

South Metro Fire Rescue Fire Protection District
Regular Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes
May 18, 2026

ATTENDEES:

Board Present:

Jim Albee, Chair
Renee Anderson, Vice Chair
William Shriver, Treasurer
Rich Sokol, Director - Remote
Phil McCart, Director

SMFR Executive Team Present:

John Curtis, Fire Chief
Stephanie Corbo – CFO Finance
Camie Chapman, Chief Human Resources Officer
Matt Weller, Deputy Chief – Internal Services
Allison Ullmer, Legal Counsel

Other Attendees:

SMFR Staff

Board Absent:

Sue Roche, Secretary - Excused Absence
Kevin Leung, Director - Excused Absence

SMFR Executive Team Absent:

Mike Dell'Orfano, Chief Government Affairs Officer
Kristin Eckmann, Deputy Chief – Communication
Jake Mayhew, Deputy Chief – Operations

MEETING CALL TO ORDER

Chair Albee called the Regular Meeting of the South Metro Fire Rescue Fire Protection District to order 6:09 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America was recited.

ROLL CALL

All board members were in attendance and present.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Motion: Director Shriver motioned to approve the agenda as presented. Vice Chair Anderson seconded the motion to approve. All members present were in favor, 0 opposed. The motion carried.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURE

Chair Albee asked if there were any changes to conflict of interest affirmation, no conflicts of interest were disclosed by members present:

- Director McCart – no changes
- Director Anderson – no changes
- Chair Albee- no changes
- Director Shriver – no changes
- Director Sokol – no changes
- Director Leung – Excused Absence
- Director Roche – Excused Absence

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PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment

CONSENT AGENDA

N/A

PRESENTATIONS

1. BC Services Ambulance Transport Billing Collections Annual Overview – Alexandra Slocum, Executive Vice President of Sales & Marketing, BC Services, presented a business review to the Board regarding its ongoing partnership with South Metro Fire, established in 2020. The presentation highlighted that more than \$2.5 million in delinquent revenue has been recovered to date, with an average recovery rate of 18.83% prior to statute expiration. BC Services reviewed its multi-channel communication strategy, including text messaging, email, mail, payment portals, and automated outreach campaigns designed to improve patient engagement and account resolution. Additional discussion focused on current inventory totals, settlement initiatives for aged accounts, litigation recovery efforts, and opportunities to improve revenue recovery through earlier account placement, enhanced coordination with Digitech, improved patient email capture, and potential implementation of Day 1 early-out services.

ACTION ITEMS

1. **South Metro Fire Recue DRAFT Q1 Financial Report** – Marina, Takacs, Accounting Manager- South Metro Fire Rescue presented the March 31, 2026, financial statements and provided an overview of first quarter financial performance. Total General Fund revenues were reported at approximately \$92.2 million, or 38.61% of budget, primarily driven by property tax collections totaling approximately \$83.3 million. General Fund expenditures totaled approximately \$44.9 million, or 22.37% of budget, resulting in revenues exceeding expenditures by approximately \$47.4 million for the first quarter. Fund balance in the General Fund was reported at approximately \$64.6 million at quarter end. The presentation included a review of salaries and benefits expenditures, capital project activity, property tax collections, investment performance, and economic conditions.

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ACTION ITEMS *(cont.)*

1. **South Metro Fire Rescue DRAFT Q1 Financial Report (cont.):** Capital project updates included ongoing planning and funding for the Fleet Center relocation, rebuild Station 33, facility maintenance projects, medic unit replacements, dispatch server replacements, bunker gear purchases, and other equipment replacement initiatives. Total capital purchases across all funds were reported at approximately \$22.5 million, with approximately \$667,000 expended year-to-date.

Marina Takacs also highlighted cost savings achieved through competitive solicitations, reporting approximately \$391,000 in projected 2026 savings and nearly \$1.9 million in projected five-year savings through vendor negotiations and procurement efforts by Bryan McClure, Procurement Specialist.

