

APPROVED

The Board Meeting of the East Fork Fire Protection District Board was held on Tuesday, February 17, 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
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 (Online)
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:

Adam Wennhold, East Fork Fire Professional Firefighter Association Vice President
Mark E. Amodei, United States Representative for Nevada's 2nd Congressional District

CALL TO ORDER

President Mike Sommers

INITIAL MEETING BUSINESS

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Director Bernard Curtis 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.

President Sommers read written public comment from Peggy Ristorcelli of Sheridan Firewise Community Outreach, into the record. A copy is available to review on the website with the minutes.

Congressman Mark E. Amodei addressed the Board. He shared having grown up in a firefighter's household, he has long held deep respect for the fire service and for the firefighters' serving communities throughout northern Nevada.

Congressman Amodei explained he previously arranged for flags to be flown over the United States Capitol in honor of each East Fork Fire Protection District fire station. He noted this gesture was inspired by his personal connection to the fire service and by his work alongside local and federal partners, including coordination efforts during significant wildfire incidents. He acknowledged, during the initial presentations, the District headquarters administration building was unintentionally omitted. He stated he was appearing before the Board to correct that oversight.

Congressman Amodei explained the United States flag he was going to present was flown over the U.S. Capitol on January 12, 2026, in commemoration of the nation's 250th anniversary. The accompanying certificate from the Architect of the Capitol specifies the flag was flown at his request in honor of the firefighters of the East Fork Fire Protection District.

He further noted the flag was manufactured by Annin Flagmakers, emphasizing its American-made quality and longstanding tradition of producing flags of national significance.

Congressman Amodei concluded by expressing his appreciation for the firefighters and formally presented the flag to the East Fork Fire Protection District, stating it was his privilege to make this presentation. District Fire Chief Ernst accepted the flag on behalf of the District..

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. Approval of 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. (John Bellona, President) 5 minutes.

President Michael Sommers opened public comment.

There was no public comment.

Public comment closed.

MOTION to approve the meeting agenda for February 17, 2026.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOTION BY:	Bernard Curtis
SECOND BY:	John Bellona
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 January 20, 2025, 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 January 20, 2025, 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 approve Proclamation No. 2026P-01 conferring the title of Honorary Firefighter upon Congressman Mark E. Amodei, United States Representative for Nevada's 2nd Congressional District. (Alan Ernst, District Fire Chief) 5 Minutes.

District Fire Chief Alan Ernst thanked Congressman Mark E. Amodei for his service and continued support of the fire service, both statewide and specifically for the East Fork Fire Protection District. Chief Ernst stated in recognition of the Congressman's partnership and advocacy, the District determined it was appropriate to name him the District's first Honorary Firefighter. He then invited Board President Michael Sommers to read a summary of the proclamation.

President Michael Sommers read Proclamation No. 2026P-01, conferring the title of Honorary Firefighter to Congressman Mark E. Amodei. The proclamation recognized the fire service as one of the noblest callings in public service, founded on courage, sacrifice, and dedication to community protection. It acknowledged Congressman Amodei's consistent support of first responders and his strong commitment to public safety throughout Nevada. In recognition of his exemplary service and partnership with the District, the East Fork Fire Protection District formally conferred upon Congressman Amodei the distinguished title of Honorary Firefighter, making him the first individual in the District's history to receive this honor.

Chief Ernst presented Congressman Amodei with a framed proclamation, a chief's helmet, and a turnout coat. During the presentation, lighthearted remarks were exchanged regarding helmet color, and Congressman Amodei expressed his appreciation and gratitude for the recognition.

President Michael Sommers opened public comment.

Adam Wennhold, East Fork Fire Professional Firefighter Association Vice President thanked Congressman Amodei for his continued support of professional firefighters and the East Fork Fire Protection District and thanked Chief Ernst and the Board for facilitating the recognition.

Congressman Amodei expressed his appreciation for the honor and referenced a previously gifted commemorative fire service item displayed in his office in Washington D.C.

Public comment closed.

