



# SCAPPOOSE FIRE DISTRICT

P.O. BOX 625 SCAPPOOSE, OREGON 97056

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## Scappoose Rural Fire District Board of Directors Regular Meeting Thursday, February 13, 2025 Microsoft Teams meeting

**Call to Order & Flag Salute** – President Reeves called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm and led the flag salute.

**Roll Call** – President Reeves, Director Graham, Director Sorenson, Director Kriek, Director Gift, Chief Pricher, FF Cardoos, FA Booth, Lt. DuBois, Lt. Heuer, FF Wenner. This meeting was virtual due to weather conditions.

**Public Comment** – No public comment.

### Consent Agenda

Approve Minutes from 1-9-25 regular meeting – No comments or questions.

Approve Jan. 2025 Profit & Loss Detail – Director Sorenson asked about a payment to Target Solutions, Chief Pricher explained that it is an annual subscription for a training platform. Director Sorenson also asked what the \$17,805 payment to Cascade Training Center is. Chief Pricher explained that every two years, the staff must go through Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS), Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS), and CPR certification, and that is the contractor we use. Director Gift asked about overpayments and insurance reimbursements. Chief Pricher explained that the overpayments were due to four people exceeding the threshold of Oregon Paid Family Medical Leave (OPFML) and too much money being taken out of their paychecks. FA Booth explained that insurance reimbursements happen now and then and are due to patients and or insurance companies paying the bill twice and needing to be reimbursed for it. Director Gift asked why our budget was over on Property and Liability Insurance. FA Booth explained that insurance rates went up, as well as the District updated the fleet by adding new apparatus and light-duty vehicles. Director Kriek asked what the PGE Cleetwood bill is for. Chief Pricher let him know that it was for the Holbrook station, which is on Cleetwood Avenue.

Approve Jan. 2025 Budget vs. Actual – Director Sorenson asked if Chief Pricher could explain again why the District has collected over budget on property taxes. Chief Pricher explained that it is due to us receiving about \$850,000 in tax revenue because of

Cascade Tissue going into default due to Enterprise Zone regulations. These are back taxes that were paid. The staff recommendation is to do nothing with it for the time being in case it has to be repaid. For now, it will be in our Local Government Investment Pool (LGIP) account until it has to be repaid, or we can use it.

Director Graham moved to approve the consent agenda. Director Sorenson seconded the motion. All in favor. **The motion passed unanimously.**

### **Statistical Data**

Ambulance Activity Report – Director Gift noted a drop in the “disallowed” portion of the ambulance activity report. Chief Pricher explained that the ambulance activity isn’t always accurate and that it’s best to look a couple of months ahead.

Community Paramedic Report – Director Graham asked if the district is still moving forward with hiring a second Community Paramedic. Chief Pricher answered that yes, late last week, they conducted a Chief’s interview and are in the final stages of putting out an offer letter. In the next few months, you will probably be hearing from them.

Response Activity Report – Chief Pricher noted that we are increasing in call volume year over year. Overlapping calls are where we are having some issues. Director Sorenson asked if the strikes at the hospitals were affecting our transport times. Chief Pricher answered that yes, the turnaround time has seen a slight increase.

UAS Flight Summary – Chief Pricher noted that in the last week of January, the district was asked for help from Clackamas County to respond with mutual aid, and we flew for six hours.

### **Staff Reports**

Chief’s Report – Director Gift asked about outsourcing the upfitting for the utility vehicle, what costs will be associated with it, and if it is in the budget. Chief Pricher answered that yes, we have the budget for it, but we don’t know the costs yet. We have gotten two quotes and are seeking a third. Director Graham asked what the upfitting is. Chief Pricher explained that it is radios, lights, fuse boxes, etc.

Operations & EMS Report – Director Gift asked if there is an update on how LifePaks is working with ImageTrend. Chief Pricher explained that it is still a work in progress. All staff have been training on the LifePaks. When the staff went through ACLS and PALS training, they were up and running so everyone could get some hands-on practice. Director Sorenson asked if there is any update on the ASA with the County. Chief Pricher answered that the district is still in the contract negotiation phase with the county. Chief Pricher had a conversation with a member of the public health staff on 2/12. Our attorney is currently going through the original draft of the contract, and the county’s attorney is going through and re-writing the contract, so we are waiting on the county.

Fire Marshal & Training Report – Director Gift noted a typo in the Fire Marshal’s report. It will get fixed, and we will update the packet.

Member Outreach – The board noted how busy the member outreach position has been. Chief Pricher gave kudos to Henry for working hard and helping out wherever he could.

Finance Report – Director Gift asked why the Administration is over budget at 61%. Chief Pricher answered that it is due to a lot of factors, some of which are bringing on a consultant for financial planning, attorney fees, and fees associated with bringing on another community paramedic. FA Booth explained that all insurance reimbursements also come out of the Admin line item.

### **Old Business**

A. Board Policy 4.8 (Non-Represented Wage Scale)- According to the policy, the Chief Pricher needs to deliver to the Board the non-represented wage scale. Chief Pricher explained that until labor negotiations are complete, we will not have an accurate wage scale to deliver. Director Gift asked if he could see the current salaries and benefits. Chief Pricher recommended that the board make a motion if they would like to see the current salaries and benefits. The board declined but did give the okay for Director Gift to sit down with Chief Pricher to go over the current salaries and benefits.

