnel have been assigned to wildland fires throughout the west with national incident management teams.
 - The Camp Williams crews continue to work on training operations and are ready to respond when needed. Several wildfires have occurred on base this year, but crews have been on site and kept them small. In April the crews completed a successful prescribed burn.
 - The Fuels Crew continues to focus on mitigation efforts throughout UFA jurisdiction. Chipper Days remains a strong program and UFA continues to see great participation from the residents working on creating dispensable space. The Fuels Crew has been a vital suppression resource for Operations this year, helping with several fires.
 - Council Member Buroker asked DC Widdison to address how the Wildland Division is staffed with full-time and seasonal firefighters and asked about reducing staff for the winter season.
 - DC Widdison explained how all the crews are staffed and that very few positions are staffed in the off-season.
- Fire Chief Report-Chief Burchett
 - a. Legislative Report
 - HB48
 - Chief Burchett talked about HB48 and reminded the Board that between now and January 1, 2026 each municipality will need to adopt the most recent WUI code, then identify the boundary in which the WUI code applies in their jurisdiction. FM Watkins is working with each municipality providing guidance to get this done by January. There are other parts of the bill that are complicated and details that still need to be sorted out. Once the rules and map showing the high-risk areas are made public, Forestry, Fire and State Lands will start educating people on what the rules look like and how it might impact each jurisdiction. Homeowners in the high-risk area will be notified in the fall of 2026. Mayor Bourke asked about who pays the fee. Chief Burchett said the fee will be paid by individual property owners. Deputy Mayor Kanter stated that each county will decide how the fee is delivered. At this point, Salt Lake County will send a notice to impacted property owners through the Treasurer's office.

- SB 215
 - The Bureau of EMS has been the organization approving EMS licenses for 911 and interfacility transport services for the State of Utah. SB215 removes the Bureau of EMS from this process and will allow each municipality/county to decide who they would like to provide emergency medical services to their areas. The current 911 service provider will get the first right to provide service, or they can refuse to offer the service. The municipalities will have to accept competitive bids from those interested in providing EMS services. In a public meeting, they will state who will be the service provider and who the backup service provider will be. The municipalities have a two-year window to decide on a service provider for their areas. UFA licenses are effective until August of 2028, and UFA can provide services until that date.
- SB301
 - Prior to this bill, the Bureau of EMS would set the ambulance billing rates, and this bill has changed that process. The rates will now be set by law, not by the Bureau of EMS. UFA used to charge a base rate for transport, medication costs, mileage, and supplies. SB301 sets the base rate and ensures supplies are not billed on top of the base rate. Mileage and medication can still be added to the ambulance bill. As our billing agent, Gold Cross has already made these changes on the ambulance bills that UFA is sending out.

UFA, our lobbyists and the State Fire Chiefs will continue to follow these bills for the upcoming 2026 legislative session and update the Board as needed.

b. Fire School 101

- Proposed date for Fire School 101 is March 27, 2026. Chief Burchett asked the Board to look at their calendars to identify any conflicts for the proposed date.

c. Pancake Breakfasts/Lithium Batteries

- Pancake breakfast event in Eagle Mountain was a large success for UFA and the residents. The next breakfast will be in Cottonwood Heights this coming weekend.
- Information Outreach shared a five-minute video addressing lithium battery safety. This video will be shown in small 30 seconds on social media to help educate the public. These videos will be shared through the liaisons in the community council meetings as well. Information Outreach has produced a one-page flier to be distributed to the public regarding lithium battery safety. The Board asked that the flier be available in Spanish as well as the QR code on the flier verified.

• Closed Session/Adjournment

Mayor Gettel moved to temporarily recess the meeting to convene in a closed session to discuss matters as provided by Utah Code Annotated §52-4-205 and, at the conclusion of the closed session, adjourn the September 16, 2025 UFA Board Meeting. Council Member Hull seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote Taken

Bailey	-	Jackson	YES
Bourke	YES	Kanter	YES
Buroker	YES	Knopp	YES
Butterfield	YES	Overson	YES
Fotheringham	YES	Stewart	YES
Gettel	YES	Weichers	YES
Harris	-	Westmoreland	YES
Henderson	-		
Huish	YES		
Hull	YES		

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Mayor Roger Bourke

Council Member Cheri Jackson

Chair Paul Fotheringham

Council Member Tish Buroker

Mayor Kristie Overson

Mayor Dan Knopp

Mayor Tom Westmoreland

Mayor Dustin Gettel

Council Member Tyler Huish

Council Member Sheldon Stewart

Council Member Catherine Harris

Council Member Trish Hull

Deputy Mayor Catherine Kanter

Council Member Chrystal Butterfield

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Council Member Jared Henderson

Council Member Catherine Harris

Council Member Kathleen Bailey

STAFF IN ATTENDANCE

Chief Dominic Burchett

CLO Brian Roberts

CFO Tony Hill

Clerk Micayla Dinkel

ATTENDEES

AC Dern

AC Russell

Ben Porter

Courtney Samuel

DC Widdison

Adam Park

AC Robinson

DC Widdison

HR Director Day

DC Greensides

BC Fossum

FM Watkins

Kelly Bird

OC Kay

DOC Easton

IT Casey Bowden

Rachel Anderson