

APPROVED

The Board Meeting of the East Fork Fire Protection District Board was held on Tuesday, May 19, 2026, in person and virtually, beginning at 1:00 PM.

East Fork Fire Protection District Board Present:

John Bellona, Director, District 1
Barbara Griffin, Director, District 2 (Online)
Bernard Curtis, Director, District 3
Nathan Leising, Secretary, District 4
Mike Sommers, President, District 5

Staff:

Alan Ernst, District Fire Chief
Larry Goss, Deputy Fire Chief/Business Operations
Amy Ray, Deputy Fire Chief/Fire Marshal
Michael Shockey, Deputy Fire Chief/Emergency Operations
Brad Driscoll, Division Chief/Risk Management/Safety
Anthony Seghieri, Executive Program Manager
Holly Megee, Director of Administrative Services
Julie Andress, Director of Finance/CFO
Mark Forsberg, District Legal Counsel
Jolene Polish, Board Clerk

Additional attendees that addressed the Board:

Brian Nelson, East Fork Fire Protection District Captain
Lois Wray, Wray Family Foundation
Alan Reed, Warren Reed Insurance
Adam Wennhold, East Fork Professional Firefighters Association

CALL TO ORDER

President Michael Sommers

INITIAL MEETING BUSINESS

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Michael Sommers led the Pledge of Allegiance

PUBLIC COMMENT (No Action)

At this time, public comment will be taken on those items that are within the jurisdiction and control of the East Fork Fire Protection District Board of Directors or those agenda items where public comment will not be taken as a public hearing is not legally required.

Public Comment may be limited to three minutes per speaker, which will be decided by Board President or other presiding officers in his/her absence. If you are going to comment on a specific agenda item that the East Fork Fire Protection District Board of Directors will act on, please

make your comments when the item is considered and is open for public comment.

For members of the public not being able to be present when an item on the agenda is heard, Speaker/Comment Cards are available in the lobby at the entrance to the meeting room. These cards should be completed and given to the District Fire Chief or designee.

President Michael Sommers opened public comment.

District Fire Chief Alan Ernst recognized Captain Brian Nelson on his retirement after more than 30 years in the fire service, including 26 years with the District. District Fire Chief Ernst commended Captain Nelson for his exceptional career, steadfast leadership, and unwavering dedication to the organization. He highlighted Captain Nelson's significant contributions to recruiting and mentoring firefighters, noting many current District members were influenced by his encouragement, guidance, and commitment to developing future fire service professionals. District Fire Chief Ernst stated Captain Nelson's retirement would leave a considerable void within the organization but expressed sincere gratitude for his years of service and lasting impact on the District. He concluded by congratulating Captain Nelson on his distinguished career and wishing him and his family continued success and happiness in retirement.

Captain Brian Nelson expressed his appreciation for his career with the District and reflected on his experiences. He shared he first became interested in working for the District while completing his paramedic internship and was immediately impressed by the personnel and culture within the organization. Captain Nelson stated throughout his career, the District continued to feel like a special place to work and emphasized the importance of preserving that culture moving forward. He noted the positive environment is one of the reasons employees often return to the District after leaving. Captain Nelson encouraged the Board and leadership to continue supporting and maintaining the qualities that make the District unique and concluded by thanking everyone.

President Michael Sommers asked Captain Nelson about his plans following retirement.

Captain Nelson stated he intended to remain active by working seasonally and focusing on various personal projects that had been deferred during his career.

President Sommers wished Captain Nelson an enjoyable and safe retirement.

Secretary Nathan Leising reflected on his longstanding professional relationship with Captain Nelson, noting the many years they had worked together on emergency incidents and fire assignments. He expressed his

appreciation for Captain Nelson's friendship and service, stated that he would be missed, and wished him an enjoyable retirement, including safe travels and future endeavors.

Director John Bellona expressed his appreciation for Captain Nelson's years of service and stated that it had been a pleasure working with him throughout their many years together in the organization.

Captain Nelson expressed his appreciation.

Public comment closed.

ADMINISTRATIVE AGENDA

The Administrative Calendar handled as follows:

1. The Secretary will read the agenda title into the public record.
2. Staff will introduce the item and provide a report, if any.
3. The applicant, if any, will have an opportunity to address the Board.
4. The Board will then discuss the item. Once the Board has concluded their discussion, public comment will be allowed.
5. Public comment will be allowed and is limited to three minutes per speaker.
6. Once public comment is completed, the Board will then ask any follow-up questions and act.

Agenda items listed as a "presentation" with no action listed, public comment is not legally required and must be made at the beginning of the meeting.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

1. For Possible Action. Discussion and possible action to approve the proposed agenda. The East Fork Fire Protection District Board of Directors reserves the right to take items in a different order to accomplish business in the most efficient manner, to combine two or more agenda items for consideration, and to remove items from the agenda or delay discussion relating to items on the agenda. (Michael Sommers, President) 5 Minutes.

President Michael Sommers opened public comment.

There was no public comment.

Public comment closed.

MOTION to approve the meeting agenda for May 19, 2026.

RESULT: APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOTION BY: John Bellona
SECOND BY: Bernard Curtis
AYES: Bellona, Curtis, Griffin, Leising, Sommers
NAYS:
ABSENT:

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

2. For Possible Action. Discussion and possible action to approve the draft meeting minutes for the April 21, 2026, meeting of the East Fork Fire Protection District Board of Directors. (Michael Sommers, President) 5 Minutes.

President Michael Sommers opened public comment.