The investment report from Chandler Asset Management included an overview of current economic conditions, inflation trends, labor market activity, consumer confidence, and interest rate expectations impacting investment performance and financial markets.

Motion: Director McCart moved to approve the DRAFT Q1 Financial Report. Vice Chair Anderson seconded the motion. All members present were in favor 0 opposed. The motion carried.

2. **Contract Approval for South Metro Fire Station 41 Foundation Repair (Palace Construction)** – Matt Weller, Deputy Chief – South Metro Fire Rescue presented a contract for Board approval with Palace Construction for foundation repair work at Station 41.

Motion: Director Shriver moved to approve contract for Station 41 foundation repair. All members present were in favor, 0 opposed. The motion carried.

DISCUSSION/POTENTIAL ACTION ITEMS

N/A

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INFORMATION ITEMS

Correspondence items in the Board's packet are summarized below as well as other information items that were communicated:

1. **Legislative Update – Camile Driver, Lobbyist – 3015 Policy:** Camille Driver, Lobbyist, 3015 Policy, provided a legislative session update following the conclusion of the 2026 Colorado General Assembly. She reported that South Metro Fire Rescue engaged on 61 bills during the session, with 39 bills passing the legislature and 22 bills failing. It was noted that the legislative session was heavily impacted by the State's approximately \$1.4 billion budget deficit, which limited legislation with fiscal impacts and resulted in significant budget reductions, particularly within Medicaid programs.

Camille updated the Board and Staff that there are received updates on several fire and EMS related bills, including legislation extending State funding support for the Digital Trunked Radio System (DTRS) contract with Motorola, which passed with bipartisan support as part of a ten-year funding framework. She also discussed legislation designating EMS as an essential service, intended to support future funding opportunities through State agencies. Additional discussion included legislation related to workers' compensation and firefighter cancer trust programs, as well as wildfire and disaster mitigation legislation, including bills reallocating unused wildfire mitigation grant funding into emergency mitigation efforts. Discussion included concerns regarding implementation of the State Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) code board requirements, particularly related to outdated State wildfire mapping data and coordination challenges between local fire districts, municipalities, and the State. Camile Driver noted South Metro Fire Rescue have been actively engaged with bill sponsors, State agencies, and the Colorado Municipal League to address implementation concerns collaboratively.

Additional legislative updates included South Metro's involvement in legislation concerning electric vehicle battery recycling and disposal requirements, including ongoing concerns related to damaged EV battery handling and hazardous material classification. She also discussed support for legislation related to 911 wireless surcharge cleanup measures and childcare occupancy/fire code requirements for industrial spaces.

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INFORMATION ITEMS (cont.)

Correspondence items in the Board's packet are summarized below as well as other information items that were communicated:

1. Legislative Update – Camile Driver, Lobbyist – 3015 Policy (cont):

Camille also reviewed several proposed statewide ballot initiatives anticipated for the November election, including measures related to immigration, healthcare, Medicaid funding, transportation funding, and a proposed graduated income tax initiative intended to generate additional funding for public education. Discussion also included a proposed ballot measure involving a one-time \$400 million deposit into the State General Fund related to the State insurance program. Camille explained that the 2026 legislative session progressed more slowly than prior years due to the State's projected budget deficit and the expiration of federal COVID-related funding. She noted that proposed legislation with fiscal impacts exceeding approximately \$30,000, could pose significant challenges advancing through the Joint Budget Committee process, resulting in fewer bills being introduced and passed during the session.

Remarks:

Chief Curtis announced that communication regarding the annual Adopt-A-Highway/Roadway campaign will be distributed via email and will include a volunteer sign-up link for trash cleanup efforts along the DeKovend Park area bordering Arapahoe Road in Centennial, CO. Four cleanup events are scheduled throughout the year, beginning in May, with additional dates planned for August, October, and November.

Chief Curtis recognized the Training Division for its coordination and facilitation of the Command Academy, which prepared 32 personnel for future leadership and promotional opportunities within the organization. Chief Curtis noted the program was highly intensive and commended the Training Division for delivering a well-organized and effective leadership development experience designed to ensure participants are prepared for advancement into command and leadership roles.

