

Ridgway Fire Protection District

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

February 16, 2026

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

CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

Meeting called to order at 5:08 PM by Board Chair Christen Williams. Also, in attendance were Board Members Pam Kraft, and Terry Schuyler (via Google Meet). Also present were Chris Miller (Fire Chief), Katy LaSala (Wildland Coordinator), Kayla Fairchild (District Administrator), and Chris Bolane (ex officio).

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA INCLUDING ADDITIONS & DELETIONS

- ❖ No changes were made to the agenda.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- ❖ MOTION by Pam Kraft to approve the January minutes as presented. SECOND by Terry Schuyler. ALL IN FAVOR.

APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL REPORT

- ❖ MOTION by Pam Kraft to approve financials as presented. SECOND by Terry Schuyler. ALL IN FAVOR.

OLD BUSINESS

Apparatus Purchase

- ❖ Chief Miller reported on the progress of the repairs for the new truck and a timeline for retrieving the truck from Denver.

Authority Progress Update

- ❖ Chief Miller provided an update on the regional authority progress discussions, including the initial development of bylaws and discussions regarding the formation of an Authority Board.
- ❖ No action was taken at this time.

Contract Renewal for Trail Town Lot

- ❖ Kayla Fairchild informed the board that Charles Mueller was unable to attend the February meeting and will attend the March 16th meeting to discuss the contract on the Trail Town Lot in more detail.

Wildland Engine Purchase

- ❖ Board discussion regarding the purchase of a wildland apparatus. Christen Williams questioned the pricing between purchasing a used vehicle or building out a new vehicle. Williams asked Chief Miller and Katy LaSala to price out costs for the two options. Christen Williams recommended a price range of \$250,000 for a new vehicle and requested pricing for a new vehicle build out. Chief Miller noted will present pricing and a recommendation at the next Board meeting. No action was taken at this time.

CHIEF'S REPORT

- ❖ Chief Miller provided an update January call volume. Chris Bolane questioned the ability to further break down call reporting, regarding true extrication calls versus a wreck involving wildlife.
- ❖ Chief Miller discussed the restructuring of Fire/EMS command staff. Chief Miller informed the board that he would like to delay the hiring of a new captain pending the second quarter start date of the restructuring. Chief Miller also updated on the creation of a lieutenant position and will report back on how to fund this position. Christen Williams emphasized the importance of having a backup for the Officers on shift.
- ❖ Chief Miller informed the board that OCEMS Chief Nate McCullough had provided estimates for the software transition. The overall cost is to be split 50/50 between fire and EMS. The cost for the district will be approximately \$5,200. The board was in favor of the pricing for the new software.

NEW BUSINESS

OCEMS/RFPD Ambulance Lease Proposal

- ❖ Katy LaSala provided the board with the ambulance proposal. The proposal seeks authorization for Ridgway Fire Protection District to enter a 2026 Equipment Use and Revenue Sharing Agreement with Ouray County EMS, allowing RFPD to operate an OCEMS-owned ambulance exclusively for wildland fire deployments. OCEMS retains ownership, insurance, and medical authority, while RFPD manages staffing, operations, and administrative responsibilities. Revenue would be generated through DFPC hourly reimbursement rates, with the Board selecting a revenue-split option ranging from 80/20 to 70/30. The agreement outlines cost responsibilities, insurance requirements, liability allocation, preseason inspections, financial transparency measures, and termination rights. Overall, the partnership enhances regional wildland medical capability without capital investment, provides revenue potential, and strengthens interagency collaboration.
- ❖ MOTION by Pam Kraft to adopt Resolution 2026-2 for a 70/30 split. Second by Terry Schuyler. ALL IN FAVOR

Admin/Wildland Office Relocation

- ❖ The admin offices located in the common room upstairs will move to transition out of the common area. The goal is to provide a true common space for the department upstairs and retain privacy and confidentiality for administration. Temporary office locations such as the old Verizon room, the captain's office, and the EMS day room were suggested. The relocation timeline and final location are undecided, however the goal date to move is in April to coincide with the restructuring of Fire and EMS.

Training Center Revenue

- ❖ Chief Miller proposed the initial revenue-generating options for the training center. Chief Miller stated there is a local need for a location where residents can burn materials. Chief Miller suggested a burn pit location at the training center with limited hours or by appointment only. Terry Schuyler suggests a limited program to start to analyze the need in the county. Christen Williams requested a rate structure. No action was taken at this time.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

❖ MOTION by Pam Kraft to Adjourn. Second by Terry Schuyler. ALL IN FAVOR.

Meeting adjourned at 6:19PM.

Respectively submitted,
-Kayla Fairchild