

Moab Valley Fire Protection District Commission Meeting

45 South 100 East, Moab Utah 84532

Tuesday July 28, 2026 - 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: Commissioner Archie Walker, Commissioner Jim McGann, Commissioner Charlie Harrison
3. Staff Present: Chief TJ Brewer, Deputy Chief Chris Whetton, Administrator Cathy Bonde, Battalion Chief Brandon McGuffee
4. Others Present: Jim Winder

B. General Business:

1. Approval of Minutes – Commissioner Harrison motioned to approve minutes from the June 16, 2026 meeting. Commissioner McGann seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.
2. Citizens to Be Heard – None wishing to speak.
3. Commission Member Disclosures – Commissioner Walker stated he has two sons that are involved with the department. Commissioner McGann stated his wife is a Grand County commissioner.
4. Approval of Bills – Commissioner McGann asked about payment to Dave Engleman. Chief Brewer explained Dave is working through us as a dispatcher for wildland fire, and we are being reimbursed for those expenses. Commissioner McGann motioned to approve bills. Commissioner Harrison seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

C. Chiefs' Reports:

1. Chief Brewer began with a report from the Thompson Division Captain Mark Marcum. Thompson responded to 7 incidents and had two trainings in the last month. Equipment is in working order. Chief Brewer also reported other tasks Captain Marcum has been doing at the Thompson station and in Thompson Springs.
Chief Brewer reported we are switching to Blackburn Propane for the Thompson station.
2. Utah is sending two task forces to Oregon to assist in fighting wildland fires. Engine 131 with Mark Marcum, Terry Tilford, Shea Walker, and Traedyn Brewer are being deployed.
3. REMS team should be deployable in about a week. It will not be offered for deployment until Engine 131 is back.
4. Engine 161 just returned from the Elk fire in Colorado.

5. Deputy Chief Whetton reported the department has 46 members and that year-to-date incidents stand at 328. We have had 84 calls since our last meeting. 27 were department wide calls including 2 structure fires, 3 swift water call outs, multiple grass fires and multiple vehicle incidents.
6. The next 2 regular trainings are water supply and truck familiarization. On August 12 there will be another ropes training.
7. Commissioner Walker asked about the swiftwater team, and Deputy Chief Whetton reported the team has 6 members. 5 are certified divers. There will not be another class until next spring. We have been working with SAR and are planning a combined training. Further conversation was had on equipment.
8. Deputy Chief Whetton reported 8 calls in San Juan County since the last meeting.

D. Ongoing Business:

1. San Juan County Annexation – Chief Brewer projected the map that has been in use for the proposed San Juan County annexation. Commissioners and staff further discussed the map and other annexation implications to the department including property tax and impact fees.

Chief Brewer reported we had an open house in San Juan County for residents to ask questions about annexation. Several residents attended. There was good conversation, and people were supportive of Moab Fire annexing.

2. Equipment Procurement – Chief Brewer had nothing new to report. Some discussion was had on the new rescue truck.
3. ILA with City of Moab – Cathy reported our attorney reviewed the document and suggested some changes that were accepted by the City's attorney. The document has been signed by both parties.

E. Discussion and Potential Action Items:

1. Staffing – Chief Brewer stated we are short 2 full-time positions, but the decision is to bring on 2 seasonals. Savannah Smith, who was one of our wildland seasonals has resigned. The seasonal hires will help replace her as well as add another firefighter to A Shift.

Chief Brewer also stated we are doing a trial of a reserve system that would bring in our current volunteers to cover at the station when needed. With our current EMAC deployment, the fire will pay to backfill the station with firefighters.

2. Resolution 2026-004 – Notice of Intent to Annex – Cathy stated the commission needs to approve a resolution of intent to annex portions of San Juan County. The resolution also sets a public hearing. This process is similar to our previous annexation. Discussion was had on a date for the public hearing and the timeline that follows. It was agreed to schedule the public hearing on Tuesday, September 29 at 6:00 p.m.

Commissioner Harrison made a motion to approve Resolution 2026-004 – Notice of Intent to Annex, and setting the public hearing for Tuesday September 29 at 6:00 p.m. Commissioner McGann seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

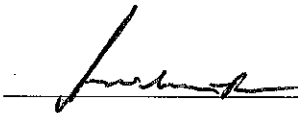
Commissioner Walker asked how the annexation would affect the number of employees needed. Chief Brewer stated that initially it should have no impact, but as that community grows and our call volume increases, we will need to reconsider staffing.

E. Future Considerations:

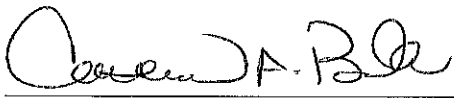
1. Cathy stated we are headed into budget season. Chief Brewer has asked for budget requests for 2027 from staff, and we are working through those. Work is already being done on the 2026 amended budget.
2. Commissioner McGann asked for an update on wildland revenue and expenses. Cathy stated that with a number of deployments we have expended cost but not yet billed for some deployments. She said she will have a more accurate picture once we bill for these deployments and process the next payroll. A presentation can be made then. With the EMAC deployment, our revenue from deployments to date will be around \$600,000.00. Chief Brewer stated we will do a wildland wrap up at the end of the season.
3. Discussion was had on facilities and properties.

I. Adjourn:

1. Chairman Walker adjourned the meeting at 4:51 p.m.

 Date 24 August 2025

Archie Walker, Chairman

Attest: 

Catherine Bonde, Clerk