

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>SEARCH AND RESCUE ADVISORY BOARD</b> <b>Taylorsville State Office Building</b> <b>Wednesday, August 27, 2025</b></p>
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**Members Present**

Sheriff Nathan Curtis	Board Chair, Sevier County Sheriff
Jim Porter	Board, Co-Chair, Utah Sheriff's Association
Sheriff Tracy Glover	Utah Sheriff's Association, Kane County
Sheriff Chad Jensen	Cache County Sheriff's Office
Kris Hamlet	Utah Division of Emergency Management
Alan Bergstrom	Salt Lake County Search and Rescue

**Other Attendees Present**

Rich Jorgensen	Utah DPS/DEM Legal Counsel
Angelia Crowther	Utah Division of Emergency Management
Carly Sands	Utah Division of Emergency Management
Tanner Patterson	Utah Division of Emergency Management
Genevieve Keys	Utah Division of Emergency Management
Julia Surkis (virtually)	Utah Division of Emergency Management

**Board Members Absent**

Tara Behunin	Citizen-at-Large
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**Meeting opened at 1:05 PM.**

**Welcome**

Sheriff Curtis opened the meeting with a welcome and began introductions.

**USARA & Marketing Campaign**

Genevieve reviewed USARA flyers and asked for feedback. She began with a newly designed logo and asked for the group's opinion. Genevieve then presented some flyers designed by Carly to the group. Kris Hamlet mentioned utilizing some of the \$20,000 marketing funding towards advertising USARA. Genevieve discussed the lack of impressions from the Target Marketing Campaign and suggested that we try something different. Genevieve will share the files with the board and will also create a sticker out of the new logo. Genevieve concluded her presentation and was thanked for her work by Sheriff Curtis.

**Review and Approval of Minutes**

Review and approval of the SAR Board meeting dated June 6, 2025.

**Motion:** Approve the minutes from the last meeting

**Moved by:** Sheriff Glover

**Second:** Sheriff Jensen

**Motion Carried:** Unanimously

## **Membership Updates**

Angelia Crowther shared updates on board membership, announcing Tara's official appointment to the citizen-at-large position. She also distributed a spreadsheet detailing appointment dates and term expirations for current members, noting that Alan's term appeared to have ended in 2020 and that a letter from the sheriff's association was needed to address this.

## **First Responder/Search & Rescue Statistical Tracking Software**

Nathan Curtis discussed the ongoing development of statistical tracking software, noting a significant amount of "chatter" regarding a new 25% allocation from the state's TRT (Tourism, Recreation, and Transient Room Tax) grant fund for search and rescue and law enforcement activities. He emphasized the importance of tracking data, such as the origin of individuals involved in incidents (in-state vs. out-of-state), to justify reimbursement claims to the legislature. Julia Surkis mentioned that she had not yet been contacted by DNR regarding this data collection, despite her name being shared.

Chad Jensen explained that the TRT grant fund, once established, would allocate 25% of the state's TRT collections back to eligible counties based on their total TRT collection percentage. He clarified that counties must pass a 0.25% increase to their TRT to qualify for these funds, and not all counties have done so, limiting their eligibility. Salt Lake and Washington counties are exempt due to the high amounts of TRT they already collect. The funds are intended for specific mitigation guidelines, including solid waste disposal, emergency medical services, search and rescue, law enforcement, and road repair, all tied to tourism impacts.

This subject will continue to be added to quarterly meeting agendas.

## **End-of-Year Formula for Reimbursements**

Tanner Patterson presented the end-of-year formula for search and rescue reimbursements, noting that initial calculations showed \$530,000 available, but the confirmed usable funding for Fiscal Year 2025 is \$637,924.03, the highest amount ever. The formula allocates 80% to searches, 10% to training, and 10% to equipment, with any excess search funds rolling into training, and then remaining training funds into equipment. The final amount for equipment is determined by factors such as incident numbers, out-of-county victims, and volunteer hours, with caps set in rule.