MOTION to approve Proclamation No. 2026P-01 conferring the title of Honorary Firefighter upon Congressman Mark E. Amodei, United States Representative for Nevada's 2nd Congressional District.

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

CONSENT CALENDAR

4. CONSENT CALENDAR

Items appearing on the Consent Calendar are items that can be adopted with one motion unless an item is pulled 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. (Michael Sommers, President) 5 minutes.

FINANCE

- A. For Possible Action.** Discussion and possible action to accept the report on general ledger cash balances as of January 31, 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 January 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 January 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 January 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 December 2025 in the amount of \$23,783.39. (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 November 2025. (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:	Barbara Griffin
SECOND BY:	John Bellona
AYES:	Bellona, Curtis, Griffin, Leising, Sommers
NAYS:	
ABSENT:	

NEW BUSINESS

5. For Presentation Only. Discussion on the 2026/2027 Budget Priorities. (Alan Ernst, Fire Chief and Julie Andress, Director of Finance/CFO) 15 Minutes.

District Fire Chief Alan Ernst provided a preview of the upcoming fiscal year budget. He explained the presentation would cover priorities, challenges, opportunities, proposed restructuring, and next steps. He noted this is his first independently developed budget and it would have a different structure and style than previous years.

District Fire Chief Ernst outlined the budget priorities:

- Maintain sound fiscal policy and long-term sustainability.
- Preserve a healthy ending fund balance, with a target of 13%.
- Explore new revenue and growth opportunities.

- Maintain a competitive workforce within the region.
- Address capital needs, including fleet and facility improvements, with further detail in the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP).

District Fire Chief Ernst outlined the key challenges:

- Tax rate limitations: Current rate of 0.4874 under a combined tax cap of \$3.66, limiting revenue growth.
- Ad valorem revenue is largely capped, making cost-of-living adjustments challenging.
- Rising health insurance costs: Negotiated down from an initial 22% proposed increase but remains a concern.
- Labor negotiations recently began, which may impact the budget.

District Fire Chief Ernst explained the existing capital needs:

- Aging fleet and deferred maintenance across multiple facilities.
- Unbudgeted issues were revealed through new preventative maintenance program, including heater replacements, roof leaks, and other infrastructure concerns.

District Fire Chief Ernst highlighted the current opportunities:

- Continued investment in the fuels and wildland program to enhance community protection and create potential revenue streams through off-district responses and grants.
- Partnership with Nevada Division of Forestry to co-staff a crew at Station 15, reducing full staffing costs and allowing for more projects and grant work.
- Implementation of a 16.13% administrative rate for off-district responses to generate additional revenue.

Director of Finance/CFO Julie Andress stated the District is implementing a new budget structure focused on strengthening:

- Transparency
- Oversight
- Improved reporting and data tracking
- Maintaining a healthy fund balance

Under this new structure, the budget will be organized by the Areas of Responsibility (AORs) assigned to the Executive staff and Deputy Chiefs. This approach will:

- Allow each Chief to clearly see the detailed financial components of their respective areas
- Enable ongoing monitoring of budgets throughout the fiscal year
- Increase accountability at the leadership level

Director of Finance/CFO Andress stated this structure is designed to improve transparency not only for internal stakeholders and employees, but also for the

public. By expanding oversight within the Deputy Chiefs and Executive staff, the expectations are:

- Greater leadership involvement in the budgeting process
- More proactive financial management
- Stronger engagement compared to prior years

The target for the ending fund balance is 13%. Administration will continue refining revenue and expenditure projections and will assess where the District stands once final estimates are complete.

District Fire Chief Ernst added, in prior budgets only a few funds were primarily identified, mainly the General Fund and the Emergency Fund. Most expenses were broadly grouped into what was essentially a single “suppression” category, regardless of the actual purpose. For example, items such as station utility costs, the volunteer program, various operational programs were all combined under one general classification.

Under the new structure, those expenses are now separated into more defined categories aligned with the Deputy Chiefs’ areas of responsibility, including specific programs and management areas. In practical terms, this functions similarly to cost centers, providing clearer financial visibility.

