Williamson Valley Fire District

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GENERAL SESSION MINUTES
March 16, 2026

1. **Call to Order**
   Meeting called to order at 6:30 p.m.

2. **Pledge of Allegiance**

3. **Roll Call of Board Members**
   Present: Board Chairman Price; Board Members Austermiller, Harbicht, Hunter, McKelvey

4. **Chief's Report and Discussion:**
   a. **Statistical Data, Station Information Report, Fleet Report, Project Reports, Training Reports, Report on Billing for out of District Services, Grant Progress Updates, Personnel Updates, Public Relations Update, Communications Report.**

   There were 14 calls for service last month, but every district had half the number of calls as usual so there is probably an issue with the reporting program. Engineer's academy was held last week. Seven made it through and are on the list for promotion. The badge pinning ceremony was three weeks ago for those hired and promoted in the past year. Annual ladder testing was completed. Brush pile is now closed until it rains and we can burn. Annual wildland refresher pack test was completed by members to maintain their certification. It included an ATV refresher for insurance purposes and for the federal government who requires off-district crews to have a current UTV license. Several CPR classes were held in Bagdad. Paramedic school should be done by the end of April or first of May. The accreditation visit is April 16-17 and it will take about a month for the report. Fire danger will go to "high" after this week.

5. **Financial Report/Review and Discussion: Monthly Financial Update and Year to Date Financials.**
   The Board reviewed financial reports including balance sheets, updated cash flow projections and the end of month statements on all bank and County accounts.

6. **Consent Agenda**
   a. **Accept General Meeting Minutes of February 16, 2026.**
   b. **Approve payment of $62,000 to Buroff & Associates for annual physicals. Some of this will be repaid by other fire districts.**
   c. **Approve payment of $3,385.48 to Pediatric Emergency Standards Inc. for a support contract (Bagdad).**
   d. **Approve payment of $8,401.86 (4 checks the largest $6,723.55) to Boundtree Medical Supplies for EMS Disposables.**
   e. **Approve payment of $13,023.61 to 49er Communications for h/w, s/w and radios.**

f. **Approve payment of $5,618.83 (Bagdad) and $1,872.94 (WVFD) to City of Prescott for dispatch services.**

Upon a motion by Board Member Harbicht, seconded by Board Member McKelvey, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Consent Agenda.

7. **Reports and Correspondence**

None

8. **Call to the Public and/or Firefighter Union: Comments and statements from the public and/or union members.**

Engineer Griffith commented the mine expansion is coming soon at least from his perspective and from meetings. Members do not have many complaints. The district is moving forward and looking at different things, the type of culture in the fire department, policy changes on uniform standards and grooming, standard of living, safety, etc.

9. **Old Business:**

a. **Discussion and possible action: Status of the Bagdad contract.**

Chief Tunis noted the Safety Department requested a CPR class for those in the mine. Land work is done at the construction camp and they are working on the parking lot and light poles. The first thing done was the basketball and pickle ball courts. The area should be ready for residents in July which will double the population of Bagdad. The mine and safety managers are looking at incorporating the fire station at the new security gate which would be the ideal deployment site. FMI is moving forward quickly on expansion.

b. **Discussion and possible action: Backup Generator**

The permit was issued a couple of days ago and work will start this Friday or next Monday. A new yard line for propane needs to be dug.

10. **New Business:**

a. **Discussion and possible action: Review and approve legal documents from Barrett & Matura P.C. regarding VFIS settlement.**

Upon a motion by Board Member Austermiller, seconded by Board Member Harbicht, the Board unanimously approved the VFIS settlement.

b. **Discussion and possible action: Review and approve results of the audit.**

The auditor was unable to present the audit as her child was sick.

c. **Discussion and possible action: Preliminary Budget discussion**

Chief Smith anticipated the budget saying the same. New builds will generate a $70,000 increase to the bottom line. Other than promotions, there will be no raises. He explained the revenue that would be generated with various increases to the mil rate. A potential purchase is $50,000 for a water tender. Ray is confident the old one can make it little while longer but it does have 700,000 miles. Command vehicles will need to be purchased for which we have been getting monthly depreciation payments from FMI. The WV-Bagdad command trucks have 150,000 miles and by next year will have 200,000 miles. The estimated cost is $55,000 per vehicle plus another $10,000 for lights, shell, radios, etc. Two vehicles are needed for Bagdad. His truck has around 96,000 miles and can make it a while longer before it needs replaced. Engine 91 is the oldest engine in our entire fleet. The members take very good care of the equipment, but we need to look at a brand new replacement or one that is 5 to 10 years old. Discussed other vehicle needs and office space such as a mobile mini for Chief Tunis. Workers' comp and liability insurance increases need to be factored in as well.

d. Discussion and possible action: **Mayer IGA for shared services and management contract.**

Upon a motion by Board Member Austermiller, seconded by Board Member McKelvey, the Board unanimously approved the renewal of the IGA with Mayer Fire District.

e. Discussion and possible action: Deputy Chief Mike Love addresses retention.

Chief Tunis thanked the Board for the opportunity to also share his thoughts from his perspective after last month's meeting. He looks back to how far we have come from a one station department. We now have relationships that span the entire county in some capacity, oversee nine fire stations, and built a network of people. We have one of only three paramedic programs in the state, he is on the NFPA textbook review committee, and we have one of the top hazmat instructors in the state. We continually look at ways to maintain safety and protect our contract.

Chief Love added after last month's board meeting his big take away was asking if leadership operations in this organization are aligned with the Board's vision and mission. We started with Bagdad 10 years ago with a business plan and partnership which we have nurtured. We became leaders within the county on how we manage and operate fire districts. We all met in Attorney Whittington's office but left hearing different messages. Perhaps it is time to revisit that and have a conversation including all the problems, issues, apparatus, equipment, finances, etc. Retention is no longer an issue. As an organization we have built ourselves up and now retain our members, which are our greatest investment.

11. Future Agenda Items discussion: Board members suggest future agenda items.

Audit, budget, trucks

12. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 9:04 p.m.

APPROVED

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Board Chairman

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Board Clerk