There was no public comment.

Public comment closed.

MOTION to approve the draft meeting minutes for the April 21, 2026, meeting of the East Fork Fire Protection District Board of Directors.

RESULT: APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOTION BY: Barbara Griffin
SECOND BY: Bernard Curtis
AYES: Bellona, Curtis, Griffin, Leising, Sommers
NAYS:
ABSTAIN:
ABSENT:

AWARDS, RECOGNITIONS, PROCLAMATIONS & DONATIONS

3. For Possible Action. Discussion and possible action to accept the donation of \$10,000 from The Wray Family Foundation to be used in supporting the East Fork Fire Protection District Annual Awards Ceremony and authorize a letter of appreciation from the Board President. (Alan Ernst, District Fire Chief) 5 Minutes.

District Fire Chief Alan Ernst reported a donation had been received from the Wray Family Foundation. He noted Mrs. Wray has been a consistent and generous supporter of both the District and its volunteer members over the years. He explained she expressed a desire to do something specifically in support of the District's men and women working in the firehouses. After careful consideration, she elected to sponsor the East Fork Fire Protection District Annual Awards Ceremony, through a generous \$10,000 donation. He

expressed sincere appreciation for her generosity and stated the funds would be put to good use.

President Michael Sommers summarized the contents of a letter that will be sent on behalf of the Board acknowledging the Wray Family Foundation's generous donation. He stated the letter will express the Board's appreciation for the foundation's thoughtfulness and support of the District and will indicate the donation will be used in accordance with the Foundation's wishes.

President Michael Sommers opened public comment.

There was no public comment.

Public comment closed.

MOTION to accept the donation of \$10,000 from The Wray Family Foundation to be used in supporting the East Fork Fire Protection District Annual Awards Ceremony and authorize a letter of appreciation from the Board President.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOTION BY:	John Bellona
SECOND BY:	Bernard Curtis
AYES:	Bellona, Curtis, Griffin, Leising, Sommers
NAYS:	
ABSTAIN:	
ABSENT:	

CONSENT CALENDAR

Items appearing on the Consent Calendar are items that can be adopted with one motion unless separate consideration is requested by a District Director or a member of the public. Members of the public who wish to have a consent item placed on the Administrative Agenda shall make that request during the public comment section at the beginning of the meeting and specifically state why they are making the request. When items are pulled for discussion, they will automatically be placed at the beginning of the Administrative Agenda or may be continued until another meeting.

4. For Possible Action. Discussion and possible action to approve the Consent Calendar Items A-F. (Alan Ernst, District Fire Chief) 5 Minutes.

A. For Possible Action. Discussion and possible action to accept the report on general ledger cash balances as of April 30, 2026. (Julie Andress, Director of Finance/CFO)

B. For Possible Action. Discussion and possible action to approve the receipt and filing of the list of accounts payable checks issued and

cash disbursements/automatic withdrawals in April 2026 per NRS 474.210. (Julie Andress, Director of Finance/CFO)

- C. For Possible Action. Discussion and possible action to approve payroll expenses paid in April 2026 per NRS 474.210. (Julie Andress, Director of Finance/CFO)**
- D. For Possible Action. Discussion and possible action to approve the Procurement Card Transactions paid for in April 2026 per NRS 474.210. (Julie Andress, Director of Finance/CFO)**
- E. For Possible Action. Discussion and possible action to approve the East Fork Fire Protection District's ambulance billing bad debt write-offs for the period of March 2026 in the amount of \$88,419.35. (Julie Andress, Director of Finance/CFO)**
- F. For Possible Action. Discussion and possible action to accept the report on state consolidated taxes collection and distribution as of January 2026. (Julie Andress, Director of Finance/CFO)**

President Michael Sommers opened public comment.

There was no public comment.

Public comment closed.

MOTION to approve the Consent Calendar Items A-F.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOTION BY:	Bernard Curtis
SECOND BY:	John Bellona
AYES:	Bellona, Curtis, Griffin, Leising, Sommers
NAYS:	
ABSTAIN:	
ABSENT:	

NEW BUSINESS

5. For Possible Action. Discussion and possible action to approve the new Deputy Chief job description consolidating the Deputy Fire Chief/Fire Marshal, Deputy Fire Chief of Operations, and Deputy Fire Chief of Training and Safety classifications into a single Deputy Chief classification. (Alan Ernst, District Fire Chief) 15 Minutes.

District Fire Chief Alan Ernst explained the proposed Deputy Fire Chief job description would consolidate the existing Deputy Fire Chief/Fire Marshal, Deputy Fire Chief of Operations, and Deputy Fire Chief of Training and Safety classifications into a single Deputy Fire Chief classification. He stated the

proposal is part of the District's ongoing effort to streamline and modernize human resource practices while improving organizational efficiency. District Fire Chief Ernst emphasized the change would not affect current authorized staffing levels or reduce any positions but would provide greater flexibility in recruiting, hiring, and assigning Deputy Fire Chief responsibilities based on the District's operational needs. He noted the consolidation is similar to the firefighter classification update previously approved by the Board and would allow for more efficient administration of the Deputy Fire Chief positions.

President Michael Sommers asked whether consolidating the Deputy Fire Chief positions into a single job classification would provide the District Fire Chief with greater flexibility to assign responsibilities and duties among the Deputy Fire Chiefs based on the District's needs.