District Fire Chief Ernst stated the updated format allows leadership, staff, and the public to easily review detailed financial information, such as:

- The cost and revenue associated with the wildland fuels program
- The financial scope of the volunteer program
- Operational expenses
- Utilities and facilities costs

Additionally, District Fire Chief Ernst explained this approach requires additional upfront work for Director of Finance/CFO Andress and the budget team to properly break out and categorize expenses. It will ultimately improve clarity and transparency, enhance financial tracking and accountability and provide a much more accurate and informative view of the District’s budget moving forward.

Director Barbara Griffin asked if these reports would be provided on a monthly basis so the Board can also review each division’s operations?

District Fire Chief Ernst answered yes, the District will continue providing monthly budget updates. Administration is also happy to have a discussion with the Board about what level of detail or specific information the Board would like to see included in those reports.

Director of Finance/CFO Andress noted the next step in the budget process is the receipt of final revenue projections from the Department of Taxation on March 15. Preliminary projections were received from the State over the

weekend; however, the 2026–2027 projections currently do not reflect the effects of property tax abatements. She further noted:

- Current projections exclude the impact of property tax abatements until the March 15 update
- Future data is expected to include taxes after abatement for existing properties on the secured roll, properties on the unsecured roll and centrally assessed properties
- The information provided at this time pertains primarily to Ad Valorem revenues

Staff will also coordinate with the Clerk-Treasurer to obtain any additional revenue projections relevant to the special district to ensure the most accurate budget estimates moving forward.

President Michael Sommers asked if a revenue figure was provided?

Director of Finance/CFO Andress stated she did have some figures for the assessed values and the maximum Ad Valorem revenue the District could collect. The maximum allowed represents an 8% increase over the current year.

Additionally, Director of Finance/CFO Andress stated the state's consolidated taxes, overall growth is minimal at 0.52% for fiscal year 2026–2027. For EFFPD specifically, amounts to about 0.9% growth, so tax increases will be quite modest.

Once the final revenue projections are received, the tentative budget will be finalized and presented to the Board. The upcoming timeline is as follows:

- March 17: Present tentative budget to the Board
- April: Review and present Capital Improvement Plans in more detail
- May: Final budget adopted by the Board
- June 1: File the final budget with the Department of Taxation

There is a significant amount of work ahead, with items to review and approve each month.

President Sommers asked if there will be any additional augmentations before final budget adoption?

Director of Finance/CFO Andress confirmed she plans to bring forward a budget augmentation in May.

President Sommers asked if it will be included in the final budget?

Director of Finance/CFO Andress stated the augmentation will be presented in May and it applies to the current fiscal year.

President Sommers asked if the augmentation could impact the estimated ending fund balance?

Director of Finance/CFO Andress confirmed it's possible, but she doesn't have all the details yet.

District Fire Chief Ernst added regardless of whether it is ultimately achieved, there was a positive outcome from the first negotiations meeting with the Labor Group. There was a joint commitment to try to reach a tentative agreement before the budget is adopted.

6. For Possible Action. Discussion and possible action regarding the proposed tax rate for the fiscal year 2026-2027. (Julie Andress, Director of Finance/CFO) 10 Minutes.

Director of Finance/CFO Julie Andress stated:

- The Department of Taxation provides preliminary revenue projections and establishes the preliminary maximum allowed for the District's operating property tax rate.
- The District is required to report the proposed property tax rate by February 21 for fiscal year 2026-2027
- The current District tax rate is \$0.4874, well within the \$3.66 cap, which also accounts for rates from other entities.
- The Board has two options regarding the tax rate, maintain the current rate or reduce the rate (not currently suggested, but presented for consideration)

President Michael Sommers opened public comment.

There was no public comment.

Public comment closed.

MOTION to approve the current tax rate of 0.4874 for the fiscal year 2026-2027.

