

# NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETING SAINT DAVID FIRE DISTRICT

Under A.R.S. 38-431.02 notice is hereby given to the members of the Saint David Fire District Board and to the general public that the Board will hold a **REGULAR** meeting open to the public on February 27, 2025, beginning at 07:00 pm at the **Cowboy Church**, 106 S Lee Street St David, AZ 85630.

## OPENING OF THE MEETING

- A. Call to Order
- B. Roll Call
- C. Adoption of the Agenda

The Governing Board reserves the right to reschedule, delete, or arrange items on the agenda to conduct business efficiently.

Time: 7:08  
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 Katie Miller: X  
 Jeff Grant: X  
 Robin Goodman: X  
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## CALL TO THE PUBLIC

This is the time for the public to comment. Members of the Board may not discuss items that are not specifically identified on the agenda. Therefore, pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.01(H), action taken because of public comment will be limited to directing staff to study the matter, responding to any criticism or scheduling the matter for further consideration and decision at a later date.

## APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Review, discussion, and possible action regarding the Minutes of the January 28, 2025, of the Regular Meeting.

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## REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

### A. Chief's Report

Fire Chief Andrew Krebs will present a summary of recent administrative and operational activities at SDFD, including information regarding incident response, training, vehicle and facility maintenance, legislative issues, and/or other relevant topics.

### B. Treasurer's Report

Staff will provide a summary of the district's financial activities.

## OLD BUSINESS

- A. **Repair of the Pump of Tender** Motion to replace the bottom plate rather than the whole pump.  
Review and possible action the status of the repairs of T281 and revisit pump issues
- B. **5 Member Board**  
Review and possible action changing the board to a 5 member board
- C. **Standard Operating Guidelines**  
Review and possible action revisiting the SOG
- D.
- E.

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## NEW BUSINESS

- A. **Application for inspection of local business and equipment** Motion to Adpot  
Review and possible action adapting a system for tracking inspections
- B. **Air medvac Account** Motion to in to an agreement with PHI, and Air Med Care for member of the department and board  
Review and possible action on entering an agreement with medvac companies
- C. **Budget Adjustments**  
Review and possible action adjusting budgetary items for FY2024-2025
- D. **3rd Party Billing Company** Montion to drop Fire REcovery USA  
Review and possible action renewing or discontinuing the agreement with Fire Recovery USA
- F.
- E. **Items for Future Meetings**

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## ADJOURNMENT

Dated this 25 day of January-2025 for the regular meeting to be held of February 27, 2025

Time: 7 : 47

## GOVERNING BOARD OF THE SAINT DAVID FIRE DISTRICT

\*Pursuant to A.R.S. §38-431.03 (A)(1), Discussion or consideration of employment, assignment, appointment, promotion, demotion, dismissal, salaries, disciplining or resignation of a public officer, appointee or employee of any public body, except that, with the exception of salary discussions, an officer, appointee or employee may demand that the discussion or consideration occur at a public meeting.

# Feb Meeting

Meeting date: February 25, 2026, 07:03 pm

## General Summary

- **Emergency Calls Summary:** 21 calls since last meeting; includes 6 mutual aid calls and notable incidents like a semi fire.
- **Killer Bee Preparedness:** Five bee suits procured; training planned to enhance safety against aggressive bee incidents.
- **Emergency Vehicle Maintenance:** Partnership with local mechanic reduces travel costs and improves operational readiness for emergency responses.
- **Grant Applications Planned:** Applying for \$5,000 grant in March for traffic cones; local training scheduled for March 7th.
- **Strategic Consolidation Discussed:** Combining budgets with nearby agencies could improve resources; requires agreement from all boards involved.
- **Operational Guidelines Update:** New "District Operating Guidelines" aim to replace outdated SOPs for clearer operational expectations.

