Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Verde Valley Fire District Held March 24, 2026

A Regular Meeting of the Verde Valley Fire District Board of Directors was held on March 24, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. in person at Station 31, 2700 E. Godard Road, Cottonwood, Arizona and electronically (via Zoom).

Board of Directors:
Coleen Gilboy, Chairman
Donald Peck, Board Clerk
Robert Brummett
Kenneth Bishop
Nicholas Brunori (absent)

Staff Present:
Danny Johnson, Fire Chief (via Zoom)
Lisa Elliott, Administrative Manager
Ashley Hammond, Administrative Specialist
Ted Koehler, Fire Inspector
Cody Harkey, Battalion Chief
Jonathan Pizzi, Captain / Union VP Local 3690 (via Zoom)
Zach Morgan, Firefighter (via Zoom)

Others Present:
None

CALL TO ORDER – The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Board Chairman Gilboy.

ROLL CALL – All members were present; a quorum was present.

ORDER OF THE AGENDA – Discussion and consideration of changing the order of the agenda.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG – Those present stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the American flag.

MOMENT OF SILENCE – A moment of silence for firefighters who have lost their lives. A moment of silence was observed for the 4 firefighters who lost their lives in the line of duty in 2026 to date.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC – None.

Consent Agenda – DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

A. **Minutes** – Discussion and consideration of the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on February 24, 2026.

Board Member Bishop made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Board Clerk Peck seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORTS – Discussion and consideration of the financial report for the previous month (including ambulance billing). Administrative Manager Lisa Elliott reviewed the written financial reports noting the following:

- The month ending February 28, 2026 is the eighth month of the fiscal year (FY2025-2026), which equates to 67% of the year-to-date budget.

- Total cash in the General Fund is $4,959,918.68 (does not include the PSPRS COP Contingency Reserve Fund).
- Health, dental, vision, etc. have been paid in March 2026. The other payroll liabilities are being reconciled through payroll corrections.
- Decrease in cash of $424,776 for the month of February.
- Positive cash flow of $1,609,728 for the fiscal year.
- Cash flows show that they are adequate to fund the fiscal year's operations.
- FY2025-2026 Property Tax Revenues received: $77,430.94
- Fire District Assistance Tax (FDAT) Revenues received: $6,440.55.
- The following account explanations are for items occurring within the month of February 2026:
    - Page 7 Account 01-6500-654201 Turn-Outs – Purchased 8 coats and 7 pair of pants.
    - Page 8 Account 01-6600-667109, 01-6600-667112, 01-6600-667113 – Annual PM and inspections.
    - Page 9 Account 01-6800-684101 Mobile Radios – 2 mobile radios.
    - Page 10 Account 01-7000-750000 Arizona State Grants – Recoding expenses to Fire Incident Management Grant.
    - Page 10 Account 01-7000-751000 Fire Incident Management Grant – Incident Management Software subscription, Starlink kits, and installation, and Toughbooks.
- Total operating-only expenditures ONLY (excluding Contingency, Grants, Other Financing Uses) are 14.87% lower than the year-to-date allocation.
- Total General Fund expenditures are 19.63% lower than the year-to-date allocation. Total year-to-date expenditures are shown on page 10 of the Monthly Financials – Detail report.
- The District has collected $5,094,285 (66%) of the FY2025-2026 budgeted Property Tax Revenues.
- For the month of February 2026, there were 121 billable calls. This is a increase of 10 billable calls from the prior month and a year-to-date increase of 99 billable calls from the same timeframe in FY2024-2025.
- Ambulance cash collections of $92,236,96 were received. Year-to-date cash collections have increased $258,680 compared to the same timeframe in FY2024-2025.
- Total Ambulance Billing Receivables were $504,692.83, an increase of $15,747.40 from the prior month.
- For the month of February 2026, $132.36 was sent to collections, $0.00 was received. The total amount at collections is $236,445.37.
- Crews have deployed five (5) assignments through February 28, 2026.
    - Payment has been received for all five (5) deployments.

Board Clerk Peck made a motion to approve the Financial Report. Board Member Bishop seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT – A report from the Chairperson on their recent activities for the District.
None

BOARD MEMBER REPORTS – Reports from members of the Board on their recent activities for the District.
None

UNION REPORT – A report from the District representative of the Sedona-Verde Valley Firefighters Association on current events and activities for the past month.

Union Vice President Pizzi reported that the first Yavapai County Labor Management Meeting was held in early March and went very well. The meeting provided an opportunity to connect with other labor leaders and fire

chiefs throughout Yavapai County, with productive discussions focused on collaboration, streamlining processes, and identifying ways to better support one another.

He also reported that Labor continues to work on the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and is aiming to present it to the Board at the May Board meeting.

Additionally, he shared that he will be attending the IAFF Strive for Excellence Summit and is looking forward to the union leadership training opportunities being offered. He added that Firefighter Morgan will attend a Union Political Action training hosted by the Professional Fire Fighters of Arizona (PFFA) next month.

FIRE INSPECTOR REPORT – A report from the Fire Inspector, discussion, and possible action regarding current events and activities, including: Public education, fire prevention, meetings and events attended, training, permits issued and closed, significant projects, and inspections.