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

7. For Possible Action. Discussion and possible action to approve the Type 1 apparatus replacement plan and adopt Resolution 2026R-01 authorizing staff to proceed with a ten-year lease financing strategy, including a turn-

in replacement option. (Alan Ernst, District Fire Chief, Larry Goss, Deputy Fire Chief, and Julie Andress, Director of Finance/CFO) 15 Minutes.

District Fire Chief Alan Ernst expressed his enthusiasm in bringing forward a long-discussed issue regarding the District's significant capital needs. He highlighted apparatus replacement, particularly Type 1 engines, as a primary concern and noted the District does not currently have an adopted fleet replacement plan, largely due to the difficulty of budgeting for high-cost apparatus.

District Fire Chief Ernst explained modern fire engines cost approximately \$1 million, ladder trucks exceed \$2 million, and production timelines can range from three to four years, making traditional pay-as-you-go replacement models challenging for municipalities. He reminded the Board while the District has bond funding available for capital needs, including apparatus, those funds would likely cover only one engine and would nearly exhaust the bond.

District Fire Chief Ernst stated due to ongoing needs related to facilities, frontline apparatus, and wildland equipment, staff explored alternative funding strategies. This research resulted in introducing a new option for the Board's consideration.

Deputy Fire Chief Larry Goss provided the Board with an overview of the current status of the Type 1 fleet and the importance of establishing a formal replacement plan. He stated his intent was to outline operational needs and challenges before turning the presentation back over to the Fire Chief for the proposed plan.

He explained the District serves approximately 96% of Douglas County, covering about 695 square miles and responding to more than 7,000 calls for service annually. Type 1 engines serve as the primary response apparatus for a wide range of incidents, including structure fires, vehicle fires, motor vehicle collisions, hazardous conditions, technical rescues, hazardous materials incidents, and other calls for service. As a result, these apparatuses are heavily utilized across a large geographic area.

Deputy Fire Chief Goss noted several operational challenges, including the absence of a current replacement plan, historically relying on available funding or opportunistic purchases. He also cited increased call volume, high mileage accumulation, and the frequency of cross-coverage between stations, particularly in areas such as Johnson Lane, the Ranchos, Fish Springs, and the Foothill corridor. This contributes to significant wear on frontline engines.

He further discussed maintenance concerns and parts availability, especially for the oldest Type 1 apparatus in the fleet. He indicated that even newer engines will approach 10 years of service by the time replacements are received, which aligns with typical replacement benchmarks. Deputy Fire

Chief Goss reiterated current build times for new Type 1 apparatus exceed three years, with costs now exceeding approximately \$1.1 million per engine.

Deputy Fire Chief Goss delineated fleet mileage and age, noting first-out engines range from model years 2010 to 2020, with the newest unit already exceeding 60,000 miles and older units reaching 150,000 miles. Reserve apparatus, dating from 2006 and 2007, average approximately 140,000 miles. He explained the next engine, previously approved by the Board and entering construction soon, is expected to be delivered within eight to nine months and will replace a 2010 frontline unit, which would then transition into the reserve fleet.

He concluded by emphasizing a structured replacement program would allow the District to systematically rotate first-out engines into the reserve fleet, resulting in better-maintained, lower-mileage reserve apparatus and improved long-term fleet sustainability.

District Fire Chief Ernst expanded on the proposed municipal lease option for apparatus replacement. He explained one engine is already on order, and by converting that purchase from a cash payment to a municipal lease, the District would be able to return the previously allocated funds back to the bond for use on facilities and other capital needs. Lease payments would begin upon delivery of the apparatus.

He described the structure as similar to an operating lease and noted his prior experience with the program. While the goal would be to extend apparatus life to 20–30 years, he stated significant maintenance and repair costs typically increase around the 10-year mark. He also noted resale value at that point is minimal, often only a fraction of the original purchase price.

District Fire Chief Ernst emphasized this program would allow the District to acquire four fire engines rather than just one—taking delivery of one this year and ordering three additional engines immediately, with delivery over the next three years. This approach would standardize the Type 1 fleet across both frontline and reserve apparatus, improving parts availability, maintenance efficiency, and overall reliability. New units would also carry warranty coverage during the initial year, helping reduce short-term repair costs.