District Fire Chief Alan Ernst stated the consolidation would provide greater flexibility because the current classifications and employment contracts are tied to specific position titles and responsibilities. He explained, in practice, organizational needs may require Deputy Fire Chiefs to perform duties outside of their designated classification. He noted the proposed single Deputy Fire Chief classification would allow leadership to assign and adjust responsibilities more effectively based on the District's operational needs and organizational priorities.

Director John Bellona asked whether there was a specific reason the Deputy Chief of Training position title had not been changed to reflect the employee's current business operations responsibilities.

District Fire Chief Ernst stated the position of Deputy Fire Chief of Training will be eliminated, and the role will be incorporated into a single Deputy Fire Chief job description.

President Sommers asked whether Deputy Fire Chiefs effectively will wear different hats depending on the duties and responsibilities they are performing at a given time.

District Fire Chief Ernst explained Deputy Fire Chiefs could serve in different functional roles and noted the flexibility would support succession planning by allowing them to gain experience in multiple assignments, preparing them for higher-level leadership positions within the District or elsewhere.

President Sommers asked the Deputy Fire Chiefs in attendance if they are comfortable with the proposed changes.

The Deputy Fire Chiefs in attendance signaled their support for the proposed changes.

Director Bellona asked whether new employment contracts would need to be developed and how the transition to the revised job description would be implemented.

District Fire Chief Ernst stated he did not anticipate the need for new contracts but would review the language with legal counsel to ensure the proposed changes were adequately addressed through the revised job description. He added the change would also help prepare for the upcoming recruitment process following Deputy Fire Chief Larry Goss's announced retirement.

President Michael Sommers opened public comment.

There was no public comment.

Public comment closed.

MOTION to approve the new Deputy Fire Chief job description consolidating the Deputy Fire Chief/Fire Marshal, Deputy Fire Chief of Operations, and Deputy Fire Chief of Training and Safety classifications into a single Deputy Fire Chief classification.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOTION BY:	John Bellona
SECOND BY:	Nathan Leising
AYES:	Bellona, Curtis, Griffin, Leising, Sommers
NAYS:	
ABSENT:	

6. For Possible Action. Discussion and possible action regarding approval of a new full-time Division Chief position to strengthen operational leadership, improve training and safety oversight, enhance emergency response coordination, and support the District's long-term organizational sustainability. This position will not increase the District's overall staffing levels, it will replace the currently vacant Management Specialist position, resulting in an increase to the FY 2026/2027 budget in the amount of \$118,840. (Alan Ernst, District Fire Chief) 15 Minutes.

District Fire Chief Alan Ernst stated the item before the Board was a cleanup of a prior action taken approximately one year earlier, when a vacant Management Specialist position was open. The position was filled by a contracted employee serving as Division Chief and overseeing training, risk management, and safety. He noted the District has realized significant benefit from the arrangement, particularly in providing dedicated support for line personnel training and introducing a valuable risk management perspective to departmental practices.

District Fire Chief Ernst explained the intent had been to evaluate the position over the course of a year and then determine whether to return to a

Management Specialist role or transition to a full-time Division Chief classification. Based on that review, the recommendation is to proceed with establishing the Division Chief position as a full-time employee rather than continuing the contract arrangement. He further noted this change would support succession planning by providing a pathway from Battalion Chief to Division Chief, allowing personnel to gain additional experience and better prepare for advancement. He emphasized there would be no increase in authorized Full Time Equivalent Positions (FTEs), as the change involves converting an existing position. The administration is supportive and excited about the proposed option.

Secretary Nathan Leising asked for clarification regarding the distinction between the Deputy Fire Chief and Division Chief positions.

District Fire Chief Ernst explained the distinction is similar to that between a Fire Captain and a Battalion Chief, representing a single step in rank progression. He noted the Division Chief role functions as a steppingstone toward a Deputy Fire Chief position, with expanded responsibility over a larger scope of operations, including one or more divisions such as training, safety, and risk management.

Secretary Leising asked whether the Division Chief would report directly to the District Fire Chief.

District Fire Chief Ernst stated the Division Chief will report directly to the Deputy Fire Chief of Emergency Operations.

President Michael Sommers asked whether the primary cost difference associated with the transition is attributable to employee benefit programs.

District Fire Chief Ernst stated the comparison includes the full cost of the Management Specialist position, including salary and benefits, which was comparable to the cost of the contracted employee. He added the primary difference in the proposed Division Chief position relates to the addition of employee benefits associated with a full-time position.

Director John Bellona asked Division Chief Brad Driscoll, since his arrival, has he observed a decrease in injuries among line personnel.

Division Chief Brad Driscoll stated there has been a decrease in injuries over the past four months. However, overall trends since his arrival indicate injury frequency has not significantly changed, but the District has improved its response and management of injuries. He noted, in coordination with Holly Megee, Director of Administrative Services, and the insurance broker, the District has taken a more proactive and aggressive approach to monitoring injured personnel and facilitating their return to work. He added this improved

management may take time to be reflected in long-term metrics; the oversight and follow-up processes have strengthened.

Director Bellona observed the monthly reports show a reduction in injuries, noting this as a positive trend.

Division Chief Driscoll stated, while he aims to reduce sprains and strains and recognizes that such injuries are common across most industries, the primary focus remains the prevention of catastrophic or major injuries. He noted such incidents would carry significant financial costs as well as serious human impacts and emphasized avoiding these events is a key objective of the District.

President Michael Sommers opened public comment.

There was no public comment.

Public comment closed.