### **Committee Reports**

Management Team – Director Graham explained that the High School Program, annual report, California fires, evacuation planning, ASA, and financial hardship waivers (3) were discussed.

Strategic Planning Committee – Did not meet. This committee will likely meet after the levy guidance has been discussed.

### **Miscellaneous-**

Financial Hardship Waivers- Director Sorenson moved to approve the financial hardship waivers. Director Krieck seconded. All in favor. The motion carried unanimously.

### **New Business**

A. Turnout Purchase Proposal- The Chief’s purchase authority is \$20,000. This purchase proposal exceeds that amount. This purchase is part of the SAFER grant. The grant allows us to purchase 20 sets of turnouts over the life of the grant. This purchase proposal is for eight (8) sets of turnouts. Director Krieck

moved to approve the purchase proposal of \$29,859.52 for eight sets of structural turnouts. Director Sorenson seconded. Director Graham asked if there was going to be a freight charge. Chief Pricher pointed to page 60, where the quote states that the pricing does not include shipping. Director amended his motion to include shipping costs as well. Director Sorenson seconded. All in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Levy Renewal Guidance- The District is trying to give enough time for four attempts before needing to go out for a new levy. The document highlights why we need a levy and what the levy covers. We are hoping to use the language "continuation" instead of "renewal" of the levy. The request for Ballot Title must be submitted to the County by February 28<sup>th</sup>. The ballot title language has not been run by our attorney yet; we wanted the Board to be able to give input first. We are looking for the board to not only approve to move forward with the levy continuation but also to work with staff if the board feels there should be any content changes to what is being proposed. Director Sorenson asked if the next step would be to run the verbiage by the district's attorney once it is decided. Chief Pricher answered that yes, that is the next step, and the district will also run it by the Secretary of State's office before submitting it to the County. Director Gift asked if the ballot title is limited to 10 words, and Chief Pricher said yes. Director Gift and Director Sorenson pointed out that the current title could be considered 11 words, with "five-year" being hyphenated. Chief Pricher assured the board that we would have multiple people look it over before submitting it to the county to ensure everything is correct. Director Gift asked if there is a backup ballot title if the current one does not work. Chief Pricher answered yes, it could be changed to "Continuation of Five-Year Local Option Levy for General Operation." Director KriECK moved to have Scappoose Fire District staff continue to work on the five-year levy being placed on the ballot. Director Sorenson seconded. All in favor. The motion carried unanimously.

C. Major Budget Item Discussion- We are considering a couple of items that could come out of Capital Outlay next year, the first being firefighter self-rescue or "bail-out kits" for firefighters to use to exit a building in an extreme emergency. The cost of outfitting all of our staff would be about \$40,000 to \$50,000 to outfit every firefighter with about 50ft. of high heat-resistant cordage. Staff can bring in a kit for the board to see at the budget hearing and do a presentation. The next major budget item to discuss is to update rain jackets. The district does not currently have enough jackets for all members. Director KriECK noted that he would like to see the kits/presentation when they are available. Chief Pricher

offered for board members to stop by the station to see the kits. Director Gift asked if the bail-out kits were incorporated into the firefighter's jackets. Chief Pricher answered no, they are not. We would be looking to do this in two phases; the first is replacing all the belts in bunker pants that are rated for repelling, and the second part is a leg strap that would attach to it. We are holding off on that purchase for now. Director Gift asked what the life expectancy is, and Chief Pricher answered that he was unsure.

**Communications-** The Oregon Department of Forestry reached out to the district for assistance. They are going through a training program where they need to use a specific aircraft, but they do not own one. They asked to borrow ours. Their risk management put together an agreement that states if they break our aircraft, they will buy us a new one. They also must use our record-keeping system so we can track everything. The second item is a briefing paper that Chief Pricher was asked to put together as the International Association of Fire Chiefs representative with the National Wildfire Coordination Group. This was presented last January in Boise, ID. This was successful with all the land management agencies. These documents are purely informational; no action is needed. Director Gift asked if there was a timeframe for ODF to replace the aircraft if anything were to happen. Chief Pricher answered that if there is not, we will try to get the document updated with a timeframe.

**Good of the Order** – Director Sorenson asked when the Awards Banquet is, and Chief Pricher answered that it is Saturday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> at 5:00 pm. Director Kriek noted “Coffee with the Chief” on February 20<sup>th</sup>. Chief Pricher is going to be available to answer any questions that the community has.

**Adjourn** – The meeting adjourned at 8:09 pm.

**Pursuant to ORS 192.640(1), the Board of Directors for the Scappoose Fire District reserves the right to consider and discuss, in either open session or Executive Session, additional subjects which may arise after the agenda is published. Pursuant to ORS 192.640(1), the Board of Directors for the Scappoose Fire District reserves the right to consider and discuss, in either open session or Executive Session, additional subjects which may arise after the agenda is published.**

  
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Dave Sorenson, Secretary-Treasurer

Date

Submitted by Karleigh Booth