He further explained ordering multiple units now would secure current pricing and protect the District from annual manufacturer cost increases, which have historically ranged from six to ten percent. Locking in today's pricing could result in substantial savings over the next three years.

Under the lease structure, the District would have no obligation to purchase the apparatus at the end of the term and could instead return the units and enter into a new lease agreement, similar to a vehicle lease. Because the residual value is not financed, the District would only finance the lease portion.

Additionally, the lender provides funds directly to the manufacturer upfront, qualifying the District for a significant prepayment discount—approximately \$280,000 in total—resulting in an effective interest rate of approximately 3.45 percent.

District Fire Chief Ernst reviewed projected lease payments, explaining during the build period the District would pay interest-only payments, with full principal and interest payments beginning upon delivery of each apparatus. He stated the anticipated funding source would primarily be revenue generated from off-district equipment reimbursement, based on a three-year average. While that revenue stream is expected to support the lease payments, the general fund could supplement payments if necessary.

He concluded, stating this approach would effectively serve as the District's long-term fleet replacement plan. District Fire Chief Ernst invited questions from the Board.

Secretary Nathan Leising asked when these units are ordered, can they be built to the specifications and needs of the District?

District Fire Chief Ernst confirmed and stated the pricing already reflects the specifications developed by the District's apparatus committee in coordination with Pierce. It's the same process used for previous apparatus purchases, so the engines will be built to the District's specifications.

Director John Bellona asked since apparatus manufacturers experience cancellations from time to time, is there a possibility this could accelerate the timeline?

District Fire Chief Ernst confirmed it is possible. The apparatus committee worked to make sure the District's specifications are very close to the manufacturer's standard "stock" truck. Because of that, if a stock unit becomes available, the District would be notified. If it meets the District's specifications, the committee could approve it, and EFFPD could receive the apparatus sooner.

President Michael Sommers asked what the cost would be if the 10,000 miles annually were exceeded? Is that calculated as an annual true-up, or is total mileage reconciled at the end of the lease when the vehicle is returned?

District Fire Chief Ernst stated the mileage is calculated on a cumulative basis and reconciled at the end of the lease term. Staff has reviewed the typical mileage usage for the apparatus and noted the District has the ability to rotate units between stations as needed. If a unit begins approaching the mileage threshold, it can be reassigned to a lower-usage station to reduce wear and ensure the District remains within the 10,000-mile annual average over the term of the lease.

President Sommers asked what the cost of the excess mileage is.

District Fire Chief Ernst stated he didn't have that information yet. Once the District applies for and secures Board approval for the lease, the District will receive all the specific details. It works similarly to a standard vehicle lease, with a set cost per mile if the mileage exceeds the 10,000-mile annual limit—or the total reserved mileage, believed to be 100,000 miles over 10 years. The 10-year term begins from the date the equipment is received.

President Sommers asked why the District was choosing the interest-only payments for the first two years instead of the alternative plan which allows the District to start principal payments in three years and could save \$100,000?

District Fire Chief Ernst stated he would look into both options and the one which is the lowest cost to the District is the option that will be chosen.

President Michael Sommers opened public comment.

East Fork Fire Professional Firefighter Association Vice President, Adam Wennhold noted engine prices have roughly doubled since 2019, regardless of the manufacturer, creating a national challenge for fire services. He acknowledged the District's need to explore creative solutions and thanked District Fire Chief Ernst for developing an approach to address this difficult situation.

Public comment closed.

MOTION to approve the Type 1 apparatus replacement plan and adopt Resolution 2026R-01 authorizing staff to proceed with a ten-year lease financing strategy, including a turn-in replacement option.

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

8. For Possible Action. Discussion and possible action to approve a one-year contract for service with ARC Health and Wellness for both staff and volunteer physicals at an estimated cost of \$115,000 per fiscal year, and to authorize the District Fire Chief to sign all related documents. (Brad Driscoll, Division Chief) 15 Minutes.

