



# 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, February 18, 2026

1. **Call to order**

Board Member Roger called to order the Desert Hills Fire District Board meeting at **9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, February 18, 2026**, 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 Roger

3. **Roll Call**

The following Board Members were present:

Tom Roger  
Curtis Schafer  
Rich Fountain  
Dana VanLeuven  
Linda Hanks

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 January 21, 2026:** Board Member Schafer motioned to accept meeting minutes as presented, seconded by Board Member Fountain, all in favor.

6. **Reports:**

- a) **Fire Administration Report:** Battalion Chief Stanec reports the following; Good Morning everybody.
- Senate Appropriations – about six months ago I reported on the senate appropriations bill that we were accepted to move forward if the bill was signed. We would receive \$210,000 of funding for EMS equipment. We received an email that both the house and senate approved the bill. The email stated there will be a portal opening within the next month and we will be able to apply for the funding. There will be a follow up email with instructions and the senator's team will reach out to us get this project off the ground. I'm hoping in the next three or four months the portal opens and we bring it back to the Board for approval of funding. This funding is for two LifePaks 35 EKG heart monitors, two Lukas CPR devices, all accessories and some training material.

- City annexation of Sheriff's substation – BC Bunn and I try to stay on top of what's happening city wide and county wide. The sheriff's substation in our fire district that is owned by the county is vacant and the city council is having discussion to obtain it for a pump station for the sewer system. Sounds like be better infrastructure for everybody.
- Communication and Dispatch – This project is still going. We've been meeting weekly with the team. Things are moving, we get progress reports weekly. Dispatch is the hot topic we've been meeting about. We have to change our dispatch center. The AMR model just isn't working for us anymore. There's a failure everyday with AMR. I spoke with Brad from AMR and he agrees that, yes, if you could find a suitable home please do, because they are having struggles with their dispatch center also. Both Colorado City and Kingman are suitable options for us but as this trunk system grew up and down the river, we all have to agree on what center to go too. Kingman is the obvious answer to all of us. Our problem with Kingman right now is their IT department, the City of Kingman got hacked three or four years ago so they are very leery about data, not what they send out but what data gets pushed back to their servers. We're trying to work with their team on solutions to rectify that and to allow MDC on our side to push information back on calls. It really stems from the law enforcement side of their dispatch center; there is sensitive information. If Kingman can not provide what the team needs will probably switch to Colorado City. We as a group has to make a decision by March 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Budget Season - we receive our Levy Limit from the county and have begun the early stages of building the budget. Over the next couple of months, we will have budget discussions.

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

- Call Stats – We're up to 108 calls for service, 76 calls since last month. We had a UTV wreck last weekend out by the Bunker Bar.
- Training Update – All crews completed annual drivers training. Two shifts B and C have completed Live Fire with LHCFD. I got pretty good feedback. College classes are still moving along good, we are about half way through the semester.
- Prevention Office – Annual inspections are moving along good and the bookings platform is working really well. BM VanLeuven asked 'how is the relationship with the business community?' BC Bunn answered very good, I'm getting only good feedback from the businesses.
- New Engine Update – Good news, I spoke to the HME representative. The chassis, the cab and the pump is there. They are in the early stage of building all the boxes. He told me they are 45 - 60 days out. We're looking at mid to late March or early April for completion.
- 100 Club Grant – We did get all the equipment in that we purchased with the Grant and everything got distributed out to the crews. We are waiting to be reimbursed.

c) **Auxiliary Report:** President Rich Fountain reported February's pancake breakfast served 604. March pancake breakfast I will be gone and Captain Erickson will be stepping in for me. We are well on track to give the full amount requested for turnout gear this year.

7. **New Business:**

- a.) Discussion and possible action re: Approval of monthly Financial Report. Administrative Specialist Harrison states that the Grant Savings Account is \$3,093.27, Payroll Account \$96,259.16, Special Revenue Checking Account \$13,649.11, Special Revenue Savings Account \$173,684.73, Warrant Account \$2,796,603.97, Petty Cash \$127.00, with a total balance of \$3,083,417.81. Motioned by Board Member Schafer to approve the financial report as presented, seconded by Board Member Hanks, all in favor.