Tanner explained that the equipment reimbursement caps vary by county, with those heavily impacted by recreation, like Grand County, having higher potential returns, though they only receive a portion of their cap per round of reimbursement. While population data is updated every ten years, the formula itself and its caps have largely remained unchanged since inception. The board confirmed that searches and training are consistently 100% reimbursed, while equipment reimbursement depends on available funds. They noted that many counties do not submit data, which impacts the overall statistics and the ability to advocate for funding.

The board suggested reviewing the formula for fund distribution periodically, possibly every three years, using census data or other reliable sources, due to dramatic changes in county visitation and population over time.

The board discussed the importance of the search and rescue dashboard for budget discussions and for understanding backcountry incidents. They proposed creating a simplified, one-page slideshow of reimbursement data to educate new sheriffs and their teams on how the formula works and how to apply for funds. This simplified version would focus on illustrating the reimbursement process and amounts received by counties in previous years rather than complex real numbers.

### **Review of Applications for Reimbursement**

**\*A report of all reviewed applications will be attached to the minutes of each quarterly meeting. Each SAR Advisory Board member is assigned counties to review after the initial admin review. Any applications with cause to discuss before the board are presented at each SAR Advisory Board meeting.**

Voting will occur at the end of the application reviews for approval, denial, or those that need further research for approval. Other applications needing denial or special consideration will be voted on before the end of the meeting.

### **Review of Applications needing additional discussion before approval**

#### **Wasatch County**

- 2401-5010
  - Deny

**Motion:** Tracy Glover moved to deny the application based on the activity not meeting the rule

**Moved by:** Alan Bergstrom

**Second:** Sheriff Curtis

**Motion Carried:** Unanimously

The motion to deny was based on non-compliance with the submission timeline and making it difficult to know if damages occurred during the previous search.

#### **Wasatch County**

- 25035000-2
  - Approved

#### **Uintah County**

- S25-0208
  - Approved

#### **Uintah County**

- 1003

- Julia added the training roster, and it is now ready for approval
- Approved

**Motion:** Motion to approve

**Moved by:** Sheriff Jensen

**Second:** Sheriff Curtis

**Motion Carried:** Unanimously

Davis County

- 2024\_11\_HomeDepot\_\$1728.05
  - Deny

**Motion:** Motion to deny as not being compliant under the rules.

**Moved by:** Sheriff Jensen

**Second:** Sheriff Glover

**Motion Carried:** unanimously

Davis County

- 2025\_1\_Amazon
- 2024\_12\_Logo\_Concepts\_
  - Approve: Angelia follows up with Davis County on both applications because they are tied together (purchase of shirts & vendor to logo) once images are received, then approves on the board's behalf.

Iron County

- 25-00670

**Motion:** Motion to approve \$97.19 for fuel.

**Moved by:** Kris Hamlet

**Second:** Sheriff Glover

**Motion Carried:** Unanimously

Sanpete County

- 23010810 Damaged Equipment. Proof of payment is attached to the application.

**Motion:** Motion to approve

**Moved by:** Sheriff Jensen

**Second:** Sheriff Glover

**Motion Carried:** Unanimously

Kane County

- 20250423001 The board discussed whether these items pertain more to training or equipment. Sheriff Curtis suggested that the items be moved to the training supplies category.

- Approved

**Motion:** Motion to approve, but move the category to training

**Moved by:** Kris Hamlet

**Second:** Sheriff Glover

**Motion Carried:** Unanimously

#### Davis County

- 2025\_8 Damaged Tires. Sheriff Curtis discussed the eligibility of the one tire purchased, but not both. Kris Hamlet discussed whether or not the tire was damaged as part of the search.

**Motion:** To approve payment of just one tire for \$188.16 if they can provide the case number the search was tied to. Angelia will reach out and see if this is tied to a search, then approve on the board's behalf.