Fire Inspector Koehler presented the monthly statistics:

New Permits: 4 Solar
Complaints: 3 total – 0 Invalid, 0 – Referred to County
Inspections: 13
Open Inspections: 27
General correspondence including site visits, emails, phone calls, and letters: 0
Residential Knox Box Installs: 0
Re-inspections: 8
Smoke Alarms: 0
Sprinkler Finals: 3
Sprinkler Rough-in: 1
Flow Test: 1

Fire Inspector Koehler reported that several projects are currently underway or in review within Clarkdale. The Clarkdale Apartments are under construction, and Highlands at Clarkdale is in the pre-plan stage. The Clarkdale Newsstand and associated apartments are also under construction. Tuzigoot Storage is in the preliminary phase, while U-Haul has pulled a temporary permit. Circle K is in the conditional use permit process, and an assisted living project is undergoing new site development review.

FIRE CHIEF REPORT – A report from the Fire Chief, discussion and possible action regarding current events and his recent activities, including: National Line of Duty Firefighter deaths; meetings and events attended; human resource updates; finance and grant updates; special projects/other updates; wildland assignments and mutual aid; out-of-District calls; County and State updates; AFDA updates; and other potential updates.

Chief Johnson thanked the Board for allowing him to attend the meeting remotely, as he and fifteen (15) fire chiefs from around the state had the opportunity to participate in a mental health training for fire chiefs.

Chief Johnson reported that he had the opportunity to travel to Washington, D.C., on behalf of the Arizona Fire Service Leadership Delegation. He stated that it was a valuable opportunity to meet with representatives and senators to discuss the needs of the fire service and fire districts across the state. He noted that the meetings went well and that there was general alignment among those involved, with a shared focus on addressing fire district funding issues.

- Human Resources

- We have nine (9) new hires beginning on April 7, 2026.
  - Five (5) CCFMD, four (4) VVFD
- VVFD held an Engineer testing process
  - Six (6) firefighters successfully passed.
- The Captain testing process will take place in early April.

- Finance / Grants
  - Firehouse Subs grant was submitted for turnouts.
    - The District requested $20,531.27 to purchase four (4) sets of turnouts (jackets and pants).
  - The District is in the process of applying for the Gila River Indian Community, CDS FY26, and Rural Health grants.
  - Budget processes and MOU negotiations have begun.
- Special Projects / Other
  - GO Bond
    - Bonds went to market on March 4, 2026. We received seventy-nine (79) separate orders from various institutional investors totaling $40.6 million, or 4x the number of orders. Solid book of sophisticated investors who respected the District's A+ credit with the AA insurance product, which saved approximately $200,000 in net present value savings to the District. Due to the geopolitical situation, there was also a "flight to quality," which likely helped the demand. Interest rates were projected at 5%, we were able to get 4.1%.
  - Communications
    - The District continues to look for data options for the technological needs of the District.
    - Meeting with DPS on March 23, 2026.
      - Chief Johnson stated it was a great meeting that provided a potential opportunity to avoid rebuilding a new system by utilizing their existing system, making necessary updates and improvements, and connecting to the State's network.
- Wildland Assignments / Mutual Aid
  - There were 0 wildland assignments for the month.
- Out of District Calls
  - Total OOD responses to date in March: 0
- Arizona Legislative
  - The 57th Arizona Legislature, 2nd Regular Session, convened on January 12, 2026. Chief Johnson stated that the Legislation is starting to see that we have a fire district problem.
  - Bill activity this week: 1,966 bills posted: 15 transmitted to the Governor, 3 signed, 12 vetoed.
  - Key Dates
    - Friday, March 27: Last day for a bill to be heard in a committee in the opposite chamber.
    - Friday, April 17: Last day for conference committees.
    - Tuesday, April 21: 100th day of session.
    - Saturday, April 25: Target adjournment sine die date on the published session timeline.
- 2026 Fire Service Legislation – AFDA Active Engagement
  - SB 1504 – PSPRS; service requirement; cost-of-living adjustment
  - HB 2917 – Firefighter cancer registry
  - HB 2641 – PFAS; firefighter foam; prohibition
  - HB 2231 – Firefighters; occupational disease; adenocarcinoma
  - SB 1216 – Traumatic event counseling
  - HB 2795 – Small modular reactors; zoning; approval

OLD BUSINESS

Joint Powers Authority (JPA) – Discussion and update regarding Joint Powers Authority (JPA) with Copper Canyon Fire & Medical District.

Chief Johnson stated that a special joint meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 31, 2026, at 4:00 PM. He expressed his appreciation for the Board's willingness to accommodate the scheduling.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution 2026-03 FY2025-2026 Budget Reallocation – Discussion and possible adoption of Resolution 2026-03 approving the reallocation of budgeted funds in the FY2025-2026 Budget.

Administrative Manager Lisa Elliott stated that Arizona Revised Statutes requires proceeds from General Obligation Bonds to be deposited into the agency's Capital Fund. She noted that the FY2025-2026 Budget had originally included these funds in the Debt Service Fund. Resolution 2026-03 reallocates the budget appropriation for the General Obligation Bonds to the Capital Fund. She emphasized that this reallocation will not increase the overall budget or exceed the expenditure limitation established during the adoption of the Tentative Budget.

Board Member Brummett made a motion to adopt Resolution 2026-03 approving the reallocation of budgeted funds in the FY2026-2026 Budget. Board Member Bishop seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS – A listing of items to be placed on a future agenda.
Chief Johnson stated that he will be unable to attend the April Board meeting and will have a designee handle the Chiefs' report and conduct any business on his behalf.

ADJOURNMENT. With no further business before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

Submitted By:

Ashley Hammond, Administrative Specialist

Approved:

Coleen Gilboy, Board Chairman

Attest:

Donald Peck, Board Clerk