

MEETING MINUTES
WEBER COUNTY – F.I.R.E. COUNCIL
AUGUST 20, 2026

Weber County F.I.R.E. Council - Meeting Agenda:

Members in Attendance:

Clark, Britt, Weber Fire District	Y	Clay Peterson, Washington Terrace Fire	Y
Dennis Creeze, Plain City Fire	N	Mike Slater, Ogden City Fire	Y
Matt Hennessy, Riverdale City Fire	Y	Cam West, So. Ogden City Fire	Y
Kris Maxfield, North View Fire District	Y	Theron Williams, Roy City Fire	Y

Others in Attendance:

Jolene Whipple, Weber Fire District	Y	Ashley Phillips, Ogden City Fire	Y
Javie Blanco, Hill AFB Fire	N	Brandon Storey, So. Ogden City Fire	Y
Cody Draheim, Weber Fire District	Y	Matt Hess, Ogden City Fire	Y

1. Call to Order – at 11:05 a.m.
 - Cam West called the F.I.R.E Council meeting to order at 11:05 a.m.
 - Motion to call the meeting to order made by C. West
 - Second by C. Draheim
 - All in favor.
2. Pledge of Allegiance
 - Led by K. Maxfield
3. Moment of Silence
 - Chair, C. West substituted a moment of silence for the invocation and stated that future agendas would use a moment of silence.
4. Public Comments
 - None. No members of the public were present.
5. Approval of Minutes – June 25, 2026
 - **Action:**
 - Motion to approve June 25, 2026 minutes
 - Made by C. Peterson
 - Second by B. Clark
 - All in favor none opposed. Motion carried by voice vote.
6. Heavy Rescue and Hazmat Response Staffing and Readiness
 - Presented by Chief B. Clark
 - **Discussion**

- Chief B. Clark reported that Commissioner Harvey raised concerns about the use and funding of the County Heavy Rescue program. The normal five-year agreement was reduced to a one-year agreement covering the current calendar year through December.
- Chief B. Clark and Chief M. Hennessy talked about analyzing and presenting response data to the County Commissioners. And asking for time to gather the data and find an appropriate, sustainable funding source.
- Chief B. Clark stated that funding heavy rescue through the paramedic fund was not the preferred long-term approach. He proposed that considering separate funding for heavy rescue and hazmat. Recognizing that grant support is decreasing.
- Chief M. Slater supported separating heavy rescue from the paramedic funding but asked that the program be evaluated for appropriate size, efficiency, and actual operational need before requesting additional taxes.
- Chief T. Williams emphasized the need to retain specialty response capability for high-risk incidents although not as frequent. He cautioned against judging the program solely by call volume and discussed the difficulty smaller cities face in funding specialized services independently.
- Chief C. West asked whether subcontractor personnel were being used as intended and whether their training and funding produced the best benefit for residents.
- Discussion addressed more defined specialty roles, earlier intervention by local personnel, and broader use of subcontractors.
- Chief B. Clark suggested that participating agencies might focus on individual specialties rather than each trying to maintain equal expertise in every discipline. Members also discussed accountability for certifications, training, equipment testing, storage, and readiness.
- Chief K. Maxfield summarized the discussion as support for a coordinated regional program, with a review of its desired outcomes, risks, structure, and realistic funding needs.
- Discussion on using the existing subcommittee to develop recommendations rather than immediately creating a separate work group.
- Chief B. Clark noted that agencies are already paying for fuel, maintenance, repairs, and upkeep, and that the program had previously reduced its requested funding.
- Discussion about requesting one additional year of funding to allow time for a thorough review and long-term proposal.
- The conclusion is the preferred approach was for the Council leadership to meet with the County Commissioners, explain the Council's support for a combined response program, request continued funding while reviewing the program, and pursue a future funding source separate from the paramedic fund.
- **Action:**
 - Motion to approve Council leadership to approach the County Commission regarding continued funding and evaluation of the heavy rescue and hazmat programs.
 - Made by M. Slater
 - Second by T. Williams
 - All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried by voice vote.

Note: No new levy or long-term funding agreement was approved during this meeting.

7. Paramedic Program Updates and 2027 Budget

- Presented by Chief C. Draheim
- **Discussion**
 - Draheim reported that the paramedic subcommittee and Dr. Grow had discussed whether the County program should continue purchasing extrication equipment for the paramedic trucks. The proposed direction was to revise the equipment spending plan and reallocate those funds to other program needs.
 - Discussion on the availability of extrication tools on other apparatus, limited use of tools carried on paramedic trucks, and whether all departments had adequate equipment. With surplus tools as possible transition measure for smaller departments.
 - Discussion on if the surplus transfers would be a one-time arrangement and whether tools would remain on paramedic trucks.
 - C. Draheim discussed that there is an estimated \$400,000 remaining subject to confirmation with Lisa in Emergency Management and remaining purchases.
 - Discussion on Lucas's and if funding and delivery schedules permitted could we possibly purchase ten LIFEPAK replacements. Maybe 50% this year and 50% next year.
 - B. Clark noted that equipment charged for the 2026 budget would need to be delivered before year-end.
 - C. Draheim would work with Lisa and the subcommittee to confirm available funds, reconcile scheduled LUCAS device purchases, and return with an updated spending proposal.
 - Discussion on compatibility between AED pads and the paramedic program's monitor equipment, including adapters and possible future standardization.
 - Members discussed refreshing the paramedic study data and reviewing response times, unit utilization, available, and triggers for adding additional units. A consistent annual analysis was suggested so comparisons could be made with earlier study.
 - Funding discussion addressed continuing goal of a 70/30 cost allocation, the effect of growth on levy revenue, and the need to confirm the 2027 budget. Discussion on members approaching the County with program needs and educating incoming commissioners about the cost borne by participating agencies.
- **Action:**
 - Motion to approve surplus extrication equipment to two departments as a one time deal
 - Made by M. Slater
 - Second by C. West
 - Tabled motion on extrication on medic trucks.

No revised spending plan, specific equipment purchase, or levy adjustment was approved under this item.

8. F.I.R.E. Council Report

- Chief C. Draheim described heavy rescue and hazmat as regional resources providing highly technical skills that individual agencies cannot economically maintain alone. He supported County participation in funding both programs.
- Chief T. Williams supported separating specialty program funding from the paramedic levy and retaining heavy rescue capability. He encourages chiefs to communicate together and address disagreements directly so individual conversations with commissioners would not undermine the group's work.

- Chief T. Williams stated that he would step away on September 21st but will remain with Roy through the end of December. He thanked the Council for its collaboration.
- Chief B. Clark emphasized preparedness for major hazardous materials incidents, structural collapse, and other infrequent but serious events. He encouraged a coordinated effort to preserve the programs and explain their public safety value to the County Commission.

9. Next Meeting

- The next regularly scheduled meeting is October 15, 2026, at Weber Fire District, Station 61, 2023 W 1300 N, Farr West at 11 a.m.
- Discussion on possible need for a special meeting in September to address the budget work. The regular October meeting remained scheduled with a special meeting to be called if needed.

10. Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn the meeting
 - **Action**
 - Made by M. Hennessey
 - Second by T. Williams
 - All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried by voice vote.

The next Regular Meeting is Thursday, December 17, 2026

Chief, Cam West, Chair

Chief, Kris Maxfield, Vice Chair