Division Chief Brad Driscoll stated the District has continued to use ARC Health and Wellness (ARC) for physicals for both career and volunteer staff,

with exams conducted on-site. Their services comply with NRS requirements regarding both the necessity and components of physicals.

ARC offers a comprehensive “cafeteria plan” package at a single price, which exceeds the quality and value of other providers that attempt to assemble services piecemeal. While \$1,075 per exam may seem high, it represents strong value given the service and additional screenings provided, including some extra cancer screenings beyond NRS and FDA requirements.

Staff have been satisfied with the services provided. Thanks to negotiations led by Director of Administrative Services Holly Megee, there will be no increase in the per-physical cost this year. The projected cost of \$115,000 covers all career and volunteer physicals under the contract.

President Michael Sommers asked if ARC provides an individual online portal for career staff and volunteers where they can access their health information?

Division Chief Driscoll stated to his knowledge, there was an online portal available about two years ago when he was receiving ARC physicals.

Director of Administrative Services Holly Megee added employees receive copies of their physicals at the time of the exam. She is not aware of an online portal; however, staff can contact ARC directly to request their records, and the District also keeps copies.

President Sommers requested the District follow up with ARC to find out if they do provide a portal. He also asked Director of Administrative Services Megee if she was happy working with ARC as she deals with them the most often.

Director of Administrative Services Holly Megee stated she is very satisfied. They provide on-site service. Last year ARC spent two weeks at Station 2, which worked out very well. They're easy to work with, responsive, and return calls promptly.

Director John Bellona asked if there is an up charge for the HazMat physicals.

Director of Administrative Services Holly Megee stated the HazMat screening is included in the physical for the employees that possess a HazMat Certification.

President Sommers asked if ARC was used for Workers Comp screening as well.

Division Chief Driscoll stated ARC is used for both pre-employment and annual physicals.

President Sommers opened public comment.

Vice President of the East Fork Fire Professional Firefighter Association Adam Wennhold stated when staff receive their paperwork from ARC, it includes trend information from the years ARC has conducted their physicals, allowing them to see how things are trending over time. He also expressed support for the use of ARC, noting their service is far superior to the previous vendor.

Public comment closed.

MOTION to approve a contract for service with ARC Health and Wellness at an estimated cost of \$115,000 per fiscal year, and to authorize the District Fire Chief to sign all related documents.

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

9. For Presentation Only. Budget Summary for month ending January 2026. (Julie Andress, Director of Finance/CFO) 5 Minutes.

Director of Finance/CFO Julie Andress reported:

- The January Budget Performance Report represents 58% of the fiscal year.
- Total revenues are at 48%, below the 58% year-to-date benchmark.
- Ad valorem taxes are recorded through December, and state taxes through November.
- Department Budgets:
 - Administration: 62% – slightly above the average.
 - Fire Prevention: 87% – high due to a one-time annual fee paid upfront.
 - Training: 73% – under review; potential budget adjustment or transfer may be proposed in coordination with Division Chief Brad Driscoll.
 - Suppression: 50% overall, with services and supplies at 69% and capital at 34%.

Director of Finance/CFO Andress noted spending is slightly over in suppression, which is monitored closely through forecasts and evaluations.

- Debt Service: 53% – slightly below the year-to-date benchmark.

President Micheal Sommers verified the District has spent approximately 5% over the revenues for this fiscal year

Director of Finance/CFO Address confirmed that is correct.

10. 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.

No Report

11. 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.

Chris Lang, President, East Fork Fire Volunteer Firefighters Association, reported:

- February 14th Defensible Space training was cancelled due to the Living with Fire program coordinator preparing for the upcoming Fire Adapted Nevada (FAN) Summit. In place of the training, twelve volunteer operators conducted portable tank training at Station 9.
- The Volunteer Training Committee is developing an annual training calendar and is working to align it with the new volunteer training schedule presented by Division Chief Brad Driscoll at last week's association meeting.
- The Association anticipates onboarding five new prospective volunteer apparatus operators, with orientation expected to begin in mid-March.

12. 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.

