

Ridgway Fire Protection District

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

December 15, 2025

Upstairs Common Room, Ridgway Firehouse, 251 N Railroad Street, Ridgway, Colorado

CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

Meeting called to order at 5:00 pm by Board Chair, Christen Williams. Also, in attendance were board members Jamie Gomez, Adam Johnson, Terry Schuyler; District Administrator Katy LaSala; Fire Chief Chris Miller (via phone); and Legal Counsel Bo Nerlin.

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA INCLUDING ADDITIONS & DELETIONS

No changes were made to the agenda.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

❖ MOTION by Johnson to approve the 11/17/25 minutes as presented. SECOND by Schuyler. ALL IN FAVOR.

APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL REPORT

The Board reviewed the November 2025 financial report. District Administrator LaSala reported routine operations during the month. The District has received approximately \$80,000 reimbursement from the Colorado Division of Fire Prevention and Control (DFPC), with roughly \$100,000 still outstanding for wildfire reimbursements related to the Lee Fire and August incidents.

❖ MOTION by Schuyler to approve financials as presented. SECOND by Gomez. ALL IN FAVOR.

OLD BUSINESS

2026 Budget Discussion

LaSala confirmed that final figures were approximately \$10,000 higher than initially projected, but remained consistent with prior discussions and funding assumptions.

After discussion, the Board expressed consensus that the budget appropriately reflects operational needs for the coming year.

❖ MOTION by Schuyler to approve the 2026 Budget as presented. SECOND by Gomez. ALL IN FAVOR.

Apparatus Discussion

Chief Miller reported that the 1999 KME ladder truck is the preferred apparatus option at a purchase price of approximately \$85,000, citing positive inspection results and overall condition. An American LaFrance apparatus was identified as a secondary option. Both apparatus are located in Michigan, seat at least six personnel, pump 2,000 GPM, and are governed at 60 MPH.

Shipping costs are estimated at \$2,500–\$3,000. Bay length constraints were discussed, noting that either apparatus would require leaving an adjacent bay open. Height clearances were confirmed to be acceptable. Water capacity differences were reviewed, with the KME carrying approximately 150 gallons, which Chief Miller noted is sufficient for ladder operations.

- ❖ MOTION by Johnson to authorize up to \$5,000 to have staff travel for in-person inspection of apparatus. SECOND by Schuyler. ALL IN FAVOR.

Wildland Expansion & District Administrator Role Proposals

LaSala and Miller provided an update on the Wildland Expansion and administrative restructuring. She advised that the District Administrator MOU with Ouray County EMS will be presented after hiring is completed. Discussion also included preliminary planning for a Wildland Engine Captain hybrid position, with potential posting in early January.

Update on Authority Progress

Legal Counsel Nerlin provided an update on regional authority discussions, including progress on governance and participation considerations. He reported that the next authority meeting has been rescheduled to January 8, 2026, at 2:00 PM. Chief Miller noted that the invitation list will be updated to include additional stakeholders.

CHIEF'S REPORT

Chief Miller reported that the District responded to 445 total calls during the reporting period, including 159 fire-related incidents, representing a significant increase compared to the historical average of approximately 120 fire calls annually. He further noted that EMS responses comprised the majority of calls and included a notable number of extrication incidents.

NEW BUSINESS

Captain Position Update

Chief Miller informed the Board that Adam Kunz has submitted his resignation as a Career Captain, effective January 1, 2025.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

- ❖ MOTION by Schuyler to Adjourn. Second by Gomez. ALL IN FAVOR.

Meeting Adjourned at 5:50 pm.

The next regular Board meeting is scheduled for January 19, 2026.

Respectively Submitted,
-Katy LaSala