

YARNELL FIRE DISTRICT

SPECIAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

The Yarnell Fire Board of Directors held a Special Meeting as follows:

Date: Monday, April 13, 2026

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Location: In-person (3 people signed in on sign in sheet) at the Admin Building. No sign in on Zoom.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Board Chair Arlon Rice called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM.

2. ROLL CALL

Board Members present: Arlon Rice, Board Chair; Richard Mayer, Treasurer; Nina Bour-Beau, Secretary; John Sutherland, Member-at-Large via Zoom.

Others present: Chief Bryan Smith, Fire Chief of Williamson Valley Fire District
Stacy Pizzirusso, Joyce Ritner, Arreana LeRoy, Lisa-Marie Campbell

3. Discussion and possible action re: Tentative Budget for 2026-2027

Chief Bryan Smith presented the 2026-2027 Yarnell Fire District proposed Draft Budget, The two items he didn't have were the actual costs for Workers Comp and the utilities.

There is a 5.6% increase from assessed value that comes from the County.

Conservative with Wildland as we don't know how many Wildland fires there will be Ambulance to Yarnell – still working on moving this station from Congress Fire to Yarnell. This is why only \$12,000.00 is budgeted.

This way, there will be an Ambulance stationed in Wickenburg and one stationed in Yarnell.

Use of office space by Consortium – they are paying for using our office space (Tunis, Chief Smith) \$12,000.00 under 4295 in budget income.

Budgeted \$100,000 for Grants, Consortium put in a couple of Grants, Congregational Appropriation-directed funding for regional items.

One would be 15 new heart monitors for all fire Districts part of Consortium.

Regional grant for water tenders has been applied for the other fire districts that need these tenders replaced: Crown King, Mayer, Williamson Valley, Yarnell tenders are good.

These Grants could be HUD &/or DHS Grants.

Grants for turnouts (not expired), and the addition of an extractor (washing machine for turn outs so there is no contamination with regular clothing).

Fund raiser for next year: Memorial Run will be scheduled in Yarnell (work started on it now), Poker Run – split word load for Poker Run = Wilhoit is doing this now. Details to be worked out later.

Budgeted \$20,000.00 for donations in income. Gross Profits to \$600,000.00

Mechanics-Williamson Valley pays for half on mechanics including PTO (paid time off)

\$300,000 budgeted for salary & wages in Operations #5130.

Public Safety-included in payroll – all inclusive

Volunteer pension: keep ours for now, until July, Consortium has two pension plans: PSPRS (public safety retirement system (no Social security) and ASRS: less expensive (keep SS). John Sutherland, board member asked about ASRS, which one has SS.

Self-funded risk pool for Firefighters.

Yarnell Fire Workers Comp is through Berkshire Hathaway which the Consortium does for volunteers only and advises Yarnell to do this as it is cheaper.

Insurance for employees: BCBS of AZ – Dental, vision, life ins: 100% for the employee, 50% for other family members of employees.

Included in the buying back of employees.

Firefighting expense: another Grant applied for, Regional Grant

SCBA and air testing the consortium does this (6040).

Wildland Grants: what part of this can your guys fill as far as rural fire grant, do next year. Also covers Wildland equipment.

Consortium replaced fire shelters that we had, because ours were outdated.

Board Member, Nina Bour-Beau asked regarding grants: both Federal & State Grants, Chief Smith stated yes for both.

Local grant for EMS supplies, heart monitors factory re-fabricated \$6,000 for trade in for heart monitors – cheaper. Board Member, Nina Bour-Beau stated that we still had a FEMA grant still not closed yet and she will forward email to Bryan.

Vehicle repaired for certification: labor (6542) budget is something that Consortium mechanics cannot do on budget sheet but not sure where right now maybe under labor– this will be for other mechanics outside of consortium.

Dispatch – included with consortium, new radios not needed here as of April 1 new dispatch which is working well. Arlon asked about the tower lease which believe we still have. Repeater: community lease agreement, we pay \$151.00 to Countywide.

Administration: auditor (7015) Chief Smith asked who our auditor was. Board member, Nina Bour-Beau stated that the auditor is in Snowflake, and she doesn't remember the name.

All background checks are done on personnel at Yarnell Fire District, fingerprint & etc- Consortium has done for our employees.

We paid for template for agendas and meetings: this needs to be resolved by Monday. Let Bill Whittington know.

\$15,000. 7080 insurance – maybe lower – Bryan meeting with VFIS insurance to go over square footage, buildings, and trucks.

Budget \$15,000 for VFIS insurance, possibly \$20,000.00.

Management fees – combo with Consortium

Consortium to set up phones on a system, switch to Verizon plan, no more Century Link.

Water standpipe expensive, that and leaks are why water is so expensive especially at old Crew Quarters per Board member, Nina Bour-Beau.

Basic maintenance (7410) any construction, maintaining fire hydrants, if Yarnell Water Improvement Association okays this.

Building – maintenance only – keeping a bid to resurface the parking lot – new quote of \$60,000.00 to do this. Sealing the lot will be less expensive. Board Chair, Arlon Rice, stated that we had the materials to do this for the Administration parking lot. Not sure where these ended up.

Plans on the old crew quarters: walk it for insurance company, if there is mold insurance company will cover this. Plans may be to use as storage.

Consortium idea: set up Bennet Oil from 250 gallon tanks, put where old crew quarters are, shift any extra money found to capital or whatever extra money is on Net income Yarnell Water tenders: could go on Wildland, leaving one in district.

Chief Bryan Smith the procedure is to have public hearing on the budget, do this before regular meeting, then close this meeting and do regular meeting.

We still have the two shuttles which could be run on Grants. The Consortium is talking with State Parks.

Board Chair, Arlon Rice asked about the helipad. There is at least one light not working, possibly disconnected, Chief Smith will look into this.

Per Bryan, motor on garage door is out, we do need a new motor

Chief Smith stated have board approve tentative budget on the 24th of April.

Crew quarters in station, \$4,000.00 for new kitchen shelves, per Chief Smith we can get in Phoenix for \$600 to \$1,000.00 – firefighters measured and they take their measurements down and purchase.

Grant for better lockers: lockers we have work for now but it would be nice to get better ones.

Deputy Chief Anthony Tunis working on Weightlifting equipment for about \$1,000.00 or under, Chief Shearer took out his equipment from station.

New dispatch is working good per Chief Smith.

Budget proposal is used in the Consortium, combines most categories and detailed items like the trucks listed individually in Yarnell Fire are now under repairs needed (for example: tires, towing, batteries-#6500)

Donna Fagan – accountant in Williamson Valley can convert our QB detailed budget file to Consortium budget file.

Board Chair, Arlon Rice regarding the Grant person at Consortium, our board would like to meet her. Per Chief Smith this is possible.

Williamson Valley shared employees – 3 months after working

Quarterly invoices: first installment for Congress management fees.

Paid for by Williamson Valley full time employees: at Yarnell Fire: John Rice, Allen Hernandez, Eric Hatchell Williamson Valley invoices Yarnell Fire after 3 months of work.

Board Treasurer, Richard Mayer, on June 30th: bookkeeper transfers from General based on checks written go into capital to bring us at zero amount for county, July 1- we request that the County transfers back to general.

We do \$200.00 in general normally, don't do transfer until July 1 with County.

Consortium combines for posted budget.

4. **Discussion and possible action re: Receiving possible comments from the public.**

No Public Comments

5. **ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Rice adjourned the meeting at 11:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nina M. Bour-Beau