**Moved by:** Chad Jensen

**Second:** Jim Porter

**Motion Carried:** Unanimously

#### Davis County

- 2024\_10 Maintenance Equipment. Kris Hamlet feels it is eligible for reimbursement, but asked the group to review each equipment piece purchased.

**Motion:** motion to approve

**Moved by:** Sheriff Glover

**Second:** Sheriff Curtis

**Motion Carried:** unanimously

#### Uintah County

- S25-1028
  - Approve

**Motion:** To approve

**Moved by:** Sheriff Glover

**Second:** Sheriff Jensen

**Motion Carried:** Unanimously

#### Utah County

- 25UC06115
  - Approve

**Motion:** to approve

**Moved by:** Sheriff Glover

**Second:** Sheriff Jensen

**Motion Carried:** Unanimously

Washington County

- 25W004280
  - Approve

Washington County

- 25w004840 Brush Fire.
  - Approve

Kane County

- 202412110001
  - Deny

**Motion:** To deny due to non-compliance

**Moved by:** Sheriff Jensen

**Second:** Sheriff Glover

**Motion Carried:** Unanimously

Kane County

- 20250321001
  - Approve

**Motion:** To approve the receipt amount of \$805.84

**Moved by:** Sheriff Jensen

**Second:** Sheriff Glover

**Motion Carried:** Unanimously approved

Grand County

- TR03292025
  - Approve

**Motion:** To approve

**Moved by:** Sheriff Glover

**Second:** Sheriff Jensen

**Motion Carried:** Unanimously

Davis County

- 664, Mike Lowe Survival Training. The only question on this one is if it needs to be marked as late. A discussion was held on the 45-day rule. The system will automatically mark the application late.
  - Approve

**Motion:** To approve

**Moved by:** Sheriff Curtis

**Second:** Kris Hamlet

**Motion Carried:** Unanimously

#### Sanpete County

- 25060204, Fishlake Conf. Total requested and total approved are different amounts.
  - Approve

**Motion:** To approve for \$531.30

**Moved by:** Alan Bergstrom

**Second:** Sheriff Glover

**Motion Carried:** Unanimously

#### Summit County

- 25-L21605 Safety Day. Discussion was had on this not qualifying
  - Deny

**Motion:** To deny due to not being eligible

**Moved by:** Kris Hamlet

**Second:** Alan Bergstrom

**Motion Carried:** Unanimously

#### Washington County

- FishLakeConference2025, discussion on the amounts not adding up. The group reviewed the receipts and added up the numbers to verify the amount. The group decided to approve the minimum amount requested.
  - Approve

#### Iron County

- 2025064 SAR Winter Training Event. Discussion on whether gas and a battery fall into the training category. Sheriff Curtis said that the oil is a maintenance cost.
  - Approve (with pending changes)

**Motion:** To deny the cost of the battery and move the 2-stroke fuel cost to fuel instead of training supplies, and approve the remainder.

**Moved by:** Sheriff Glover

**Second:** Alan Bergstrom

**Motion Carried:** Unanimously

#### Iron County

- 2025167 Jr. Deputy Academy Request. Sheriff Curtis asked how this related to SAR training, and the group decided it wasn't a SAR activity.
  - Deny

**Motion:** To deny

**Moved by:** Jim Porter

**Second:** Alan Bergstrom

**Motion Carried:** Unanimously

#### Wasatch County

- 2501-0938 Chainsaw purchase. Feedback from Wasatch to Angelia was that the chainsaw was a new purchase for a search, not damaged equipment from a search.
  - Approve

#### Sevier County

- SAR2025-227 Human Foot Found. Sheriff Glover asked the group if they considered it a law enforcement function or SAR.
  - **deny**
    - **Motion:** To deny
    - **Moved by:** Sheriff Jensen
    - **Second:** Alan Bergstrom
    - **Motion Carried:** Unanimously

#### Utah County

- 25UC05700 Three Falls. The group added the receipts for fuel and equipment.
  - Approve

