BLACKMAN FIRE DISTRICT MEETING

DATE: 11 September 2025

TIME: 7:00 p.m.

(X) REGULARLY SCHEDULED
( ) EMERGENCY
( ) WORKSHOP

ROLL CALL	PRESENT	
Commissioner Steve Lawson	(x) Yes	( ) No
Chairperson Larry Cunningham	(x) Yes	( ) No
Vacant	( ) Yes	( ) No
Commissioner Wade Merritt	(x) Yes	( ) No
Commissioner Ronnie Miller	( ) Yes	( ) No

Welcome/Call Meeting to Order at 7:00 pm
Pledge of Allegiance

1) Discussion and Approval of the Regular Meeting Minutes from August 14 , 2025. *(Wade Merritt)*

Motion: Steve Lawson 2nd: Wade Merritt X Passed

1a) Discussion and Approval of FY 2026 Budget Workshop Meeting #2 Meeting Minutes *(Wade Merritt)*

Motion: Wade Merritt 2nd: Steve Lawson X Passed

2) Discussion and Approval of the Financial Report from August 31 , 2025. *(Wade Merritt)*
(see Attachment 2,2a)

Cash

- **Unrestricted Cash**
  - **Petty Cash** $ 180.85
  - **General Checking** $ 22,934.93
  - **General Savings** $ 32,989.98
  - **Total Unrestricted Cash** $ 56,105.76
- **Restricted Cash**
  - **Impact Fees** $ 1,722.38
  - **Total Restricted Cash** $ 1,722.38
- **Total Cash** $ 57,828.14

Motion: Steve Lawson 2nd: Wade Merritt X Passed

3) Chief's Report *(Chief Duane Melanson)*
(See attached report)

Total Calls for Service = 13

- 8 - Medical Calls (1 Cancelled Enroute)
- 1- Animal Rescue
- 2 - Hazardous Condition (Tree Down)
- 2 - Rescue EMS Standby (Racetrack)

OLD BUSINESS

4) **Station Generator** *(Wade Merritt)*

Update on station generator placement along with propane tank and removal of forestry loaner generator.

Wade Merritt gave an update that the Generator and propane tank were onsite and ready to start installation. The chief gave an update on the transfer switch for the generator.

5) **2009 Tahoe Sealed Bid** *(Wade Merritt)*

Open any bids on the 2009 Tahoe and award it to the highest bidder if reserve is met. If no bids are presented, have further discussion as to its future.

Kelsey W. won the bid on the Tahoe with a $1,000 winning bid. If the winner does not claim in one week it will go to second bidder Anthony LaQue. A third bid came in at $650.00 from Joseph Jackson.

Motion: Steve Lawson 2nd: Wade Merritt X Passed

6) **Retention Pond** *(Wade Merritt)*

Discussion and update on current status of the retention pond mowing by the county.

Okaloosa County Parks has mowed the retention pond.

7) **State Appropriations FY 2025** *(Miranda Sargent)*

Update on status of 2025 EV apparatus.

Update given on correspondence from dealer about $54,000 vs $59,000 for new Response Vehicle. We may not go with fire blankets due to concerns of safety.

8) ***FY 2026 Budget Approval*** *(All)*

Discussion and approval of FY 2026 Budget and advertisement.

Discussion of the budget was had as it was agreed that all was correct as discussed in two previous workshops. It was further discussed when and where to advertise the budget.

Motion: Steve Lawson 2nd: Wade Merritt X Passed

NEW BUSINESS

9) **Commission Seat # 3 Vacancy**

Discuss, review and appoint a potential Blackman Fire District member to fill a vacancy on the Blackman Fire District board until the next general election cycle in 2026. *(All)*

One person from the District showed interest in the vacant commission seat. Jennifer Augustine introduced herself and gave a brief introduction. Discussion was had and it went for a vote to have her fill the vacant seat. Jennifer Augustine was unanimously voted in and given the oath of office by t Lt. Miranda Sargent.

Motion: Steve Lawson 2nd: Wade Merritt X Passed

10) State Appropriations FY 2026 *(Steve Lawson)*

Discussion and update from Commissioner Steve Lawson on the Quotes from a Company to give Design and Design cost on the expansion of the Fire station. Approve a dollar amount to present at the state delegation meeting in October of 2025.

Discussion was had and an update given form Steve Lawson, no one has given at bid at this time, but a rough bid was given for a Helo Pad/ Parking Lot of roughly $92,000. Further discussion will be had at the next meeting.

11) Reconsideration of Membership

Miranda Sargent is requesting to be a member of the Blackman Fire District as Support staff.

Lt. Miranda Sargent has asked the board to amend her resignation letter that stated that she was resigning from the Blackman Fire District Corporation. The Lieutenant would like to stay a member of the corporation and relinquish her duties as admin assistant effective Sept 30,2025. She will also continue to work as the grants administrator as voted at a previous time.
A discussion was had and the matter was put to a vote to amend the original resignation letter.

Motion: Steve Lawson 2nd: Wade Merritt X Passed

12) Add on Item (Baker Homecoming Parade)

Chief Mealason requested to use E70 and E71 in the Homecoming parade for September 26, 2025. Discussion was had and Steve Lawson and Larry Cunningham offered to pay the $ 25.00 entry fee.

Motion: Wade Merritt 2nd: Steve Lawson X Passed

Upcoming Events

- Blackman Community Dinner 9/12/2025
- Fishing with Smokey The Bear at Karick Lake 9/20/2025

PUBLIC COMMENT

Open the floor to public comment.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment of meeting at: 8:53 pm

Motion: Wade Merritt 2nd: Steve Lawson X Passed

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING October 9, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.

These minutes were approved and accepted as read this date 10/9/25

Larry Cunningham, Chairman Larry Cunningham

or Other Authorized Board Member _____