

Utah Search and Rescue Advisory Board

Meeting Minutes

Taylorsville State Office Building
4315 S 2700 W, Taylorsville, UT
March 25, 2026

Members Present

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

Other Attendees Present

Rich Jorgensen	Utah DPS/DEM Legal Counsel
Angelia Crowther	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

The meeting opened at 10:04 AM and Sheriff Nathan Curtis opened the meeting with a welcome and introductions.

Review and Approval of December 5, 2025 Minutes

Motion: To approve the minutes as they are

Moved by: Jim Porter

Second: Alan Bergstrom

Motion Carried: Unanimously

End-of-Year Formula Discussion

Tanner discussed the formula examples when applying a cap for equipment requests and how formula changes based on number of rescues, population, volunteer numbers, and volunteer hours within the scores can affect the reimbursement amount. He then discussed and showed examples to show how late applications can affect points, dollar amounts, and overall score to a county who is either consistently submitting high dollar amount equipment items, are late submitting applications, or just late once in a while.

The board continued discussing ideas and concerns about the current formula and that they'd like to explore additional examples for how points are counted against counties who have submitted late applications to help find a way to support counties in getting the most reimbursement, especially those counties who are rural and smaller in population but also have a higher number of rescues. Tanner will again bring additional examples to the next meeting for the formula.

Julia said that she has been collaborating with the Department of Natural Resources, Division of Outdoor Recreation regarding R650-306 and the Outdoor Recreation Mitigation Grant Program (ORMGP) and how she can support search and rescue statistics in conjunction with the ORMGP and Utah Financial Assistance Program. She will help put similar items in our current applications which will in turn help them fill out the application for ORMGP to simplify the processes. Julia will look into the software that is currently being used to see if an additional reminder email can be sent to sheriffs reminding them they only have 10 more days before an application turns late. This will help remind sheriffs of the importance to review applications more timely.

USARA Marketing

Genevieve showed the board the newly printed large 18X24 USARA posters that will be delivered to stores across the Wasatch front as well as shared among county sheriffs. Smaller posters are going to be printed along with smaller stickers and will be brought to the Sheriff's Association meeting in St. George in April for distribution to help promote the USARA card.

Break taken from 1:31:00 to 1:55:30 in the recording.

Follow-up Discussion

Satellite Communication Subscriptions & Personal Phones

Rich provided follow-up from the previous SAR Advisory Board meeting regarding use of satellite services that are reimbursable through personal devices and if that was eligible for reimbursement through the financial assistance program.

Rich stated that volunteers working under the County Sheriff's are considered a government employee and when conducting official business in that role and using your personal equipment to conduct official business becomes open to grama requests. It can also be difficult to differentiate when apps are being used for personal use or for official business when it comes to being reimbursed. Individuals could submit for reimbursement on months they did conduct searches but not on months they weren't utilized for searches because it's not related to the search which makes things difficult and to confirm it is necessary for searches. This would create more documentation and time than it may be worth. If it is equipment

that is purchased solely for their search and rescue jobs that would be an easier reimbursable service/equipment.

Tourism Mitigation Grant

Grant form has been released for review and they are going to try to make deadlines follow the Utah Search and Rescue Financial Assistance Program deadline which is June 30 of each year. As mentioned above Julia Surkis mentioned she has been working with Utah Division of Natural Resources to help make application processes and statistical gathering easier for both programs and applicants.

Review of Applications for Reimbursement

***A comprehensive report detailing all reviewed applications is appended to the minutes following every quarterly session. Subsequent to the preliminary administrative assessment, individual members of the SAR Advisory Board are designated specific counties for evaluation. Any applications requiring further deliberation are brought before the SAR Advisory Board during their scheduled meetings.**

Voting will occur at the end of the application reviews for approval, denial, or that needs further research for approval.

Review of Applications needing additional discussion before approval

Washington County

25W008288

25W008291

Hold: Two different applications/cases were using the same charges but the county actually had two different callouts. It appeared they accidentally used the same charges. Those cases are pg 2 of the report (ready for approval), 25W008288, and pg. 15 of the report 25W008291 (needs additional review). Both Washington County cases. Hold both applications and have Angelia follow up. Once reviewed go ahead and approve.