Michael Shockey, Deputy Chief of Emergency Operations noted:

- Truckee Meadows Fire recently suffered a tragic loss, where one of their Battalion Chiefs passed away off duty. A funeral service was held in Truckee Meadows, and East Fork Fire Protection District assisted by providing coverage at the Spanish Springs station so on-duty crews could attend the service. Multiple regional agencies participated in the coverage effort, ensuring all Truckee Meadows personnel were able to attend and support one another.

Larry Goss, Deputy Fire Chief/Business Operations noted:

- The Type 3 Remount unit has returned fully equipped with radios, striping, and necessary equipment. It will undergo in-service training with personnel before being placed into service.
- Staff are currently supporting operations at Station 15. The Nevada Division of Forestry (NDF) has moved in, and the fuels crew is assisting with preparations to ensure the facility is operational. The station is now occupied and active.

President Micheal Sommers asked if the coming weather was going to test the roofs.

Deputy Fire Chief Goss confirmed it is possible.

Anthony Seghieri, Executive Program Manager noted:

Grant Opportunities:

- Fuels Division is pursuing several funding opportunities.
- Two major grants will open on March 20
- CWDG – Community Wildfire Defense Grant, which allows up to \$10 million per application and is a high-priority submission.
- HFCCP – Hazardous Fuels Community Program, focused on reducing wildfire risk through fuels reduction projects.

Station 15 / Joint Fuels Crew Operations:

- The joint fuels crew with Nevada Division of Forestry (NDF) at Station 15 has moved in, and operations are underway.

Recruitment Efforts:

- 77 applications were received for fuels crew positions.
- 66 candidates will be interviewed over six days (three days in late February and three days in early March).
- 1 position will be filled for the joint fuels crew.
- The same applicant pool will be used to establish a seasonal hiring list for the fuels crew to reduce the need for additional interview rounds.
- Additional hiring includes 10 seasonal fuels crew positions and four seasonal engine crew positions (two per engine).

President Michael Sommers asked if the District has heard anything regarding existing grant applications.

Executive Program Manager Seghieri stated:

- A grant application submitted last March was denied, not due to the quality of the application, but because the community did not meet the underserved community criteria required for that funding. All other previously awarded funding remains intact and available.
- Two larger grant opportunities will open on March 20, 2026. Preparatory work and prerequisite planning for these grants is ongoing, and operations are continuing to move forward on multiple fronts.
- The District was awarded \$26,000 through a supplemental agreement for work on the Community Wildfire Preparedness and Prevention Initiative

(CWPPI). This funding is a catch-up award and will support activities such as attending meetings, conducting risk assessments, and other CWPPI-related work.

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

Safety Topic:

- January and February focused on utility emergencies, with ongoing training throughout both months.
- Weekly sessions are held every Friday with Deputy Fire Chief Shockey and staff, reviewing utility emergency procedures and related safety equipment.

Safety Incidents:

- One reportable injury in January required treatment; it was a lost-time injury.
- No accidents were reported during the month of January.

Julie Andress, Director of Finance/CFO noted:

- Primary focus is finalizing figures to present the tentative budget next month.
- Worked closely with Deputy Chiefs and Executive Staff to review budget areas, assess new needs, and analyze past trends. Using this information to develop projections for future budget planning.
- The process has been engaging and provided an opportunity for greater involvement in budget development.

Holly Megee, Director of Administrative Services noted:

- Two lateral Firefighter/Paramedics have been hired and are scheduled to start on Monday, February 25th.
- Interviews for the Fuels Crew positions are scheduled for the last week of February and the first week of March.

Amy Ray, Deputy Fire Chief/Fire Marshal noted:

- Captain Patrick Mooneyhan and staff attended all-day training with the Douglas County Building Department on a new platform for plan review.
 - Completed a “studio session” plan review, found the system user-friendly, and able to view comments from other agencies.
 - Current plan review process will continue until the platform is fully operational to ensure uninterrupted service.
- Preparing for burn season and evaluating dates.
 - Waiting for the Community Connect module to be ready, which will allow residents to apply for burn permits online and allow responders to verify permits at addresses.
- The Prevention Division including Captain Mooneyhan and Inspector Jusdan Mondragon will attend EduCode in Las Vegas next week.
 - Training covers all model codes and satisfies three-year recertification requirements for most certifications.
- Project review activity is currently moderate.

