

Moab Valley Fire Protection District Commission Meeting

45 South 100 East, Moab Utah 84532

Tuesday October 21, 2025- 4:00 p.m.

A. Call to Order:

1. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Archie Walker at 4:00 p.m.
2. Commissioners Present: Chairman Archie Walker, Commissioner Jim McGann, Commissioner Charlie Harrison
3. Staff Present: Chief TJ Brewer, Administrator Cathy Bonde

B. General Business:

1. Approval of Minutes – Commissioner Harrison motioned to approve the minutes from the August 19, 2025 meeting. Commissioner McGann requested the statement attributed to him “He felt those may need to be replaced more often.” be struck as it is attributed to Clark Maughan elsewhere in the minutes. Commissioner Harrison amended his motion to include this request. Commissioner McGann seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.
2. Citizens to Be Heard – None present
3. Approval of Bills – A question was asked about the vendor SeaWestern and what was purchased from them. Cathy stated the purchase was for red helmets. Commissioner Harrison motioned to approve the bills, Commissioner McGann seconded, and the motion passed unanimously

C. Chief's Report:

1. There were 28 calls to service in the last month with approximately \$1.5 Million in losses averted.
2. The department participated in a San Juan County mass casualty drill at the health clinic. The purpose was to tax the healthcare system. They are required by law to respond to any incident within a certain distance of the facility.
3. We have participated in many sales tax meetings, conversations, and events.
4. We are still working on the apparatus replacement schedule discussed at the last meeting.
5. The fuels crew is currently working a project on Willow Drive off of Spanish Trail. We will be starting another large project called the City Spring project across from the golf course. Oran Moore's last day will be at the end of the month. We have hired additional fuels crew members that will start in November. They will be paid for by CWDG. Discussion was had on how the grant revenue and expenses are tracked.

6. Engine 466 was sold to a department in Georgia.
7. Engine 2 is listed for \$18,000.00 but it has not sold. It was agreed to drop the price.
8. The department just completed a 3 part training with very positive feedback. It was similar to a mini FSRI camp. Over the course of 3 trainings, Ryan Burraston, Traedyn Brewer, and Chief Brewer each taught a station.

Some members will be testing for Firefighter I and Firefighter II this weekend.

Some members went to Spanish Fork to test on ropes technician.

Extrication technician training will take place here on November 11.

9. We are underway on fire prevention for the month. Classes are starting to come back to the station.
10. We continue to have engines listed on the EMAC roster.
11. We are preparing for our open house tomorrow from 4-6 p.m.
12. Call Review – in one day, we sent an investigator to Gateway to investigate a structure fire, we were dispatched to Ruby Ranch for a Swiftwater rescue, and as we were coming back from the Ruby Ranch incident, we got dispatched to Lockhart Basin. Although Lockhart Basin is not in our service area, San Juan County asked that we respond as we would be able to get on scene faster. In one day, we were at various far reaches of our service area. It was very time-consuming and taxing on our resources.

D. Ongoing Business:

1. Grand County Annexation - Cathy informed commissioners that the County is still working to find all relevant titles and deeds. The invoice to the County for \$450,000.00 that is part of the ILA remains outstanding. We have been expending some of those funds even though we have not received them yet.
2. San Juan County Annexation – Chief Brewer stated this project continues and the goal is for annexation to take place mid-2026.

E. Budgets:

1. Draft 2025 Amended General Budget - Cathy went over line item changes since the last commission meeting. They included an increase in wildland income and a decrease in miscellaneous income, inspections income, and interest. For expenses, adjustments were made to payroll as a net decrease due the deputy chief position not being filled and to fuels mitigation seasonals starting later than originally planned. Chief Brewer added that the fuels positions are being paid for by CWDG. Increases were made to member benefits, specialty rescue, and radios expense line items. Current net income is \$272,116.83. Cathy added that each year we try to be really conservative with our spending until we get closer

to the end of the year to see what our finances look like. This year we are also being conservative until we find out if the sales tax is approved. Chief Brewer stated if the sales tax is approved, there are a few things that we definitely need to purchase. Cathy recommended that any net income from 2025 be moved to our capital projects budget if the sales tax is approved.

