



# Desert Hills Fire District

3983 London Bridge Road  
Lake Havasu City, AZ 86404  
928 764-3333 (FAX) 928 764-2397

---

## Desert Hills Fire District Board Meeting Minutes Regular Meeting October 16, 2024

### 1. Call to order

Board Member Schafer called to order the Desert Hills Fire District Board meeting at **9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, October 16, 2024**, at the Desert Hills Fire Station Si-Mock Room located at 3983 London Bridge Road, Lake Havasu City, AZ.

### 2. Pledge of Allegiance

Pledge of Allegiance commenced by Board Member Schafer

### 3. Roll Call

The following Board Members were present:

Tom Roger - absent  
Curtis Schafer  
Char Beltran  
Jimmy Wilson  
Rich Fountain

Also, in attendance:

Battalion Chief Stanec  
Battalion Chief Bunn  
Administrative Specialist Harrison

### 4. Call to the Public: None

### 5. Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes for September 18, 2024: Board Member Fountain motioned to accept meeting minutes as presented, seconded by Board Member Schafer, all in favor. Board Member Beltran abstained.

### 6. Reports:

#### a) **Fire Administration Report:** Battalion Chief Stanec reports;

- It's been almost three years since we received the SAFER Grant, which is funding for 3 fulltime firefighters. We have \$162,043.05 of unused funding. We have requested an extension to utilize that funding. The grant preparedness officer replied to that request with approval, now we're waiting for a formal letter. Our estimates are we should get 9-10 months of funding left. The extension is for six months, but we are hoping we will be able to request an additional extension after 6 months.
- ARPA funding. The Industrial Commission of Arizona reached out to us and informed us we qualify for \$94,834 of ARPA funding. This was a task that Administrative Specialist Harrison took on. It was to cover costs for employees during covid who were essential. We applied for over the \$94,834 as suggested by the liaison just in case there was additional funds available.
- Internet Phones; the techs with Wirefree are busy running wires though all stations. I talked to Melissa yesterday and said they needed to install internet switches, so it would be about another two weeks.

#### b) **Fire Operation Report:** Battalion Chief Bunn reports;

- Call Stats; we are at 644 calls for service, a difference of 56 calls from last month. Unfortunately, we had significant calls, ran a rebar accident call in the Refuge, they responded to the officer involved shooting at Craggy Wash. BC Stanec and myself were with them at both. Then they had an RV fire out at Riverbound. It was the same shift that ran these calls. I want to give them a shout out just being there and

watching how they performed, their professionalism in the face of stress. The type of calls they were on was amazing for me to watch. They worked as well-oiled machine. Shout out to Captain Young, Engineer Barragan, CEP Holcombe, FF Spitz, Engineer Lawrence and FF Thurman should be proud of the way they performed their duties.

- Training update; Captains Reeder and Sayre are currently taking BC Academy at Avondale put on by Arizona Fire Chiefs Association. They finish in four weeks and will report at the next meeting.
- AFG Grant update, the equipment has been ordered and should be here by mid-November. My goal is to have the equipment in service on the rigs by the end of the year.

- c) **DHFD Auxiliary Report:** BM Fountain reports; We served 283 breakfasts and received over \$500 in donations. we are putting items we helped purchased on the tv so donors can see where their money is going. Relics and Rods are donating \$1,000 for the Christmas toy drive.

