



La Paz Unified Fire-Medical District
PO Box 1889 Quartzsite, AZ 85346
70 E Tyson Street

Serving: Quartzsite, La Paz Valley, Rainbow Acres, Vicksburg, Hope, Brenda, Harcuvar, Salome and Wenden EST
2025



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5-Year Strategic Plan (FY 2027–2032)

Serving Southern La Paz County, Arizona

Mission: Safely protect life and property with courage, honor, and compassion, ensuring that everyone goes home.

Vision: A unified, well-resourced, all-hazards fire-medical organization that delivers reliable emergency response, expands service equitably across the district (and adjacent areas), maintains modern facilities and apparatus, builds professional staffing, and achieves long-term financial sustainability.

The District was formed in October 2025 through the merger of Quartzsite Fire District and McMullen Valley Fire District. It currently serves approximately 1,200 square miles including Quartzsite, La Paz Valley, Rainbow Acres, Brenda, Vicksburg, Hope, Harcuvar, Salome, and Wenden, plus major corridors (I-10, US-95, US-60). Primary stations: Station 33 (Quartzsite – Administration), Station 233 (Brenda Area), and Station 77 (Salome Area).

This plan organizes the listed priorities into phased, measurable goals with, key actions, and success indicators. Implementation will require Board approval, annual budget alignment and community engagement. Costs and exact sequencing will be refined annually based on assessed valuation growth, tax rates, and external funding.

Strategic Pillars & Priorities

1. Geographic Expansion & Annexation

- **Goal:** Expand the District's service area through annexation of contiguous unincorporated properties and pursue discussions/possible merger or shared service options with neighboring districts where mutually beneficial.
- **Specific expansion targets:**
 - Extension of boundaries **to the county line along Highway 60** east of Wenden.

- Extension of boundaries north **of Wenden to Alamo Lake.**
- Extension of boundaries east **to the county line along Interstate 10** (approximately MM 69).
- District Expansion/ Annexation of the **unincorporated area between the Bouse Fire District boundary in the area of Highway 72 and Avenue 42 E.**
- Outreach regarding neighboring agencies for possible consolidation/ shared service options.
- **Success metrics:** Net increase in assessed valuation and protected population; reduced mutual-aid dependency on northern, eastern, and western boundaries; documented community support; clear contiguous boundaries free of service gaps.

2. Facilities & Infrastructure

- **Buy land for Station 33 / expand Station 33 footprint** — Secure adjacent or suitable parcel(s) in the Quartzsite area for future expansion, training, or apparatus storage.
- **Station remodels** — Modernize Stations 33, 233, and 77 for safety, livability, apparatus bays, and operational efficiency. Prioritize critical needs (sleeping quarters, HVAC, decontamination, IT).
- **Station 77 build** — Construct or substantially improve Station 77, consider current location as well as the property we have on Highway 60. Possible coordinated effort with La Paz County Sheriff's Office and/or other local agencies for shared use facilities.
- **Station 233 backup power** — Install reliable generator/ battery system for continuous operations during outages.
- **Station 233 road pavement** — Improve access road/pavement for safer apparatus response and reduced wear.
- **Multi-Agency Training Facility** — Develop a regional training site (possibly on acquired Station 33 land or other District property) or another county location usable by LUFMD, Law Enforcement, neighboring fire districts, EMS, and mutual-aid partners. Include classroom, props for structure/wildland/Hazmat, and burn building if feasible.

3. Apparatus & Specialized Capabilities

- **New Apparatus Replacements** — Focus on acquiring and replacing fire apparatus to strategically cover our district, considering possible Type 3 trucks and water tenders to improve initial attack and extended response across our rural/desert interface and major highway corridors.
 - **Wildland Deployment & State Contract** — Continue efforts to begin wildland deployment by maintaining state contract (Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management / DFFM or equivalent) for out-of-district responses, deploying designated apparatus and crews to state and regional incidents to generate reimbursable revenue and build experience while maintaining local readiness.

- **Hazmat capability** — Expand Hazmat response (training, equipment, possible dedicated unit or team).

4. Staffing & Operations

- **Battalion Chiefs** — Establish Battalion Chief rank/positions for improved command, supervision, and 24/7 operational oversight across the expanded district.
- **Engineers** — Create and staff Engineer (driver/operator) positions to professionalize apparatus operation and free company officers for command.
- **4-person crew at Station 33** — Move Station 33 to consistent 4-person minimum staffing (engine company) for improved safety, capability, and NFPA alignment.

5. Financial Sustainability

- **Pension debt pay-down** — Accelerate reduction of unfunded pension liabilities through dedicated annual contributions, refinancing opportunities if available, and growth in assessed valuation from annexations. Track progress annually; target meaningful reduction by Year 5.
- **Financial Reserves** — Establish dedicated reserve funds to address liabilities, including accrued leave (vacation and sick time), equipment and apparatus replacement, and upcoming capital projects.

Implementation Framework

- **Governance:** Annual Board work sessions to update the plan; Chief provides quarterly progress reports.
- **Funding mix:** Property tax (within statutory limits), grants, mitigation rates, intergovernmental cost-sharing, possible impact fees or development agreements, and reimbursable revenue from state wildland fire deployments.
- **Community & partners:** Transparent communication, public hearings for annexations and major capital projects, collaboration with La Paz County, Town of Quartzsite, LPCSO, neighboring districts (Bouse, Ehrenberg, and others), Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management, and state/federal agencies.
- **Performance measurement:** Response time data, staffing ratios, apparatus readiness, facility condition assessments, financial ratios (pension funding level, reserves), annexation acreage/assessed value added, number and revenue of wildland deployments under state contract, and community satisfaction.

This plan is a living document. Priorities may shift with Board direction, unexpected funding opportunities, call volume trends, or legislative changes. The District is well-positioned to strengthen service delivery, professionalize operations and responsibly grow to meet the needs of southern La Paz County and the identified expansion areas.