

Grand County Emergency Medical Services Special Service District
520 East 100 North
Moab, Utah

August 18, 2026
9:00 a.m.

1. The Grand County Emergency Medical Services Special Service District met in regular session on the above date and time at the Grand County EMS SSD station located at 520 E. 100 N., Moab, Utah. Chair Elizabeth Tubbs called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. In attendance were GCEMS Board Members Rani Derasary, Jason Taylor, Cassidy Davis, and Melodie McCandless. Dr. Lionel Weeks and Jim Webster were excused. Also present were Executive Director Andy Smith, Administrative Coordinator Jennifer Williams, Clinical Services Division Chief Logan Brewer and Administrative Assistant and Clerk Mandy Turner.
2. **Welcome Public Comment:** Chair Tubbs opened the floor for public comment; none was offered.
3. **Rapid Extraction Module Support (REMS) Team Overview:** Maggie Nielsen (GCEMS), Clark Maughn (MVFD), and Ryan Burraston (MVFD) provided an overview of the newly formed REMS team for Grand County, Utah. They described the team's mission to support wildland fire crews with medical and rescue capabilities and how they fulfill that mission. They also emphasized the benefits to Grand County of bringing that experience home, where it can be applied during a variety of complex incidents.

At 9:13 a.m., Chair Tubbs placed the meeting in recess so the Board could tour the UTV, truck, and trailer the team will use for its missions. The meeting was called back into session at 9:33 a.m.

4. **Approval of Minutes:**
 - a. Jason Taylor moved to approve the minutes of the May 19, 2026. Rani Derasary seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously (5-0).
5. **Updates:**
 - a. **Chair Report:** none
 - b. **Treasurer Report:** Treasurer Jason Taylor reported the account balances as of August 18, 2026: \$158,282.04 in combined Mountain America accounts and \$807,042.22 in the PTIF savings account.
 - c. **Board Member Reports:**

Jason Taylor reported that the Moab City Council is evaluating options for using speed limits to mitigate the impacts of street-legal OHVs in town. He also reported that the Council recently approved \$1.2 million in repairs to the Moab City offices and the Moab Recreation and Aquatic Center (MRAC).

Melodie McCandless provided updates from the Grand County Commission regarding a feasibility study for the Public Safety Tax, selection of a platform for broadcasting and archiving Commission meetings, selection of a firm to move the Canyonlands Health Care Special Service District's senior housing plan forward, and the Arches shuttle service. A brief discussion was held regarding when Grand County EMS, Moab Valley Fire Protection District, and CHC SSD would need to present their proposed allocations of the Rural Healthcare Sales Tax for 2027.

d. **Administrative Staff:** none

e. **Director Report:**

Andy Smith reviewed data on call volume and interfacility transfers, noting that interfacility transfers continue to be one of GCEMS's greatest operational challenges. He also reviewed progress in the Clinical Services Division, education, prehospital blood program, staffing, recruitment, wildland fire operations, and fleet planning.

Andy noted that GCEMS expects to receive its new transfer ambulance in the spring of 2027 and that the current transfer ambulance recently reached 300,000 miles. For future planning, he informed the Board that new federal funding for rural EMS through the Rural Healthcare Transformation Program (RFTP), funded by the "One Big Beautiful Bill," is expected to result in a surge of ambulance purchases. This could extend wait times for newly built ambulances beyond the current timeframe of about two years.

Andy applied for the State's Outdoor Recreation Mitigation Grant (ORMG), which required a detailed analysis of visitor-use data. His review showed that the anticipated split of 60% local patients and 40% non-local patients was accurate. However, he found that calls involving local patients were typically less time- and resource-intensive than calls involving non-local patients. Discussion was had about the parameters used to define local vs. non-local.

Andy also presented a midyear financial review and discussed budget priorities for 2027.

f. **Committee Reports:**

- i. **Evaluation Committee** – The Evaluation Committee will schedule a meeting in the near future to begin preparing for next year's evaluation.
- ii. **Policy Committee** – The Policy Committee would like to schedule a meeting.
- iii. **Executive Committee** - No report.
- iv. **Budget/Audit Committee** – The Budget/Audit Committee will meet August 27 at 9:00am

6. **Discussion/Action Items:**

a. **Ratification of Payment of 1st & 2nd Quarter Bills (Jan-June 2026) – Discussion/Action:**

Jason Taylor made a motion to approve the ratification of payment of bills in the amount of \$2,424,826.30 for the period of January 1st through June 30th, 2026. Melodie McCandless seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).

b. **Increase in URS Contribution – Discussion:**

Jennifer Williams informed the Board that the Utah Retirement Systems (URS) contribution rate has increased by 1.25% for the firefighter pension plan and by 1.3% for the public employee pension plan. The Board discussed the increase and its financial ramifications and affirmed its commitment to covering 100% of the contribution cost for employees.

c. **Auditor RFP – Discussion:**

Jennifer Williams informed the Board that the 2025 audit being conducted by Richey May has not yet been completed. She has been contacted by the State of Utah regarding GCEMS's outstanding audit submission. Melodie McCandless reported that the countywide audit, being conducted by the same auditor, also remains incomplete. The Board acknowledged that a first-year audit conducted by a new auditor typically takes longer to complete. The Board decided to issue a request for proposals (RFP) for the 2026 audit. The Budget/Audit Committee will spearhead the search.

7. **Future Considerations:** none
8. **Closed Meeting:** none
9. **Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 10:32 a.m.

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