MOTION to approve a new full-time Division Chief position to strengthen operational leadership, improve training and safety oversight, enhance emergency response coordination, and support the District's long-term organizational sustainability.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOTION BY:	Bernard Curtis
SECOND BY:	Barbara Griffin
AYES:	Bellona, Curtis, Griffin, Leising, Sommers
NAYS:	
ABSENT:	

President Michael Sommers re-opened public comment for Agenda Item 3.

President Michael Sommers acknowledged Ms. Lois Wray of The Wray Family Foundation, noting her attendance and expressing appreciation for her support and donation, and thanked her for attending the meeting.

Ms. Lois Wray of The Wray Family Foundation thanked the Board for the opportunity to attend the meeting.

District Fire Chief Alan Ernst thanked Ms. Wray, noting her generosity and partnership, and expressed appreciation for her support in helping provide a positive experience for firefighters at the District's Annual Awards Ceremony.

Ms. Wray expressed appreciation for the opportunity to participate and commended the District for recognizing and honoring its firefighters, offering her thanks to the Board.

President Sommers requested Ms. Wray sign-in to document her attendance and again expressed appreciation for both her donation and ongoing support.

Director Bernard Curtis noted she is always welcome to attend, and stated meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month.

Ms. Wray stated she prefers to operate behind the scenes.

President Sommers added the Board would also welcome her attendance at the annual dinner.

Ms. Wray stated she thought that would be enjoyable.

7. For Possible Action. Discussion and possible action to approve the District's annual property and liability insurance package as provided by Warren Reed Insurance representing Nevada Public Agency Insurance (POOL) at an annual cost of \$212,585.33. (Larry Goss, Deputy Chief) 15 Minutes.

Deputy Fire Chief Larry Goss stated it is time for the annual insurance renewal and indicated he would turn the presentation over to Alan Reed of Warren Reed Insurance to review the renewal options for the year.

Alan Reed, Warren Reed Insurance, presented the District's insurance renewal proposal and provided an overview of the Nevada Public Agency Insurance Pool (POOL) renewal process.

Mr. Reed reported the proposed renewal premium is \$212,583.53, compared to \$208,019.30 last year, representing an increase of approximately \$4,564, or 2.2%.

He explained premium costs are primarily driven by changes in exposure, including:

- Payroll increased approximately 24.5%, from about \$8.75 million to \$10.9 million.
- Property values increased approximately 8.3%, from \$39.97 million to \$43.29 million.
- Vehicle count increased from 66 to 77 units.

Mr. Reed noted despite these exposure increases, the POOL achieved significant savings through remarketing efforts. Property, casualty, and cyber insurance base rates decreased approximately 8.23% from the previous year due to new carrier placements and changes in participating syndicates. Additional savings were also realized in terrorism and pollution coverage premiums.

Mr. Reed advised alternative quotes were reviewed, including a proposal from Volunteer Firemen's Insurance Services (VFIS), which was estimated to be between \$250,000 and \$260,000, significantly higher than the POOL renewal. He further noted VFIS has restricted certain coverages, including:

- No general liability coverage for powerline mitigation activities.
- Exclusions related to wildfire firefighting operations under certain circumstances.

He stated the POOL continues to provide coverage for both powerline mitigation and wildland firefighting activities.

Mr. Reed reviewed the POOL's renewal process, which began in October and concluded in April, and reported the organization currently serves 145 member agencies, including several new members. Of those members, 45 voting members participate in decisions regarding insurance programs and coverage options.

Additional information provided included:

- The POOL is a non-profit, member-owned organization established in 1987.
- Financial information is available to all member agencies upon request.
- Approximately \$8.6 billion in property is insured through the POOL.
- Coverage remains substantially unchanged from the prior year.

Mr. Reed summarized the District's major coverage includes:

- \$10 million in liability coverage.
- \$1 million in cyber liability coverage.
- \$2 million in environmental liability coverage.
- Property, earthquake, flood, and auxiliary coverages.

He also highlighted the extensive risk management and training resources available to member agencies through the POOL.

Mr. Reed concluded with a review of the District's insured property schedule, noting approximately \$43 million in total insured property values, including buildings, contents, equipment, and vehicles. He commended staff for annually reviewing and updating property and vehicle inventories to ensure accurate coverage and valuation.

President Michael Sommers asked whether the \$212,583 premium is a prorated premium or if the current policy term expires and renews on July 1.

Mr. Reed stated the policy term runs from July 1 through June 30; the insurer would retain the portion earned of the premium if coverage were canceled mid-

term. He indicated insurance policies are generally written on an annual basis and agreed to confirm how the POOL specifically handles cancellations and premium refunds.

President Michael Sommers opened public comment.

There was no public comment.

Public comment closed.

MOTION to approve the District's annual property and liability insurance package as provided by Warren Reed Insurance representing Nevada Public Agency Insurance (POOL) at an annual cost of \$212,585.33.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOTION BY:	Barbara Griffin
SECOND BY:	Bernard Curtis
AYES:	Bellona, Curtis, Griffin, Leising, Sommers
NAYS:	
ABSENT:	

8. For Possible Action. Discussion and possible action on the adoption of Resolution 2026R-002, which augments the fiscal year 2025-2026 budget for \$1,685,800 to the General Fund and \$3,724 to the Emergency Fund to appropriate and amend previously unbudgeted resources. (Julie Andress, Director of Finance/CFO) 10 Minutes.

Director of Finance/CFO Julie Andress presented a resolution to augment the District's current fiscal year budget.

