

## **Pine-Strawberry Fire District**

### PINE-STRAWBERRY FIRE BOARD REGULAR MEETING MINUTES January 22, 2026

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 pm.

- 1) **Pledge of Allegiance**
- 2) **Invocation** – Marilyn Bennett offered the invocation.
- 3) **Roll Call** – Present were Interim Board Chairman - Bob Papke, Member - Bob Bennett, Member - Melvin Palmer, and Member - Dave Burkhart. Board Chairman - Chuck Ackerman was absent on medical leave.
- 4) **Presentations** – Mike LaVallee from Stifel gave a presentation to the Board on the General Obligation Bonds project with a timeline for the process.  
Also, during this time, the Board members and all interested parties were given a walking tour around the newly purchased Engine 41.
- 5) **Correspondence** – None.
- 6) **Call to the Public** – Helen Palmer of Strawberry, Arizona and member of the Local Food Bank wished to thank the Board for the participation of the Fire District employees who help so vigorously at every food bank distribution. She wanted the Board to know how much the Food Bank members appreciate the help. She also explained to the Board how much the members of the public appreciate and interact with the employees during the distribution time.
- 7) **Approval of Previous Minutes**  
  
**December 18, 2025** – Regular Meeting Minutes – Dave Burkhart made a motion to accept the minutes as written. Bob Bennett seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.  
  
**December 30, 2025** – Special Meeting Minutes – Dave Burkhart made a motion to accept the minutes as written. Mel Palmer seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.
- 8) **Financial Report of December 2025** – Ben Archer-Clowes of the James Vincent Group was in attendance and presented the financials for December. Mel Palmer made a motion to approve the financial report as given and to authorize the Board Clerk to sign. Dave Burkhart seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. (See attached Financial Report.)

9) **Fire Chief's Report** – Including but not limited to:

(See attached Fire Chief's Report.)

**Emergency Activity-**

Total Dispatches for December = 45 Total Calls for Service - Previous Month 57

1 Fire Call

20 Rescue and EMS

2 Gas Leak/Hazmat

16 Misc. Service Calls

6 Motor Vehicle Accidents

**2024 Total Calls = 701**

**2025 Total Calls = 852**

10) **Other Fire District Related Reports**

a) **District Board Chairman's Report** – Bob Papke shared his report on Total Calls for Service that he has been keeping track of over this past year. He stated that he would like to see us break out the category of Miscellaneous Service Calls. He also noted that this category has increased considerably over the last year. (See attached report)

b) **Public Safety Personnel Retirement System Local Board Report** – Local Board Member Dave Burkhart reported on the AFDA (Arizona Fire District Association) conference that he recently attended. He noted several items of importance including some upcoming legislative issues that may negatively impact the District if passed.

c) **Firefighter's Association Report** – Chris Williamson reported that the Association has had increased participation this year and highlighted a few of their events including the “stand” they were able to put up outside of the Fancy Finds Gift Shop this past summer when promoting information for the Bond passage.

He also mentioned other activities the FFA sponsored this year including a Car Show in October, the family that they helped at Thanksgiving, and the Pancake Breakfast/Toy Drive in December, as well as the “Shop with a Hero” event. Chris stated that the FFA was also able to be involved with a local Firefighter who was diagnosed with breast cancer. The FFA was able to make a considerable donation to her Go-fund-me account.

The Association also paid for all the textbooks for the Gila County Community College's EMT class. Each student was also given a \$100.00 gift card for pants.

d) **Labor Organization Report** – None.

11) **Old Business** –

a) **Discussion and possible action on General Obligation Bond** – The Board directed staff to come up with approximate numbers for the property, station, and fire engine. They will hold a special meeting on February 4, 2026, at 2:00pm to discuss a “Not to Exceed” amount for the bonds that will be sold.

b) **Update and discussion on future Station 41 location** – Chief Voakes reported that the survey process is still ongoing.

c) **Discussion and possible action on hiring a Chief/Interim Chief** – