Williamson Valley Fire District

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GENERAL SESSION MINUTES
February 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, and 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.**

Firefighter physicals were conducted. Our personnel are all Tiers 1 and 2 (Tier 1 is the top fitness level). There were 29 calls this past month, 11 of which were mutual aid calls mostly to Talking Rock but also ICR. The first wildfire was a week ago in Crossroads I caused by a homeowner ground clearing with a torch when winds picked up and it got away from him. A new Federal mandatory data collection system went into effect in January that replaces the National Fire Reporting System previously used. There were a few glitches on the Federal side of the system which they are working out. We still use Image Trend for data collection and medical and fire reporting is uploaded to the Federal system.

Annual MSHA training and FIT testing are complete. The electrical work, minus the generator, is done. Paramedic school is in its second trimester which ends next week and class will finish at the end of April. We will also have a site visit at the end of April for final approval on accreditation. In the future, we will submit data every year with a site visit every two to three years.

He participated in a meeting today on improving radio communication, particularly in the Bagdad area. T-Mobile and Starlink came up with a solution being tested in the Verde Valley and by CAFMA. It involves a modem and MDT for use in areas out of radio range enabling talking to dispatch by satellite. Our mechanics will install the components. The cost is $2,200 per unit. FMI is aware of the cost. This project involves 10 units - 4 engines; 3 rescues; Chiefs Tunis, Love, and Smith vehicles; and BC vehicle.

A heart monitor is needed for the new engine in Bagdad to put it in service. A factory refurbished unit is $21,000. The mechanics will re-send him information on available water tenders. There were two 2018 refurbished water tenders available for $50,000.

The brush pile is back open after being burned off last week. The annual engine boss meeting was held. Engine bosses are certified by the State to take an engine to wildland fires. All other wildland personnel are certified in house. We had two ladders fail in our recent ladder testing. The failures were not catastrophic and the ladders were sent out to be repaired by a certified ladder repair shop.

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. Chief Smith will look into a couple of entries on the financial report involving reimbursement from Congress Fire and Crown King Fire. Overtime and Consortium overhead expenses were also discussed.

6. **Consent Agenda**
    a. **Accept General Meeting Minutes of January 19, 2026**
    b. **Approve payment of $12,084.79 to Image Tech for Record Management (Bagdad) and $5,179.20 (WVFD)**
    c. **Approve payment of $ 8,595.68 to Mayer Fire District for Vehicle repairs (Bagdad)**
    d. **Approve payment of $ 9,149.04 to Niles Radio for mobile radios for new Bagdad engine (Bagdad)**

    Upon a motion by Board Member McKelvey, seconded by Board Member Austermiller, the Board unanimously approved 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.**
    None

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

    Chief Tunis indicated at last week's FMI meeting the Safety Department advocated for a separate new fire station at the new security gate and not remodeling the current station. That is strategic as we could deploy to the mine in one direction and to the 2,000 person housing development in the opposite direction. They are working on the plans for the new security gate and have asked for our documentation again as they want to ensure we are part of that. There were no standby hours in January. He is now compiling the data in a bar graph for a better visual understanding. Board Members thought the end of August or early September would work to tour the mine.

    b. **Discussion and possible action: Electrical work for the station.**

    All work is done except for the generator. Chief Smith noted everything worked at the pancake breakfast. Board Member Hunter has not yet inspected the work and will check on the generator permit.

10. **New Business:**
    a. **Discussion and possible action: Review and approve results of the audit.**
    The auditor will present the audit to the Board at the March meeting or the Board can hold a special meeting. However, she will turn in the report to the County by the end of month as required.

    b. **Discussion and possible action: Review and approve Yarnell Management/ Shared Chief agreement.**
    Chief Smith indicated the benefit of a management agreement with Yarnell Fire is that it is next door to a district we already manage and, in several instances, have responded because of the type of incident. They have two full-time employees and the station is similar to 91 but is not a mobile home. They have one engine, three water tenders and a brush truck. At its last meeting, Yarnell Fire Board approved pursuing a management agreement with WV.

    Board members agreed there was not a consensus at this time to have a management agreement with Yarnell Fire and suggested they look into being part of Peeples Valley Fire.

    c. **Discussion and possible action**: **Review and approve legal documents from Barrett & Matura P.C. regarding VFIS settlement.**
    Chief Smith provided an update on the proposed settlement.

11. **Future Agenda Items discussion: Board members suggest future agenda items.**
    Audit
    Legal issue update
    Budget FY 2026-27

12. **Adjournment**
    Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

    APPROVED

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    Board Chairman

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    Board Clerk