Director of Finance/CFO Andress explained the proposed augmentation is supported by additional revenues, including:

- \$1.2 million in Charges for Service, primarily from off-district fire reimbursement appropriations that have been fully billed and collected.
- Miscellaneous revenue received through Medevac helicopter staffing reimbursements.

She stated the additional funding would be allocated to the following expenditure categories:

- Administration – Salaries and Wages: Off-district fire overtime, contract wages, and staffing costs associated with Medevac helicopter personnel.
- Administration – Services and Supplies: Consulting services and special projects.
- Fire Prevention: Professional services expenses.
- Training Division: Additional training and travel costs.

- Fire Suppression: Medical supplies and personal protective equipment.

Director of Finance/CFO Andress further noted the resolution includes a \$2,724 augmentation to the Emergency Fund to reconcile the fund balance with the audited opening balance.

President Michael Sommers asked if the proposed budget augmentation would result in a revised ending fund balance of approximately \$2.9 million.

Director of Finance/CFO Andress stated the revised ending fund balance with this augmentation is projected to be \$2,922,823.

President Michael Sommers opened public comment.

There was no public comment.

Public comment closed.

MOTION to adopt Resolution 2026R-002, which augments the fiscal year 2025-2026 budget for \$1,685,800 to the General Fund and \$3,724 to the Emergency Fund to appropriate and amend previously unbudgeted resources.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOTION BY:	Bernard Curtis
SECOND BY:	John Bellona
AYES:	Bellona, Curtis, Griffin, Leising, Sommers
NAYS:	
ABSENT:	

9. For Possible Action. Discussion and possible action to adopt and approve the District's Final Budget for Fiscal Year 2026-2027 in the amount of \$32,208,986, which includes all funds and reserves, and all matters related thereto. (Alan Ernst, District Fire Chief and Julie Andress, Director of Finance/CFO) 30 Minutes.

District Fire Chief Alan Ernst stated the Board reviewed the tentative budget last month and staff are now presenting the final budget for approval. He noted there were only a few changes from the tentative budget.

Director of Finance/CFO Julie Andress presented the final fiscal year 2026–2027 budget and noted, in accordance with NRS 354.596, the District was holding its required public budget hearing.

She also stated the District has received its compliance letter from the Nevada Department of Taxation confirming the tentative budget review.

Director of Finance/CFO Andress reviewed the key budget adjustments, including:

- Opening Fund Balance
 - Increased by \$45,758
 - Reflects anticipated savings from the current fiscal year
- Department 252 – Business Operations
 - Increase of \$33,989
 - Adjusts radio user fees in alignment with the agreement with Douglas County
- Department 264 – Fuels Management
 - Increase of \$5,975
 - Covers small tools and equipment

She noted these adjustments result in corresponding changes to financial reserves:

- Contingency increases to maintain the required 1.5% of operating costs
- Ending Fund Balance increases by \$5,195 to maintain a target of 13%

Director of Finance/CFO Andress summarized the overall budget as follows:

- General Operations Fund: \$31.8 million
- Emergency Fund: \$391,000
- Total District Budget: approximately \$32.2 million

Director John Bellona thanked staff for the brief budget presentation.

Director of Finance/CFO Andress added the tentative budget was brought forward one month earlier than usual this fiscal year, which reduced the number of changes in the final budget and resulted in a smoother budget process. She noted she would seek Board feedback at a later date regarding continuing this approach in future fiscal years.

Secretary Nathan Leising asked whether all off-district reimbursements were current.

Director of Finance/CFO Andress stated all off-district fire reimbursements for the current fiscal year have been fully billed and received.

District Fire Chief Alan Ernst added the updated budgeting approach now includes off-district revenues and expenditures within the budget process, which should help reduce future budget augmentations.

Secretary Leising stated the approach may also help improve reimbursement timing.

District Fire Chief Ernst agreed.

President Michael Sommers requested clarification on the budget figures in the packet, noting a difference between the \$31.8 million in approved available resources shown in the budget document and the \$32.2 million total referenced in the agenda. He asked if the difference was due to the emergency fund.

Director of Finance/CFO Address confirmed the Emergency Fund is shown on a separate schedule and the combined total includes both the General Fund and the Emergency Fund.

President Michael Sommers opened public comment.

There was no public comment.

Public comment closed.

MOTION to adopt and approve the District's Final Budget for Fiscal Year 2026-2027 in the amount of \$32,208,986 which includes all funds and reserves, and all matters related thereto.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOTION BY:	Barbara Griffin
SECOND BY:	Bernard Curtis
AYES:	Bellona, Curtis, Griffin, Leising, Sommers
NAYS:	
ABSENT:	

10. For Possible Action. Discussion and possible action to purchase two (2) Chevrolet 1500 pickup trucks to replace an aging staff vehicle and update the light vehicle (utility) fleet at a cost of \$53,800 each, for a total expenditure of \$107,600. (Larry Goss, Deputy Chief) 15 Minutes.

Deputy Fire Chief Larry Goss stated the District's Type 1 Apparatus and Ambulances are in generally good condition, noting this is due to the approved Type 1 replacement plan and the ongoing ambulance remount program.

He explained the most significant challenge remains modernization of the light vehicle fleet. He noted:

- End-of-year funding provides an opportunity to begin addressing fleet upgrades
- The goal is to update staff vehicles and progressively rotate newer units into station assignments
- Several vehicles currently in service date back to the 1990s
- While some have low mileage, parts availability is becoming increasingly limited
- Many are no longer meeting operational needs

Deputy Chief Goss added initiating a formal light vehicle replacement plan would help ensure long-term fleet reliability and efficiency. He recommended Board approval to move forward with the proposed approach and begin implementation of the replacement strategy.