Chief Curtis also referenced his gratefulness to participate in the STEM School Remembrance Walk held on May 7, 2026, noting the opportunity to engage with community leaders and healthcare partners regarding preparedness, resiliency, and the importance of planning for critical incident response and recovery efforts. He also shared that he enjoyed attending the South Metro Foundation Hockey Tournament and commended the outstanding talent and strong community participation showcased throughout the event.

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Remarks (cont.):

Mark Dzengelewski, Local 2086 President, recognized the South Metro Professional Firefighters Foundation Board, specifically Shawn Cummings, along with all volunteers who supported the hockey tournament held the previous weekend. Dzengelewski noted the event achieved record-breaking sales and participation levels, resulting in discussion of securing a larger venue for future tournaments. He further emphasized the Foundation's important role in providing assistance and support to firefighters and their families throughout Colorado and across the country during times of need.

Mark Dzengelewski also recognized Roxy Ligrani and his son, who attended the meeting. Ligrani provided an update regarding pending legislation related to firefighter cancer claims and workers' compensation, noting the legislation was introduced in response to ongoing concerns regarding challenges firefighters face when seeking cancer-related workers' compensation coverage. Ligrani acknowledged South Metro Fire Rescue's continued participation in the Cancer Trust and commitment to employee care and benefits, while also recognizing that many departments across the State continue to experience difficulties navigating cancer-related workers' compensation claims and coverage. His discussion emphasized the importance of continued advocacy and awareness regarding occupational cancer risks within the fire service, particularly in recognition of firefighters who have lost their lives to job-related cancer illnesses. He expressed that the legislation remains pending action and advised the organization will continue monitoring the bill and supporting efforts to improve firefighter protections and benefits statewide.

Director McCart informed Board and Staff that he did a ride along with Littleton Police Department a couple of Fridays ago. He emphasized the appreciation that the police department expressed to him for the partnership with South Metro Fire.

Vice Chair Anderson expressed her appreciation to the organization for all the hard work on such big calls coming through lately and expressed how fascinating it is to watch unfold.

Chair Albee announced that the Finance and Audit Committee conducted an initial review of the SMFR District's annual audit and governance letter with the external auditors. Chair Albee reported that the Board is anticipated to receive a clean audit opinion, with final draft audit documents expected to be distributed to Board members prior to the June 1, 2026, meeting, when the auditors will present the final audit report to the Board. He also shared the Committee reviewed ongoing work related to procurement policy updates and purchasing oversight processes. Discussion focused on refining procedures to ensure a more risk-based approach that better addresses procurement volume, operational efficiency, and areas of greatest financial exposure.

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Remarks (cont.):

Chair Albee also stated that the Committee also discussed preparation for the 2027 budget process, noting the first budget workshop is scheduled for **June 15, 2026**.

Chair Albee informed Staff that the Board had received a letter last meeting from a citizen regarding an inquiry related to ambulance transport charges and they are working on a response. Additionally, Chair Albee reviewed the City of Oklahoma council meeting packet and through 9,000 pages, he located a resolution that was being voted on to charge for **treatment in place** and is interested in and will be doing further research on this topic. Chief Curtis noted that this discussion is currently in place with Chief Dell'Orfano, and Camille Driver, Lobbyist, 3015 Policy looking into different avenues regarding this option.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chair Albee moved to enter executive session at 8:24 p.m. pursuant to § 24-6-402(4)(b), C.R.S., conferences with an attorney for the public entity to receive legal advice on specific legal questions, and pursuant to §24-6-402(4)(e), C.R.S., determining positions relative to matters that may be subject to negotiation, developing strategy for negotiations, and instructing negotiators regarding Station 15.

The executive session ended at 9:22 p.m. with no action.

NEXT MEETINGS

Regular Board of Directors' Meeting to be held on June 1, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. at 9195 E. Mineral Avenue, Centennial, CO 80112.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Albee adjourned the meeting at 9:22 p.m.

Attested By: 

Date: Jun 1, 2026