### **New Business:**

- a.) **Discussion and possible action re: Approval of monthly Financial Report.** Administrative Specialist Harrison states that the Grant Savings Account is \$14,723.95, Payroll Account \$3,945.11, Special Revenue Checking Account \$9,187.80, Special Revenue Savings Account \$478,674.66, Warrant Account \$719,513.31, Petty Cash \$100.00, with a total balance of \$1,226,144.83. Motioned by Board Member Fountain to approve the financial report as presented, seconded by Board Member Wilson, all in favor.
- b.) **Discussion and possible action re: Approval for ARPA Grant funding the purchase two command vehicles.** BC Bunn reports; As we discussed in previous meetings, we received grant from the County for ARPA funding to purchase two new command vehicles. We received a grant in the amount of \$156,748.66 to purchase two vehicles and outfit them with everything we need. Zero percent match for us, this was all federal funding that came from Supervisor Gould's office. I'm asking the Board to do now is approve the purchase amount of \$116,748.66. We put the money out, I submit a paid invoice to the county and we get paid back. This will get us two 2024 F250's, four-wheel drive, quad cab trucks to supplement our fleet. The process was to follow our procurement purchasing policy 213, only one bid was required because it was on state contract that meets all federal and state levels. Peoria Ford was identified as the dealer that met all aspects of ARPA funding, two CFR200. It will take 7 to 10 business days to get reimbursed once I submit the paid invoice from Peoria Ford. I have \$40,000 more to start outfitting the trucks and finding a vendor that meets all ARPA requirements. With the addition of these two vehicles our command fleet age is eight years old, before these two vehicles we were at fifteen years old. BM Schafer asked are we going to rotate a vehicle out? BC Bunn answered yes, I have a plan, once the new vehicles are in service BC Stanec and I will sit down and figure out which vehicle(s) to rotate out. Motioned by Board Member Wilson to approve the purchase of (2) 2024 F250 command/staff vehicles in the amount of \$116,748.66 with reimbursement from Mohave County within 7-10 business days of receipt of paid invoice, seconded by Board Member Beltran, all in favor.
- c.) **Discussion and possible action re: Approval of the 100 Club Grant to accept the grant and purchase twenty-five safety vests.** BC Bunn reports that he applied and received a grant from the 100 Club for safety vests. The uniform store, Skaggs Company, that we use is the vendor we're going to use. I did again follow the policy 213 purchasing procurement; I got two bids; they were the only two companies that sell these vests. Skaggs met all the standards and federal guidelines. Our staff will be certified per federal guidelines with 23 CFR 634 class 3, reflective material vests as needed to operate on roadways. We pay for vests in advance, then we submit invoice to 100 Club to be reimbursed. Turn around for reimbursement is about 7-10 days. I'm asking for 1,972.06 to buy the vests. Motioned, by Board Member Beltran to accept the 100 Club Grant in the amount of \$1972.06 and accept and approve the purchase of the 25 safety vests utilizing District funding not to exceed \$1972.06 with reimbursement from 100 Club of Arizona, seconded by Board Member Wilson, all in favor.
- d.) **Discussion and possible actions re: Approval of Communication Infrastructure Upgrade.** BC Stanec reports, at the last Board Meeting I reported on the current situation we're in with our communication infrastructure. We have aging equipment on top of Ram Mountain south of Havasu Heights that we have no legal access to. I believe it's been six years since we've been up there to maintain and check the batteries. We are one weather event away from losing all communication here. There are multiple agencies trying to gain access and I have exhausted all avenues other than hiring an attorney who specializes in land disputes to battle these homeowners to give us legal access. I don't think that's in our best interest. My plan B was to look at alternative sites where we can put equipment. I don't think the equipment on Ram Mountain is stainable so we will delete it from the equation, but keep it, there might be a uses for it in the future. It's time to upgrade to digital system. We've met with Horizon Technology in the Bullhead area. We are currently on an analog system; vendors are saying updating to digital/analog system will put us in the new age of communication. Alan from Wirefree has been with us every step of the way because he talks that technology language. We have determined from the propagation mapping that Crossman Peak and Goat Mountain will give us adequate radio coverage. This is expensive, it's a \$100,000

project. The good thing is we can build off this. Putting in the infrastructure today with the technology and the software keys we can add on to it and make it more robust. We worked with Mohave Valley Fire, we have plans of writing regional grants to get their equipment and our equipment to talk to each other so if they are closer to us their signal will hit off our repeaters and our signal will hit off theirs. That's our long-term goal for this project by way of grants. The cost for the two repeaters is \$94,096.68. I'm asking for a \$100,000 due to unknown expenses. Alan from Wirefree has the internet up there, our station is an internet hub. Alan is willing to put in a switch on Crossman Peak so all that technology is interlinked, transmitting by wavelength and internet. BM Beltran asked where the funds will come from in the budget and is there a plan to put it back? Admin Specialist Harrison stated the fund would come out of our reserved saving that is budgeted for \$500,000 this year. The reserved saving is for unexpected expenses. BC Stanec is very confident that this will get us off the ground. BM Beltran motioned to approve the communication infrastructure upgrade not to exceed \$100,000, seconded by BM Wilson, all in favor.

**7. Board Member Comments:**

- a) New Business to be considered on future agendas: None
- b) Comments: None

**8. Adjourn:** Motion to adjourn at 9:38am by Board Member Schafer, seconded by Board Member Beltran, all in favor.