Applications “Not Pre-Reviewed”

Washington

26W000132

Search: \$842.78

Approve

Kane County

2025

Equipment: \$181.10

Approve

20251205001

Training: \$1371.20

Approve

Grand County

EQ10202025 Snowmobile Fitting and Upgrades

Equipment: \$1080.25

Approve: Approve \$762.27 in equipment, remaining \$317.98 is considered maintenance

EQ12092025 Jetboat Replacement

Equipment: \$7031.00

Approve

EQ01302026 Swellfish Transom Upgrades

Equipment: \$322.14

Approve

Sanpete County

26021159

Training: \$196.00

Approve

Utah County

25UC18315

Equipment: \$4709.63

Approve

26UC01526

Search: \$234.10

Approve

26UC01630

Search: \$259.74

Approve

26UC01746

Search: \$876.63

Approve

Iron County

26-00248

Search: \$49.00

Approve

2026049
Search: 165.00
Approve

Applications "Needs Additional Review"

Washington County

25W007857

Search: \$665.09

Approve: Only approve \$484.86 (food \$113.26 & fuel \$371.60), other fuel charges that were included by the applicant were dated for September and can't be included in the reimbursement.

25W008291

Search: \$215.04

Hold: See previous comments above

25W008827

Search: \$1,087.45

Approve

Summit County

25-L27055

Search: 5,426.96

Hold: date range of receipts shows 3-4 days for support of wildfire but don't have specific dates. Was equipment purchased for the command posts because it wasn't working when getting onsite and setup or did it fail while on the search. Dates of 8/7-8/22 are a long range of dates and wondering if SAR had a role that long.

Kane County

20251024001

Equipment: \$14.31

Deny: Not eligible - maintenance

Motion: Deny application due to ineligible expense

Moved by: Jim Porter

Second: Alan Bergstrom

Motion Carried: Unanimously

Duchesne County

24-0106-2025

Search: \$77.05

Deny: Ineligible due to law enforcement assist vs. search and rescue

Motion: Deny application due to ineligible expense

Moved by: Sheriff Jensen

Second: Jim Porter

Motion Carried: Unanimously

M25-2754

Search: \$124.62

Deny: Ineligible due to law enforcement assist vs. search and rescue

Motion: Deny application due to ineligible expense

Moved by: Jim Porter

Second: Alan Bergstrom

Motion Carried: Unanimously

Sanpete County

25100751

Search: \$2559.80

Approve \$1,719.86 (\$839.94 for 2 clutch systems damaged on the search and \$469.98 in fuel), then put remaining \$839.94 for 2 clutch systems purchased for future use into a new application. Angelia will reach out to Sanpete and get a new application submitted.

Utah County

25UC16894

Equipment: \$4,109.70

Deny: Medical services/software and patient care products that don't qualify under search and rescue activities.

Motion: Deny application due to ineligible expense

Moved by: Sheriff Jensen

Second: Alan Bergstrom

Motion Carried: Unanimously

Iron County

25-02386

Search: \$159.89

Deny: Deputy picked up victim with county vehicle and fuel/DEF is ineligible and fuel was purchased two days after search.

Motion: Deny application due to ineligible expense

Moved by: Sheriff Jensen

Second: Alan Bergstrom

Motion Carried: Unanimously

2026033

Training: \$338.87

Deny: Higher number of snowmobiles vs. number of search members, documentation is showing a high number of hours compared to the number of

search members (only 4 on roster for SAR). Training is more interagency training vs. SAR specific

Motion: Deny application due to ineligible expense

Moved by: Sheriff Jensen

Second: Jim Porter

Motion Carried: Unanimously

Uintah County

12312025

Equipment: \$3,056.99

Hold: Follow up - county has lumped monthly subscriptions into one application and some invoices are dated as far back as September but the application was submitted in December. The county needs to separate the invoices into separate invoices into individual applications.

Applications that are pre-approved and ready for approval

See the attached Spreadsheet with a list of pre-reviewed applications that met all requirements and are ready for approval from the board. Pages 1-12 and part of page 13 of the report are pre-reviewed and ready for approval with no concerns or issues.

Motion: To approve all pre-approved applications ready for final approval and applications that have had some adjustments with approval.

Moved by: Jim Porter

Second: Alan Bergstrom

Motion Carried: Unanimously

Motion: To Adjourn

Moved by: Sheriff Jensen

Next meeting, June 5, 2026 in conjunction with the Fishlake Search and Rescue Conference at Fishlake.