Secretary Nathan Leising asked whether the vehicles would be traded in or sold.

Deputy Fire Chief Goss explained the second step would be the reduction plan and would allow the District to begin phasing out older light vehicles, with some units potentially rotated through the fleet and others disposed of through auction.

District Fire Chief Alan Ernst noted the replacement strategy would focus on replacing currently operating vehicles, rotating newer units through the system, and removing the oldest and poorest-condition vehicles from service.

Director John Bellona asked if the new vehicles were turnkey.

Deputy Fire Chief Goss stated they are turnkey units that are in stock that do not require ordering, aside from outfitting.

Director Bellona asked if there will be additional costs for equipment such as light bars, radios, and command components.

Deputy Fire Chief Goss confirmed those costs would be addressed in the next fiscal year during the outfitting process.

President Sommers asked whether the vehicles are four-wheel or all-wheel drive.

Deputy Fire Chief Goss confirmed all vehicles are four-wheel drive and that the District's light fleet will be fully four-wheel drive.

President Sommers asked for clarification on the difference between "Red Hot" and standard red vehicle color.

Deputy Fire Chief Goss explained "Red Hot" is Chevrolet's designated shade of red and that the manufacturer offers multiple red tones.

President Sommers asked who would be assigned the trucks.

Deputy Fire Chief Goss stated the assignments are still to be determined.

President Michael Sommers opened public comment.

There was no public comment.

Public comment closed.

MOTION to approve the purchase of two (2) Chevy 1500 Pickup trucks at a cost of \$53,800 each, for a total expenditure of \$107,600.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOTION BY:	Bernard Curtis
SECOND BY:	Nathan Leising
AYES:	Bellona, Curtis, Griffin, Leising, Sommers
NAYS:	
ABSENT:	

REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS

11. Budget Summary for month ending April 2026. (Julie Andress, Director of Finance/CFO) 5 Minutes.

Director of Finance/CFO Julie Andress reviewed the current Budget Performance Report and noted the District was 83% through the fiscal year. She reported revenues were at 77% of budget and provided the following updates:

- The District is still awaiting GEMT cost report reimbursement funds, which contributes to the lower revenue percentage.
- Ad valorem tax revenues have been received through March, with three months of collections remaining.
- Consolidated tax (C-Tax) revenues have been received through February, with four months remaining.
- Ambulance revenue continues to perform well.

Director of Finance/CFO Andress reported overall expenditures were at 74% of budget, slightly below the revenue percentage. She noted staff has been working on year-end projections and based on current estimates, the District is expected to end the fiscal year in a favorable financial position.

President Michael Sommers asked whether the Budget Performance Report reflects the budget augmentation that was approved earlier in the meeting.

Director of Finance/CFO Andress stated the Budget Performance Report does not include the budget augmentation approved earlier in the meeting.

12. For Presentation Only. Reports/updates from East Fork Professional Firefighters Association concerning the various assignments and committees they may be a member of, liaison to, or meetings/functions they have attended. No action will be taken on these reports/updates. (Michael Sommers, President) 5 Minutes.

Adam Wennhold, East Fork Professional Firefighters Association Vice President, reported on the Association's participation in the recent ALS 5K fundraiser held in partnership with the Ashes and Ember Foundation in honor of retired Captain Dennis Cote. He noted weather conditions limited turnout but expressed appreciation for the District's support and assistance in providing equipment and other resources for the event.

Vice President Wennhold stated the Association looks forward to participating in the event again next year and anticipates completing contract negotiations and presenting the agreement to the Board in the near future.

13. For Presentation Only. Reports/updates from East Fork Volunteer Firefighters Association concerning the various assignments and committees they may be a member of, liaison to, or meetings/functions they have attended. No action will be taken on these reports/updates. (Michael Sommers, President) 5 Minutes.

President Michael Sommers, on behalf of the East Fork Volunteer Association, reported he attended the recent volunteer meeting and provided an update on upcoming activities. He noted the following:

- Station 8 (Sheridan Acres) annual fundraiser
 - Scheduled for August 15
 - Will include a community barbecue featuring hamburgers, hot dogs, and baked beans
 - Intended as an informal community gathering and fundraiser
- Station 9 (Fish Springs) event
 - Planned for September
 - Menu is still being finalized
 - The Volunteer Association is looking forward to hosting the event again

He also reported the volunteers are continuing regular training activities and the Association has begun receiving new applications from potential volunteer members.

14. For Presentation Only. Reports/updates from District Board Members and the Fire Chief concerning the various assignments and committees they may be a member of, liaison to, or meetings/functions they have attended. No action will be taken on these reports/updates. (Michael Sommers, President) 10 Minutes.

Mark Forsberg, Legal Counsel noted:

- No report.

Holly Megee, Director of Administrative Services noted:

- Engine Boss Recruitment
 - Three candidates were interviewed
 - A final decision is expected to be made later this week
- Lateral Firefighter Recruitment
 - Position is currently open to the public
 - Opening is due to the retirement of Brian Nelson
 - One vacancy is available
 - Four applications have been received to date

President Michael Sommers asked which departments the lateral applicants are coming from.

Director of Administrative Services Megee stated she did not have that information available, noting some appear to be from within the local area.

Julie Andress, Director of Finance/CFO noted:

- No report.

