

Minutes

WEST CENTRAL FIRE DISTRICT

This meeting is a meeting of the West Central Fire District in public for the purpose of conducting the fire district's business and is not to be considered a public community meeting.

Feb 11, 2026

11329 Railroad Street, Arcola, IN 46818

6PM (-5 UTC)

*This meeting was recorded with Video and Audio
and can be viewed <https://vimeo.com/1164359749?fl=ip&fe=ec>*

Board Attendees

Chuck Dwyer-Present

Mike Meyers-Present

Lance Dafforn-Present

Chandler Branning-Present

David Guadnola-Present

Additional

Gale Stelzer-Present

Chris Perez-Present

00:00:04

Meeting to Order.

00:00:16

Pledge of Allegiance

00:00:40

Jan 6 meeting minutes review

Approved

00:01:09

Chiefs Report

EMS runs, a few highlights. EMS incident type runs, falls remains our highest. 1,836 EMS runs. Average 7.8 runs a day. Fire calls 1,012 for 2025. EMS assists biggest run maker. Transported over 1,200 people. 1,202 BLS calls, 634 ALS calls. Cardiac arrest saves, 26.4% save rate, three times the national average.

Average in route time remains to be appx one minute. Average on time or on scene time is 8.5 minutes.

9,391 total training hours. Over 16 hours per member per month. Hired nine new firefighters. Two of them were lateral. First West Central Fire Academy completed.

First Lieutenant process promoted two firefighters to lieutenants.

Strategic goals for 2026 are training and professional development. Expand our hands-on training, our advanced certifications, and leadership development. Community risk reduction and public education for 2026. The district will expand the community risk reduction initiative. Expand that in the fall prevention outreach.

Budget maintain disciplined financial management, responsible spending and long-term planning.

2026 firefighter health and wellness are prioritized. Improve fitness initiatives.

LIFEPAK 35s, we have taken possession of those and will be on our trucks the following Monday.

New ambulance is arriving on June the 26th.

Engine 81 was supposed to be delivered in October, then December, then January. We have a definite date of March 15th, then it will go to FMA after that. I don't expect it to be in service until May.

Interlocal agreement draft copy provided. It is not the final copy. They're still working on it.

All districts are expected to join a fire territory under northeast fire district. Then before July 1 we'll back out of that territory and move on to the county district January 1st of 2027.

00:07:42

Question about the territory, oversight and control, annexation by city, etc. Jeremy Bush here to answer some of those questions at our next meeting.

00:10:00

The public hearings - Monday, February 23rd at 10 am. Monday, March 2nd, 1 pm. Monday, March 9th at 6 pm. All three are at the Coliseum. In the Appleseed Room.

Looking at a 9-member board on January 1st. WCFD board will go away, there will be two board members from each quadrant.

00:15:32

Tax rates questions.

00:18.49

Station Renovation and Arcola Purchase.

We've got 3.3 million dollars that the district has managed to save and budget appropriately but once we go to an Allen County fire district that money goes into a pool that might benefit other fire departments who didn't otherwise budget as appropriately as this group did. Do we go to county council and ask them for all that money so we can do renovations to this station and to the Aboite fire station to benefit our community?

Lance Dafforn is making a motion to use 3.3 million to renovate the stations and pay for this building. Going back to BW Construction, who we already have an investment in, revisit those estimates on the renovations that need to be done and then make the presentation to county council for appropriation.

Chuck Dwyer – second.

All approve. Motion Passes.

00:22:40

00:24:54

This board is the merit board right now while waiting on the union.

WCFD is conducting a lateral hiring process. 4 fire fighters and EMT's have applied from other departments. This board should certify the list as the law requires.

00:26:40

Battalion chief positions. We need a battalion chief or chiefs here to maintain control. Cost is \$271,000, it is in the budget. Approval of the purchase of one more vehicle.

Dave makes a motion to hire Battalion Chiefs

Lance Dafforn – Second

Motion Passes

00:30:12

Life Pack - need 30,000 to buy the new one.

00:35:31

Upgrade CPR stuff approximately 7500.

00:36:56

Purchase of Chairs 4159

Dave makes a motion to approve the list

Chuck Dwyer second.

Motion passes.

00:38:50

Treasurer Report

00:52:06

New Business

Arcola Digital Sign questions. WCFD shall own the sign, but WCFD agrees to community use.

00:53:55

Vacation questions

00:56:05

Old Business

Real Estate Attorney – approve higher amount of \$1500 to engage.

Board approval.

00:58:31

Air compressor. are we interested in purchasing that? Let's make sure it wasn't purchased on a grant.

00:59:56

Public Comment

Sandy – asks about AED. WCFD will help local church obtain and AED.

01:01:47

Tim Knitter, CUME fund questions regarding Aboite Township. Questions about rent for the Aboite station.

01:06:12

Move WCFD meetings to Tuesdays so they don't interfere with County Council meeting.

Motion for 2nd Tuesday made by Chandler

Board is mostly in favor,

Dave No.

Motion Passes

01:08:44

Adjournment