## Action items

### Alex Pope

- Coordinate with Bri and IMD to schedule killer bee educational review for district personnel (09:02)
- Submit application for Legacy Foundation grant to procure traffic cones and signs for local emergency vehicle training (13:45)
- Confirm grant reimbursement from Phillips for monitors and initiate replacement ordering process (13:45)
- Notify Northern County EMS about upcoming monastery event on March 7th that may impact traffic (15:28)
- Collect further information from Phoenix Valley Fire Chief on consolidation; collaborate with Chief Foster for details (15:29)
- Work with flood district contact to explore grant writing assistance opportunities (22:43)

- Organize and lead work session on March 13th to develop and review District Operating Guidelines (31:02)
- Schedule board and work session meetings for April and May, accommodating participant availability and legal posting requirements (32:39)
- Inform former member of board decision denying reinstatement (27:20)

## Notes

### Operational Incident and Safety Updates

- The team addressed recent emergency calls and safety concerns, especially regarding new hazards like killer bees.
- **Summary of Recent Emergency Calls and Mutual Aid involved 21 calls since the last meeting, including 6 mutual aid calls and notable incidents like a semi fire and a residential fire (06:36)**
  - A SWAT standby was required for an attempted murder involving gunfire and prolonged standoff resolved with CS gas
  - Assistance was provided to Green Killer Bee incidents where bees swarmed during tree cutting, highlighting new local hazards
  - The district procured **five bee exposure suits** after discovering existing gear was unsuitable for bee-related calls
- **Killer Bee Education and Preparedness** is underway to improve first responder safety with expert-led training planned (09:02)
  - Plans include a CE webinar by a knowledgeable local expert to prepare the team for bee incidents
  - The strategy focuses on protection rather than removal since bees are invasive and aggressive, posing significant risks
  - Awareness shared about the dangers of disturbing hives due to pheromone release and attack behavior
- **Emergency Vehicle Maintenance and Local Mechanics Partnership** enhances operational readiness while reducing downtime (12:10)
  - A local mechanic nearing NFPA emergency vehicle technician certification will enable in-district maintenance and reduce costly travel
  - This new capability will save on labor and travel costs, keeping vehicles available for emergency response
  - The district is actively pursuing grants to fund vehicle and equipment upkeep, including traffic control gear for training

## Training, Grants, and Resource Planning

- The board focused on training improvements and grant opportunities to boost operational capacity and training autonomy.
- **Training Program Expansion and Grant Applications** aim to build local capabilities and reduce reliance on distant courses (13:45)
  - Plan to apply for a **\$5,000 Legacy foundation grant in March** to fund traffic cones and signs for emergency vehicle operations courses onsite
  - Training includes wildland refresher courses involving local agencies scheduled for **March 7th**
  - Internal certifications and state testing progress reported, with some personnel close to passing or retaking exams
- **Grant Season Status and Funding Strategy** reflects careful targeting of funds to meet district priorities (22:43)
  - Considered AZ DFFM grants focusing on new trucks and skid units but currently limited by aging fleet status
  - Identified potential grant writing support through county connections to improve application success
  - Current truck fleet's age limits eligibility for certain grants until newer vehicles arrive, influencing priorities
- **Wildland Fire Response Capacity and Staffing Challenges** signal a need to adjust resource investment plans (25:57)
  - Low interest and scheduling conflicts reduce feasibility of wildland academy participation and wildland truck acquisition
  - Leadership concluded wildland trucks are a lower priority given current staffing and motivation levels
  - Emphasis shifting to retention, training, and eventual move toward paid personnel to stabilize workforce

## Strategic Consolidation and Long-Term Sustainability

- Discussions highlighted consolidation as a key strategy for financial stability and improved grant access.
- **Consolidation with Nearby Agencies Explored as Financial Solution** to maintain solvency and expand resources (16:45)
  - Consolidation would combine budgets, open access to larger grants, and enable paid staffing,

improving manpower challenges

- Success examples from Phoenix Valley shared, including smooth rank transfers and leadership adjustments
- All three boards (local and partner agencies) plus fire chiefs must agree for consolidation to proceed
- **Challenges and Considerations for Volunteer Departments** within consolidation plans were acknowledged (18:24)
  - Volunteer agencies face barriers due to smaller budgets and different operational models
  - The board emphasized the importance of collaboration and ongoing dialogue to navigate rural EMS funding struggles
  - Consolidation seen as the most viable approach to long-term survival and equipment funding

