



## **Williamson Valley Fire District**

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### **GENERAL SESSION MINUTES August 18, 2025**

**1. Call to Order**

Meeting called to order at 6:37 p.m.

**2. Pledge of Allegiance**

**3. Roll Call of Board Members**

Present: Board Chairman Price; Board Members Austermler, 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.**

We are a month into being dispatched by PRCC and things are going pretty well. There were small, lightning-caused brush fires last month. There were 30 calls and we are well past that so far this month. We are now simultaneously dispatched with CAFMA to Talking Rock. Members were off district on the Dragon Fire and Chief Love was on the Washington Fire in Payson. The leased Bagdad engine is in the shop with a brake problem. It may be October before the truck purchased for Bagdad is ready as they are waiting on a part. We cannot get reimbursed by FMI until it is on site.

Board Member Harbicht asked if our wildland reimbursement is affected by the changes in the Federal government over the past seven months. Chief Smith explained federal fire departments were consolidated. However, we get paid by the State of Arizona under a Cooperators Agreement. Reimbursement can take 90-120 days but currently it is around 30 days.

Firefighter recruitment is underway. Applications closed on Friday and we had 44 applicants.

Board Member Austermler asked about the new consortium website. There is some confusion about different addresses and contact information. She asked if the entire group was sharing in the cost. Chief Smith noted it is being cleaned up now that we can see it on the website. The districts will reimburse WV for their share of the cost which will be split five ways – WV, WV-Bagdad, MFD, CKFD, and CFD. On boarding was \$15,000 and there is a monthly cost.

WVFD and MFD's Congressionally directed spending grant requests for fire stations were recommended by Senators Kelley and Gallego; however, we received word Congress is not funding any fire station grants.

CAFMA is hosting a special districts summit with Senator Ruben Gallego and Representative Eli Crane on the challenges facing fire districts and special districts.

Board Member Hunter will develop a list of items for licensed electrical engineers/contractors to review in order to provide estimates to upgrade the electrical system at Station 91. Items might include new 200 amp service to tie generator into the station building, bring what we have now up to code, clean up what was done before, possibility of a new backup generator, additional outlets for the pancake breakfast, etc. He and Chief Smith will coordinate the site inspections with engineers/contractors.

**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 July 21, 2025 WVFD Board Meeting.**
- b. **Approve payment of \$52,772.53 to Blue Cross Blue Shield for health insurance for WVFD, Mayer, Crown King, and Congress.**
- c. **Approve payment of \$8,643.38 to Wells Fargo Business Card for mostly vehicle repairs.**
- d. **Approve payment of \$6,053.61 to CAFMA for h/w, s/w and radios related to dispatch changes.**

Upon a motion by Board Member Austermler, seconded by Board Member Hunter, 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.**

The firefighter union is here to show support.

**9. Old Business:**

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

The contract has been approved and signed by Corporate and returned to Bagdad for signatures but has not been given to us yet. The man camp is supposed to be announced with 2X Bagdad which still has not been officially announced. Structures are coming in now and they are still planning for 2,000 occupants which will ramp up the call volume. FMI requested Sharp containers be placed all around town and are aware the total cost will be around \$20,000 per year for 54 containers. Fire Marshal reviewed the proposed remodel of the steakhouse. Before they get a permit FMI needs to add sprinklers, etc. for which they are getting quotes.

Chairman Price asked when the contract is received it be sent to the Board members electronically so they have a chance to review.

**10. New Business:**

- a. **Discussion and possible action: Review and approve the Inter Government Agreement for dispatch service (if available).**

Not available

**b. Discussion and possible action: Review and approve the new FMI contract (if available).**  
Not available

**c. Discussion and possible action: Review costs associated with paramedic school.**  
The first class started two fiscal years ago and the second class last fiscal year. There were 13 students in the first class - four from our districts and nine paid and 17 in the second class – three from our districts, 13 paid and one student dropped. For the initial class we received \$20,000 from Yavapai Prescott Tribe and last year it was \$10,000. The donation from Talking Rock’s event last year and any donation this year will also go to the paramedic program. Paramedic program cost to date is \$143,000 with grants or \$173,000 without. Costs include fees for program director and instructors, books, misc. medical supplies and restock, background checks, and accreditation fees. Instructor costs are offset by using on-duty members. If our seven members went through an outside program like Yavapai College it would have cost \$60,000 in tuition and books. In addition to the recurring costs, other costs will fluctuate, i.e., replacing manikins, tables, etc. The intent is not to make a profit, just break even.

Our first attempt pass rate is 86% which is above national average and accreditation average. There are other benchmarks which have also been met. The accreditation walk-through will be next April or May. At that time, we will have three completed classes worth of data.

Chairman Price asked Board members to identify other different areas to review. Identified were wildland, apparatus and vehicles, EMS supplies/drugs.

**d. Discussion and possible action: Renewing the Arizona Mutual Aid Compact.**  
This has been around for about 25 years. Should a department wish to get reimbursed, there now is a mechanism (Appendix A) similar to wildland billing.

Upon a motion by Board Member Hunter, seconded by Board Member Austermiller, the Board unanimously approved renewing the Arizona Mutual Aid Compact.

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

- Update on Station 91 electrical upgrade
- PRCC contract
- Review of all EMS costs

**12. Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 8:11 p.m.

APPROVED

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Board Chairman

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Board Clerk