- Large industrial project with five 39,000 sq. ft. buildings progressing.
- Ongoing reviews and meetings with WinCo.
- Residential plans are still coming in slowly.
- Subdivision project in the Ranchos for an 84-lot development under review.

Alan Ernst, District Fire Chief noted:

- Held a successful Academy Graduation in Virginia City for three new employees who are now assigned to engine crews.
- Offers were made and accepted for two lateral hires, bringing staffing to 100%.
- Current focus is on finalizing the budget and ongoing negotiations, which occupy significant time.
- Conducted the monthly strategic meeting with leadership, including union representatives, the Volunteer Association, Executive Staff, and Battalion Chiefs.
 - Performed a SWOT analysis (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats), comparing results from over a year ago to today. Many previous weaknesses or threats have been addressed and moved to strengths.
- Adopted a new thematic goal of Organizational Health, focusing on internal improvements and strengthening the organization over the next 6 to 8 months.

Director Barbara Griffin asked how many employees 100% staffing puts the District at.

District Fire Chief Ernst stated 95 employees.

President Michael Sommers asked regarding the District's call tracking: is it tracking calls by calendar year, not fiscal year? If so, he requested Deputy Fire Chief Michael Shockey to explain why that process is used?

Deputy Fire Chief Michael Shockey stated it's mainly due to the limitations of the program used in the past. While the District has now transitioned to FirstDue, it's still set up the same way.

District Fire Chief Ernst added the reporting requirements for the National Incident Management System (NIMS) is based on the calendar year, which aligns with how the District tracks calls.

Bernard Curtis, Director noted:

- The meeting with the Board President and the Volunteers showed strong interest in this year's Fishing Derby, which is still ongoing.

Barbara Griffin, Director noted:

- Belated happy birthday to Director John Bellona. There is cake after the meeting to celebrate.
- There will be a filing period for the open seats on this board, starting the first Monday in March and lasting two weeks.
- Both Director Griffin and Director Curtis are term limited and ineligible to file.
- By the time of the next meeting, we will know who has filed to run for the open positions.
- Despite not being able to run, Director Curtis & Director Griffin will remain involved in District activities.

Nathan Leising, Secretary noted:

- No Report

John Bellona, Director noted:

- Looking forward to seeing everyone on April 11th at the Elks Firefighter Appreciation Dinner. Please make sure to mark it on your calendars.

Mark Forsberg, Legal Counsel noted:

- No Report

Michael Sommers, President noted:

- Following up on the Volunteer Association Meeting, Elaine Pace attended. She serves on the Douglas County Board of Equalization and reported there were no requests for any valuation or assessment changes. This should help in anticipating revenues, as there won't be any abatements coming from that board.

CLOSING PUBLIC COMMENT (No Action)

President Michael Sommers opened public comment.

There was no public comment.

Public comment closed.

ADJOURNMENT

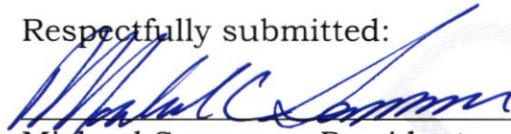
13. For Possible Action. Discussion and possible action to adjourn the East Fork Fire Protection District Board Meeting. (Micheal Sommers, President) 5 minutes.

MOTION to adjourn; carried.

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

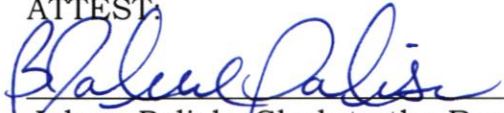
There being no further business to come before the Board, 2:23 PM the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted:



Michael Sommers, President
East Fork Fire Protection District

ATTEST:



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

APPROVED