### **Governance, Scheduling, and Administrative Planning**

- The board finalized schedules and administrative procedures to improve operational efficiency and governance.
- **Meeting and Work Session Scheduling Set Through May** with flexible dates to accommodate members' availability and obligations (31:02)
  - Work sessions planned for **March 13th, April 12th, and May 17th**, all from 10 AM to 4 PM, focusing on district operating guidelines (DOG) development
  - Board meeting dates adjusted to avoid conflicts with holidays, including April 23rd and May 26th
  - Lunch arrangements planned during work sessions to maximize focus and minimize breaks
- **District Operating Guidelines (DOG) Development Prioritized** to replace outdated SOPs and improve clarity (32:39)
  - The group agreed to prefer "District Operating Guidelines" over "Standard Operating Procedures" to reflect flexibility and avoid punitive connotations
  - The goal is to complete the DOGs within three work sessions to better align operational expectations and improve compliance
  - Board emphasized the need for clear, written procedures that support consistent actions without harsh penalties
- **Member Reinstatement Request Denied** due to ongoing liability concerns (28:00)
  - Former member's request to rejoin was rejected unanimously for risk management reasons
  - The board prioritized district safety and liability avoidance over individual affiliation benefits

## Financial Overview and Equipment Investments

- The board reviewed recent financial expenditures and discussed ongoing equipment acquisition and maintenance.
- **Routine Financial Transactions and Equipment Payments** confirmed with focus on maintaining operational readiness (19:54)
  - Paid \$16,400 for monitors and \$14,000 for tender repairs, with the tender already used on three calls
  - Emphasis on keeping equipment functional to support rapid emergency response
- **Funding Priorities Reflect Current Equipment and District Needs** focusing on essentials over expansion (22:43)
  - No immediate plans for new wildland trucks due to budget and staffing constraints
  - Grant pursuit strategies prioritize smaller grants for training and maintenance rather than large vehicle purchases
  - Discussion noted truck fleet age reduces eligibility for some grant programs, influencing timing of new acquisitions

## Popular Topics

- **Summary: Review of recent 21 calls, mutual aid events, residential and semi fires, SWAT standby, and incidents requiring specialized PPE and procedures for safety.**
  - 21 calls reported since last meeting, including mutual aid responses.
  - Notable incidents: semi fire and residential fire with concurrent EMS calls.
  - SWAT standby and attempted murder scene required prolonged on-scene operations.
  - Need for appropriate PPE and protocol updates after hazardous (bee/hive) responses.
  - Killer bees / BE safety
- **Summary: Multiple bee-related responses highlighted risk of Africanized “killer” bees, ordering of protective BE suits, planned training, and guidance for safe patient care near hives.**
  - Dead cottonwood hive incident required specialized PPE; structure gear unsuitable.

- Five BE suits ordered; district preparing to be first in county with them.
- IMD to provide a killer-bee CE webinar and in-person review with subject-matter expert.
- Emphasis on protecting responders and patients; not removing hives or engaging bees.
- Grants and funding strategy
- Summary: Discussion of various grant opportunities (Legacy, AZDFM, AFG), grant-writing help, and prioritizing equipment purchases based on funding realities and vehicle ages.
  - Plan to apply for Legacy Foundation \$5,000 grant for EVOC cones/signs and local driver training.
  - AZDFM vehicle/skid opportunities noted but limited by district's lack of suitable chassis.
  - AFG/other larger grants considered; need to be grant-ready and possibly engage grant-writer.
  - Funding priorities debated: newer type 1 apparatus vs. wildland resources given costs and needs.
  - Consolidation with nearby agencies
- Summary: Exploring consolidation benefits—expanded grant access, pooled budgets, potential paid staffing—but requiring board/chief approvals and posing volunteer retention challenges.
  - Conversation with Phoenix Valley chiefs about successful consolidation models and documentation.
  - Consolidation could open more grant opportunities and support paid personnel.
  - Must be approved by boards and chiefs of participating districts; governance changes required.
  - Concerns about volunteer identity, staffing transitions, and small-district financial realities.

- Policies, training, scheduling
- Summary: Need to develop district operating guidelines (DOGs), schedule work sessions and training (wildland refresher, EVOC), and improve retention and internal training capacity.
- Plan multiple work sessions (10–4) to draft DOGs, SOP vs. SOG naming discussed.
- Wildland refresher scheduled; low staff interest and capability questioned.
- EVOC/driver training aimed to reduce travel by training locally after grant purchase.
- Focus on retention, creating training pipelines, and scheduling board/work-session dates.