#### Utah County

- 25UC06634 Bridal Veil Falls. The group calculated the receipts and they add up.
  - Approve

#### Utah County

- 25UC07751
  - Approve

#### Utah County

- 25UC10309
  - Needs additional review

#### Summit County

- 25-L18551
  - Approve

#### Summit County

- 25-L19846
  - The submitted food and fuel expenses were reviewed and itemized
  - Approve

#### Wasatch County

- 2505-0906
  - The food and fuel expenses for this local training were confirmed
  - Approve

#### Sevier County

- SARTR6060725

- Angelia requested an explanation of receipts, which Sherry provided.
- Approve

#### Iron County

- 2025144
  - The expenses were verified against the provided roster, agenda, and proofs of payment
  - Approve

#### **Other Applications Needing Additional Review**

#### Grand County

- EQ 07072025
  - Application got added to the FY25 spreadsheet & needs to be held to FY26

#### Utah County

- 25UC08680
  - Application got added to the FY25 spreadsheet & needs to be held to FY26
- 25UC08678
  - Application got added to the FY25 spreadsheet & needs to be held to FY26

#### Grand County

- EQ 06012025
- Angelia Crowther discussed a Grand County grant submission for reimbursement, which was previously expected at the end of the grant's performance period to consolidate expenses. The current discussion revolved around whether to submit the large-ticket items like an OHV trailer, thermal drone, and associated modifications in the current fiscal year (FY25) or hold them for the next cycle due to concerns about potential changes in the funding formula. The decision was made to proceed with the submission for the current year if all proof of payment was available.
- Per board approval, Angelia will review the application and approve based on the Sheriff's signature, required documentation, and it follows compliance per the rule.

**Motion:** To approve expenses for the OHV, trailer, drone, and necessary equipment to make it usable for Search and Rescue, for the amount that Angelia Crowther can verify.

**Moved by:** Sheriff Jensen

**Second:** Alan Bergstrom

**Motion Carried:** unanimously

#### **Approval of Reviewed Items**

A motion was made to approve items previously reviewed by board members that were found to be compliant with documentation. Angelia Crowther confirmed that denials had already been processed and outstanding reviews addressed.

**Motion:** To approve items previously reviewed by board members that were found to be compliant with documentation.

**Moved by:** Jim Porter

**Second:** Alan Bergstrom

**Motion Carried:** unanimously

### **Grant Application Process and Policies**

The group discussed strategies for future grant applications, suggesting that applicants lump multiple small purchases or equipment needs into one application to avoid numerous separate applications. They emphasized the importance of coordinating purchases and adhering to the 45-day rule by referencing the end of the performance period as the triggering deadline.

### **Unfinished Business**

Sheriff Curtis outlined the standard practice for carrying over funds at the end of the fiscal year. They explained the 80% allocation to searches, 10% to training, and 10% to equipment, with any remaining search funds rolling into training, and then into equipment. A motion was made and carried to continue this plan for payout and reimbursement.

**Motion:** to continue the carryover plan for payout and reimbursement

**Moved by:** Jim Porter

**Second:** Alan Bergstrom

**Motion Carried:** unanimously

### **Annual Review of Card Fees**

The board reviewed annual card fees for search and rescue assistance cards, which included individual, family, and small group rates. The board also mentioned discount opportunities per the rule and state code. The board is unsure if those discounts are being applied as individuals purchase cards. Follow-up will need to be done with Tyler Tech. Despite a slight decrease in revenue for 2025 compared to previous years, a motion was made and carried to make no changes to the current fee structure.

**Motion:** to make no changes to the current fee structure.

**Moved by:** Sheriff Jensen

**Second:** Jim Porter

**Motion Carried:** unanimously

All agreed the next meeting will be on December 5, 2025, in Taylorsville, Utah, at 10:00 AM.

**Motion:** To adjourn the meeting

**Moved by:** Sheriff Jensen

**Second:** Jim Porter

**Motion Carried:** Unanimously