

Moab Valley Fire Protection District Commission Meeting

45 South 100 East, Moab Utah 84532

Monday August 24, 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, Mechanic Cody Greaves

B. General Business:

1. 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
2. Approval of Minutes – Commissioner Harrison motioned to approve minutes from the July 28, 2026 meeting. Commissioner McGann seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.
3. Citizens to Be Heard – None wishing to speak.
4. Approval of Bills – Postponed until later in the meeting.

C. Chiefs' Reports:

1. Chief Brewer reported that the REMS team was deployed to the Slough Canyon Fire the day after we rostered them. They are currently the only wildland resource deployed by Moab Fire.
2. We have a meeting tomorrow with GCEMS and the Canyonlands Healthcare Special Service District to discuss the sales tax that was approved last year. Castle Valley Fire has approached the county in relation to receiving a share of the sales tax.
3. Some of our divers have asked about the status of our dive team. They have been informed there are some funds available in our specialty rescue budget to invest in the team.
4. Our garage doors are in need of some repairs and maintenance.
5. Deputy Chief Whetton reported the department has had 359 calls so far this year. We had one swift water call out today. We assisted SAR.
6. Ropes rescue training has taken place on our off-meeting weeks. We should have people certified at the operations level in the next couple of months.

7. We did mayday training at our last regular training, and we have ADO training with UFRA next month.
8. Commissioner McGann asked about calls in San Juan County since the last meeting. Deputy Chief Whetton has seen inconsistencies in how call location is being inputted into ESO. He is going back through calls for this year and correcting errors so our reporting can be accurate. Reporting training has taken place with officers.
9. Deputy Chief Whetton reported 8 calls in San Juan County since the last meeting.

D. New Business:

1. Draft 2026 Amended Budget – Cathy went over changes between the approved 2026 budget and the draft amended 2026 budget. The current draft 2026 amended budget provides revenue for our capital projects fund. As we get closer to the end of the year. A recommendation will be made on transferring funds to our capital projects fund.

Cathy also presented a wildland revenue and expenses spreadsheet through the Elk Fire. Net income from the wildland program through the Elk Fire is \$314,195.99 or 56.25% of revenue.

2. Equipment Procurement – Chief Brewer reported the department is looking at purchasing a water tender. An opportunity has presented itself to purchase a used water tender through Beeman Drilling. Asking price was \$107,000.00, and we negotiated to \$99,000.00. Our current water tender is a 10-speed which greatly limits the number of firefighters who can operate it. Cody Greaves and Lloyd Wilson have assessed the water tender we are considering, and both feel it is a worthwhile purchase for the department. Chief Brewer asked commissioners to decide whether or not to approve the purchase. Commissioner Harrison motioned to purchase the water tender from Beeman Drilling for \$99,000.00. Discussion was had on various aspects of the water tender and how it fits into our fleet. Commissioner Harrison reiterated his motion to purchase the water tender. Commissioner McGann seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

3. Apparatus Replacement Schedule – Deputy Chief Whetton presented commissioners with a replacement apparatus schedule which included annual funding set asides into the capital projects fund in order to help meet replacement needs. Discussion was had on our current fleet and our future needs. Chief Brewer said he plans to bring a ladder truck quote and proposal to commissioners at the next meeting. Cathy added that impact fees can help cover the cost of a ladder truck.

4. Station Planning – Deputy Chief Whetton further informed commissioners on issues discovered with ESO reporting when running reports. The reporting system requires the station associated with the call be inputted. Not everyone was assessing this aspect the same way. A consistent system has been put in place, and this accurate data will help us in future decisions in relation to current and future stations as well as apparatus placement.

Chief Brewer informed commissioners a meeting took place with a company that assists with station planning. A realization from the meeting is that we have been looking at station planning too narrowly. We have also inquired with another company that provides these services, but we have not received any quotes yet. Chief Brewer stated he would like a commissioner to be part of the process.

Cathy added that because a new station was in our capital facilities plan, most likely impact fees can cover the cost of hiring a firm to help with station planning.

5. Financial Audit Contract – Cathy stated our three-year financial auditing contract with Smuin Rich and Marsing ended with our 2025 financial audit. A new three-year contract was presented. Fees have increased as is typical.

The county went out to bid this year for their financial audit, and Larson & Company, their most recent auditor, had a much higher bid than the other two companies. The county chose to go with a company that was unfamiliar to our current auditors.

Commissioner Harrison said Smuin Rich & Marsing has been doing a good job with our audit. Commissioner McGann said he would like to look at someone else. Cathy stated she did make a request of Larson & Company the last time, and they gave us a proposal for process but no numbers were attached. Cathy said she would inquire further about who the county is using.

E. Ongoing Business:

1. San Juan County Annexation – Cathy stated there have been some changes to code, and San Juan County no longer has to hold a public hearing, only Moab Fire needs to. The process of annexation initiates with San Juan County, and their resolution was presented in the commission packet.

F. Discussion and Potential Action Items:

1. Cathy stated commissioners need to make a motion to rescind our previous resolution 2026-004. Commissioner Harrison made a motion to rescind resolution 2026-004. Commissioner McGann seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

2. Cathy presented the new resolution for annexation. The primary difference from the previous resolution is that an additional Whereas references the San Juan County Commission resolution. In addition, we need to set a different public hearing date, and it is recommended we hold the public hearing in San Juan County. The San Juan Clinic has made their conference room available to us.

Commissioner McGann asked what we would receive financially for the annexation. Cathy stated we would receive property tax of approximately \$58,000.00, and we would be able to collect impact fees from development within the annexed area. She added this is the area where the valley is going to grow, so new growth will also benefit us financially. Brandon McGuffee stated inspection and plan review fees will also benefit us financially.

Commissioner McGann stated that if we have to hire one employee, we are not covering the cost with income from the annexation. He felt we should ask for more from San Juan County considering what we requested of Grand County with that annexation. Chief Brewer stated San Juan County is going to continue to pay the annual MOU fee for two more years. In addition, we have less distance to travel with the San Juan County annexation. Chief Brewer said we do not intend to hire someone immediately. That would happen as the annexed area of San Juan County grows. Commissioner McGann asked who would be responsible for building a fire station in that area. Chief Brewer said that would fall to us, but San Juan has set aside property at the clinic for a fire station. Chief Brewer added that San Juan County has given us two trucks already.

Commissioners set the public hearing for Tuesday, October 13 at 6:00 p.m. at the San Juan Health Clinic.

Commissioner Walker made a motion to approve Resolution 2026-005 A Resolution of Moab Valley Fire Protection District Declaring the Intent to Annex Portions of Unincorporated Areas of San Juan County; Setting a Public Hearing on the Proposed Annexation for October 13, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. and Providing for Notice of the Annexation Hearing as Required by Utah Code. Commissioner Harrison seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

G. Approval of Bills:

1. Commissioner McGann stated that some bills appeared on both last month's and the current month's expense transaction list. After review, Cathy stated she had erred in including some dates from the previous month with the current month which resulted in some bills showing in both statements.

Commissioner Walker made a motion to approve the bills. Commissioner McGann seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

H. Future Considerations:

1. No future considerations were discussed.

I. Adjourn:

1. Chairman Walker adjourned the meeting at 5:10 p.m.

Date _____

Archie Walker, Chairman

Attest: _____

Catherine Bonde, Clerk