Anthony Seghieri, Executive Program Manager noted:

- Staff have been actively engaged in multiple training academies through the shared Nevada Division of Forestry (NDF) program over the past two weeks
- Seasonal personnel completed the rookie academy
- Full-time staff participated in:
 - Engine Operator Academy
 - Additional specialized training programs
- Natural Resource Academy training is currently being finalized
- Preparations are underway for the upcoming fire season
- Engine Boss interviews were completed, with candidates identified for selection and staffing decisions pending
- The District is working toward full staffing of both engines and hand crews
- The Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) has been in development for approximately one year
- The CWPP is now in the field phase, including countywide risk assessments and prioritization of mitigation projects
- Risk assessments are expected to begin distribution within the next few weeks

President Michael Sommers asked whether the CWPP is conducted in partnership with NDF.

Executive Program Manager Seghieri stated the Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) is required to be updated every five years, but the District is currently piloting a “living” CWPP model. He noted the CWPP will be cloud-based and updated in real time, allowing fuels reduction projects to be tracked as they are completed and reflected immediately on the map as areas are

treated. He added this approach reduces the need for continual manual updates to the document and allows the plan to remain current on an ongoing basis.

President Michael Sommers asked for an update on any outstanding grant applications the District has submitted.

Executive Program Manager Seghieri stated approximately \$643 million in new funding opportunities was announced that morning through a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO). He added this includes several grant programs, including the Community Wildfire Prevention Grant (CWPG) program previously discussed, which provides up to \$10 million per application.

Executive Program Manager Seghieri reported the following updates:

- The District has identified several large projects that align with the CWPG program as planning and implementation move forward.
- Staff is developing a contract for the Clear Creek area, and a brush truck will be assigned there throughout the summer to support ongoing fuel reduction work.
- Seasonal staffing and deployment planning is being finalized, with a clear understanding of personnel assignments for the fire season.
- Staff is actively engaged in strategic planning efforts to support operational readiness.
- The hand crew responded to its first fire assignment, marking a positive milestone for the program.
- Although only part of the crew had completed academy training, half of the hand crew was integrated with an existing crew and gained operational experience on an incident in the Sweetwater area, which went well overall.

President Sommers asked when the District's crews will be able to go off district.

Executive Program Manager Seghieri stated crews will be ready by the end of the week (May 22nd).

Secretary Nathan Leising asked whether the crews were available for initial attack when under contracts such as Clear Creek.

Executive Program Manager Seghieri stated while crews are under contracts such as Clear Creek, they remain available for initial attack. He clarified the District retains operational control of its resources and the agreement supports significant preparedness work in the area.

Brad Driscoll, Division Chief/Risk Management/Safety noted:

- In April, there were two work-related injuries requiring treatment and one report-only incident, with no accidents reported.

- A five-day captain's testing process was successfully completed with support from staff and field crews.
- Testing was conducted in partnership with Tahoe Douglas and Carson City Fire Departments using a shared process and scoring system.
- East Fork, Tahoe Douglas, and Carson City candidates were evaluated under the same standardized testing format, with each agency participating in sequence.
- The collaborative testing approach improved efficiency across all three agencies.
- Aligning the process supports interagency consistency, as the departments regularly operate together in the field.
- Appreciation was expressed to staff and crews for their work in completing the process.

Amy Ray, Deputy Fire Chief/Fire Marshal noted:

- Open burning season was closed early, effective Sunday May 17, 2026, due to increasingly dry conditions in the region.
- Community Connect was used to notify all residents with active burn permits of the early closure through a mass email notification.

President Michael Sommers asked what factors led to the early closure of burn season.

Deputy Fire Chief/Fire Marshal Ray stated dry conditions in the area prompted the decision.

District Fire Chief Alan Ernst added numerous fires had recently occurred throughout the region and California, making it an appropriate time to end the burn season.

Deputy Fire Chief/Fire Marshal Ray continued:

- Staff attended a First Due Summit training, which provided additional training on utilizing the First Due platform.
- The District is implementing a new Inspection, Testing, and Maintenance (ITM) module within First Due that will:
 - Track and monitor fire sprinkler system testing and maintenance throughout the District.
 - Integrate with the inspection program.
 - Reduce reliance on multiple software platforms by consolidating functions currently managed through both First Due and Compliance Engine.
- Staff have been conducting weekly cause-and-origin training sessions on Fridays.
- Several staff members will attend the Silver State Women in Fire Conference on May 30 in Carson City.

President Sommers asked where the Silver State Women in Fire Conference would be held.

Deputy Fire Chief/Fire Marshal Ray stated the event would take place at the Carson City Fire Department training grounds.

President Sommers thanked staff for their work in advancing the County's adoption of the District's fire codes.

Deputy Fire Chief/Fire Marshal Ray noted the first reading went well and the second reading is scheduled for June 4, 2026.

Director Bernard Curtis asked whether there were any significant new development projects underway.

Deputy Fire Chief/Fire Marshal Ray responded there were no major changes from previous reports, aside from continued progress on the SpringHill Suites project and ongoing industrial developments.

President Sommers asked about the status of a building that had been closed due to safety concerns.

Deputy Fire Chief/Fire Marshal Ray explained joint inspections conducted by the County, health officials, building inspectors, and fire personnel determined the structure was unsafe for occupancy. She noted the building should not be occupied; it remains a concern from a safety standpoint.

President Sommers expressed concern the vacant structure could become occupied and create future fire and life-safety issues.