- b.) Discussion and possible action re: Approval of the purchase of Personal Protective Equipment. BC Bunn states that he met with the Auxiliary and they are projecting to cover the costs of new personal protective equipment. This is to get the information out to the board. We are in need of new sets of personal protective equipment for these guys. I've been working to get new sets every year. Right now, fifteen of our personnel are in new gear that will last until 2031. We have eight people that are in need of new gear. This is the proposal that went to the Auxiliary. My goal for this is if there is any short fall from funding from the Auxiliary that the district is willing to cover the difference. I originally asked the Auxiliary for \$32,000. The quote we received is \$35,889 and the lead time is 40 to 60 days. Motioned by Board Member Roger to approve the purchase personnel protective gear and cover any shortfall of funding from the Auxiliary, seconded by Board Member Schafer, all in favor.
- c.) Discussion and possible action re: Approval of New Lexipol Policies: 335 Utility Terrain Vehicle (UTV/Side-by-Side) Operations, 1050 Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) Work Period and Scheduling. BC Stanec states our new Lexipol Policy application has rollout. I've had a couple policies to rollout once the application was updated. Did the board receive the policies and did you have any questions? Now that we have an UTV apparatus our insurance company wants us to have an associated policy, which we should have anyways. Captain Erickson who instructs that class brought to our attention that we don't have a UTV policy. He worked with VFIS Insurance on the recommendations for this policy and that is what you have in front of you. On the Fair Labor Standards Act Policy. I love the conferences you always get sound bites what we're doing is good but it can be better. It is their recommendation that every Fire District have their adopted FLSA cycle outlined in their policy. If the Department of Labor were to come in, we can show we are following our policy. These policies were not pushed out by Lexipol, they were in house policies we added. Motioned by Board Member Schafer to except the policies as written, seconded by Board Member VanLeuven, all in favor.
- d.) Appointment of a Fire Chief, The Board of Directors may by motion, recess into EXECUTIVE SESSION for board discussion, pursuant to A.R.S. 38-431.03 (A). Board Member Roger states we currently have a non-traditional leadership with two Battalion Chiefs, as one designated to act as Chief. It has come up many times to me when talking to people in our community that we are out of compliance. As we have looked at A.R.S. 48-803 E says 'The board of a fire district shall appoint or hire a fire chief'. We currently have two highly skilled Battalion Chiefs; we've been fortunate that you guys work well together. From the Boards perspective we really appreciated that part of it. If ever there was a conflict the Board would be drawn into some type of resolution for the conflict. That's uncharted territory, how do we solve a conflict when we have two. It's drawing the board into something it is not designed to do. It's proposed that we return to the traditional management with one Chief being elevated to the administrative position. We have BC Stanec in the Administrative position; there would be no other changes to the structure or anything else that we're dealing with right now. Is there any Board Members it would take just one that feels the need to go into executive session to have further discussions. Does anyone feel the need for an executive session? None. BM Fountain replied we just need to get into compliance. BM VanLeuven states that he has struggled with this ever since he came on the Board and especially after learning more about Arizona Statute. I have been uneasy about it and I think it's the right thing to do for the department. I think we should move forward with this. Board Member VanLeuven makes a motion to approve the appointment of BC Stanec to the Fire Chief's position and come into full compliant of the State Statute, seconded by Board Member Schafer, all in favor. BM Roger comment's it's not a reflection on performance, it's just to be in compliance and with Chief Stanec already designated as Administrative Battalion Chief that can go on record.

**8. Board Member Comments:**

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

**9. Adjourn:** Motion to adjourn at 9:30, Board Member Fountain motioned to Adjourn, seconded by Board Member Schafer, all in favor.