Cathy also provided a condensed version of the revenue and expenses for the wildland program year to date. The program currently has a net profit of almost \$245,000.00. She stated the income from the program covers the entire payroll of 7 of our employees.

Commissioner McGann stated that we don't get the same revenue every year, and Cathy added that is the reason we budget conservatively for the program. In the original 2025 and the draft 2026 budget we only budgeted \$276,000.00 in income for the program which is basically 3 rolls. Further discussion was had on the wildland program including the number of deployments in 2025 and how deployments work.

3. Draft 2026 General Budgets – Cathy presented two version of the 2026 draft budget. The first version reflects a budget if the sales tax is approved. This one currently has a deficit of \$841,770.26 which would be covered by sales tax. Cathy went over the changes since the last commission meeting which include miscellaneous income and inspection income being decreased. This version of the budget has a full fuels mitigation crew. Chief Brewer stated that if the sales tax does not pass, there will be no fuels mitigation crew, and we will need to put our staff in the creeks doing the fuels mitigation to offset their wages with the grant revenue. They will need to spend 1/3 or more of their time doing fuels mitigation which means their regular job duties and operations will suffer. Returning to this version of the draft 2026 budget, Cathy stated Auto & Truck Repairs & Maintenance, Radios, Equipment R&M, and Shop Tools & Equipment expense line items have all been increased based on current spending and needs.

The second version of the draft 2026 budget reflects the sales tax not being approved by voters. Highlights include line items eliminated or greatly decreased. For staffing, deputy chief and ops chief are eliminated. All fuels mitigation positions are eliminated, but the income for CWDG remains the same which means our remaining staff will need to dedicate 1/3 of their time to fuels mitigation as previously stated. This is due to the fact that we will need to find a way to pay the wages of our regular staff and the grant is our only option if the sales tax is not approved. The Thompson Cleaning Service at \$200 per month was eliminated along with the Accounting line item of \$500.00. Education is greatly decreased. Fire Convention is eliminated, and Specialty Rescue as well as Travel are deeply reduced. Other line items seeing a large reduction are Auto & Truck Repairs & Maintenance, Wildland Supplies, PPE, Building Repairs & Maintenance, Radios, Equipment R&M, Shop Tools & Equipment, Appliances & Tools for Engines, and Capital Equipment. With all of these reductions, this version of the draft 2026 budget is still short \$70,820.26. Cathy added that some of the expense line items in this version are very concerning, and the budget is not sustainable. Chief Brewer added that fixes to Thompson Station will need to be bare minimum.

Cathy presented the draft 2025 amended and 2026 proposed capital projects budget. On the amended budget, the amount from Grand County is increased by \$30,000.00. In the original approved budget, we held out the \$30,000.00 set aside in the annexation MOU for Grand County to cover any outstanding Thompson bills. As Moab Fire has taken over

those bills since annexation was approved, the \$30,000.00 has been added into the 2025 amended budget. The amended budget also has \$50,000.00 from the sale of Engine 466. Depending on what happens with the sales tax, we may choose to move funds from our 2025 general budget into our 2025 capital projects budget. For the proposed 2026 budget, we are simply moving the balance from 2025 into 2026.

Further conversation was had on Proposition 13 and the department's options based on whether the proposition passes or fails. Commissioners agreed to holding a budget workshop after the election in order to draft final versions of the budgets based on the outcome of the election.

In relation to budgeting and MOU funds from Grand County, Chief Brewer informed Commissioners that the last storm made increasingly evident the drainage issues at the Thompson Station. Commissioner discussed options for mitigating the issue.

F. Future Consideration for Agenda and Discussion:

Chairman Walker said at future meetings he would like to know more operationally in relation to incidents.

G. Adjourn:

1. Chair Walker adjourned the meeting at 5:38 p.m.

Date

Archie Walker, Chair

Attest: _____

Catherine Bonde, Clerk