Larry Goss, Deputy Fire Chief/Business Operations noted:

- The District received its latest Type III ambulance remount last week.
- The remount program continues to provide significant benefits, including:
 - Savings of more than \$100,000 per unit compared to purchasing a new ambulance.
 - Reuse of existing ambulance boxes, which are expected to remain in service through multiple remount cycles.
 - Reduced delivery times, with the most recent remount completed in approximately 90 days, compared to the typical 12- to 18-month wait for a new ambulance.
- Personnel are very pleased with the specifications and overall quality of the remounted unit.
- The station alerting project continues to move forward.
 - Douglas County has approved the CAD interface component.
 - Implementation is now underway.
 - Goal is to have the system completed before July.

Michael Shockey, Deputy Chief of Emergency Operations noted:

- Call volume remained consistent last month, with approximately 650 incidents.
- Crews responded to a significant rescue incident in the Foothill Road area involving an injured individual in difficult terrain.
 - Paramedics reached the patient approximately one hour after the 911 call was received.
 - The response required personnel to access the patient on foot.
 - Assistance was provided by the Washoe County Sheriff's Office and the Raven helicopter.
 - The patient was hoisted from the scene and transferred to Air 12 for transport.
 - The incident lasted several hours and demonstrated strong interagency coordination and rapid access to patient care in a challenging environment.

President Michael Sommers asked if the District is seeing increased utilization of Air 12.

Deputy Fire Chief Shockey stated Air 12 was utilized seven times during the previous month and usage has remained relatively consistent since the program began, averaging approximately three to seven calls per month.

President Sommers asked whether utilization levels are meeting initial expectations.

Deputy Fire Chief Shockey stated he was unsure of the original projections but noted usage has remained steady since the aircraft entered service.

President Sommers asked Engineer Adam Wennhold if personnel have greater confidence in requesting Air 12 for responses.

Engineer Wennhold noted in his experience Air 12 has been a valuable resource. He shared during a recent shift, the helicopter responded independently to two incidents in remote areas of the Pinenut Range where ground response times would have been significantly longer, allowing patients to receive care and transport more quickly.

President Sommers commented Air 12 appears to be a significant asset to the District.

District Fire Chief Alan Ernst agreed and noted the reported utilization numbers only reflect in-district responses and do not include out-of-district missions or transfer flights. The aircraft remains active on a daily basis.

Deputy Fire Chief Shockey reported staff has refined the Air 12 automatic launch protocol. A response area has been established encompassing much of

the valley basin. Air 12 is automatically dispatched to incidents in remote locations, including the Pine Nut Mountains and Clear Creek areas, where rapid access may be beneficial.

President Sommers asked whether Air 12 is expected to have bucket operations capability this summer.

District Fire Chief Ernst explained the newly acquired helicopter has been accepted by Battle Born Medevac and is currently undergoing the carding and certification process. He noted staff is working with NDF, the U.S. Forest Service, and Battle Born personnel to complete the process and place the aircraft into service as soon as possible.

Alan Ernst, District Fire Chief noted:

- The District participated in a well-attended community education meeting in the Clear Creek area in partnership with Living With Fire.
- Residents were provided with information on wildfire preparedness and mitigation, followed by a productive question-and-answer session.
- Staff have been heavily engaged in preparations for the upcoming wildland fire season.
- Preseason coordination meetings with multiple partner agencies have been completed.
- The District also conducted its internal preseason meeting to prepare personnel and resources for the fire season.
- The region recently experienced the line-of-duty death of an engineer from Lake Valley Fire Protection District.
- District flags have been lowered to half-staff until the funeral service.
- District personnel participated in the memorial procession held in honor of the fallen firefighter.
- Expressed appreciation for the completion of the budget process and stated staff looks forward to moving ahead with the new fiscal year.

Michael Sommers, President noted:

- Extended birthday wishes to Director Bernard Curtis.

Bernard Curtis, Director noted:

- No report

Nathan Leising, Secretary noted:

- Expressed appreciation to District personnel and members of the Association who traveled to Renown Hospital to support the Lake Valley firefighter and his family following the line-of-duty incident.
- The presence and support provided during that difficult time were meaningful to the firefighter, the family, and the fire service community.
- Thanked everyone involved for their commitment, compassion, and support.

District Fire Chief Alan Ernst added District personnel also stepped up by volunteering to assist with staffing the Lake Valley Fire stations for a period of two separate days, allowing members time to be with their families and process the situation.

John Bellona, Director noted:

- He will not be in attendance at the next meeting.

Barbara Griffin, Director noted:

- Extended birthday wishes to Director Bernard Curtis.
- She will be in attendance at the next meeting.

CLOSING PUBLIC COMMENT (No Action)

President Michael Sommers opened public comment.

There was no public comment.

Public comment closed.

ADJOURNMENT

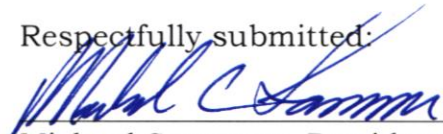
15. For Possible Action. Discussion and possible action to adjourn the East Fork Fire Protection District Board Meeting. (Micheal Sommers, President) 5 Minutes.

MOTION to adjourn; carried.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOTION BY:	Bernard Curtis
SECOND BY:	Nathan Leising
AYES:	Bellona, Curtis, Griffin, Leising, Sommers
NAYS :	
ABSENT:	

There being no further business to come before the Board, 2:14PM the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted:



Michael Sommers, President
East Fork Fire Protection District

ATTEST:



Jolene Polish, Clerk to the Board
East Fork Fire Protection District