



UNIFIED FIRE AUTHORITY BOARD MINUTES

March 17, 2026 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 7:30 am.

- Public Comment

None

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

- Minutes Approval

a. February 17, 2026

Councilmember Huish made a motion to approve the February 17, 2026, minutes as submitted. Mayor Overson seconded the motion, and all voted in favor; none opposed.

- Consent Agenda

CFO Hill presented the February disbursements and noted no items requiring special attention.

Mayor Gettel made a motion to approve the consent agenda items as submitted. Mayor John seconded the motion, and all voted in favor; none opposed.

- Committee Updates

- Benefits and Compensation Committee

- The next Benefits and Compensation meeting will be on March 19, 2026.

- Governance Committee

- Mayor Gettel stated that staff is working on setting up a meeting for April.

- Finance Committee

- The next Finance Committee meeting will be on April 9, 2026.

- Administrative and Planning Report

a. Safety Officer Introduction

Assistant Chief Russell introduced Battalion Chief Nate Bogenschutz as the new Safety Officer for UFA. BC Bogenschutz has previously served in the role and brings strong institutional knowledge and experience.

Assistant Chief Russell thanked Battalion Chief Fossum for his three years of service as the Safety Officer and informed the board that BC Fossum will now serve as the USAR Program Manager.

b. Legislative Close-Out

Assistant Chief Russell reported that the 2026 Legislative Session concluded on March 6, 2026. There were over 100 bills drafted, and 542 bills passed. It was a successful session for UFA. Dave Spatafore and Ashley Mirabelli provided an update on the following bills:

HB 41 – Construction and Fire Code Amendments

- Updates Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) code to 2024 standards.
- Extends high-risk wildfire mapping deadline to 2027.
- Introduces a review and feedback process for municipalities.

HB 79 – Governmental Immunity Amendments

- Clarifies immunity applies to first responders providing emergency medical assistance (not just catastrophic events).
- Retroactive for 40 years and effective immediately.

HB 269 – Ambulance Provider Payment Amendments

- Establishes billing structure
- Allows annual rate adjustments based on medical CPI.
- Clarifies the prohibition of balance billing.
- Improves Medicaid reimbursement flexibility.

HB 402 – EMS Controlled Substance Licensing Amendments (UFA-initiated)

- Creates a single statewide EMS license through DOPL.
- Eliminates multiple legacy licenses
- Expected to streamline operations and reduce administrative burden.

HB 416 – Firefighter Cancer Trust

- Creates a trust funded with approximately \$5 million from insurance premium tax previously directed to Tier 1 retirement system.
- Establishes board/duties and enables supplemental support for firefighters with presumptive cancers.
- No required agency contributions currently.
- Allows for private donations.

- Operations Report

a. Call Volume Report

Assistant Chief Dern informed the board that a definitions page has been added to the report to help clarify some of the performance metrics in the report.

- As of March 1, 2026, UFA has responded to approximately 6,200 incidents year-to-date, with medical calls continuing to make up the majority of responses.
- Performance metrics are reported at the 90th percentile, measuring system performance across:
 - Call processing
 - Turnout
 - Travel
 - Total response time
- It was noted that individual time components do not sum exactly to total response time due to how percentile calculations are applied.

February Activity

- Fires: 73 incidents
- Medical: approximately 2,100 incidents
- Unit Hour Utilization increased slightly (~1.5%) from the previous month.
- Ambulance units continue to experience the highest utilization, particularly due to extended transport times associated with canyon responses during ski season.

Reporting Enhancements & Discussion

- A definitions page was added to the report to improve clarity of performance metrics for Board members.
- Board members emphasized the importance of providing context alongside performance data.
- Staff indicated future reports will align performance metrics with adopted Standards of Cover benchmarks, allowing for clearer evaluation of system performance.

b. Standards of Cover Update

Assistant Chief Dern presented the proposed 2026-2028 Community Risk Assessment and Standards of Cover for the Board to review. The current SOC has reached the end of its planning cycle, and this update represents UFA's second comprehensive iteration, incorporating updated data, community risk, and system performance.

The Standards of Cover document serves as a strategic planning document used to evaluate community risk, assess current service performance, identify service gaps, and establish performance benchmarks to guide operations and future planning. The finalized Standards of Cover document will be ready for formal adoption at the April 2026 board meeting. Assistant Chief Dern thanked all staff who have worked on this project, as it has taken significant work to update the document.

- Fire Chief Report

- a. Information Outreach Video

Chief Burchett and Director of Communications Easton presented a video titled *Beyond the Call* for the Board’s review. The video highlights UFA and its firefighters, with the goal of informing and educating the public about UFA’s mission and services.

This video is part of a broader Information Outreach initiative, which also includes short-form content focused on community risk reduction. The video is available on UFA’s YouTube channel. Board members expressed appreciation for the video, noting its effectiveness in telling UFA’s story and highlighting the impact of its personnel in the communities they serve.

- b. Fire Training Tours

Chief Burchett thanked the Board Members who were able to attend the tour of the fire training grounds. The tour demonstrated the current facility limitations and helped highlight the future vision and capital needs. An additional tour date will be scheduled to help those who could not attend, be able to obtain the tour of the grounds.

- c. Fire School 101 Reminder

The 2026 Fire School will be held on March 27, 2026, and all board members who have not been encouraged to attend.

- Possible Closed Session/Adjournment

Mayor Gettle made a motion to temporarily recess the meeting to convene in a closed session to discuss matters as provided under Utah Code Section 52-4-205 , and that at the conclusion of the closed session, adjourn this meeting. Mayor Sudbury seconded the motion, and a vote was taken.

Bailey	YES	Huish	YES
Bennion	YES	Jackson	-
Bourke	YES	John	YES
Buroker	YES	Kanter	-
Butterfield	YES	Overson	YES
Fotheringham	YES	Stewart	YES
Gettel	YES	Sudbury	YES
Gray	YES		
Harris	YES		
Henderson	YES		

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Councilmember Bailey

Mayor Bennion

Mayor Bourke

Mayor Buroker

Councilmember Butterfield

Mayor Fotheringham

Mayor Gettel

Mayor Gray

Councilmember Harris

Councilmember Henderson
Mayor John
Mayor Sudbury

Councilmember Huish
Mayor Overson

Councilmember Stewart

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Deputy Mayor Kanter
Mayor Jackson

STAFF IN ATTENDANCE

CFO Tony Hill
CLO Brian Roberts
Shelli Fowlks

ATTENDEES

AC Dern
AC Russell
DOC Easton
Courtney Samuel
Rachel Anderson
Captain Beckman

AC Robinson
DC Widdison
HRD Day
DC Greensides

Bill Brass
Shelli Fowlks
Kiyoshi Young
FM Watkins
Captain Park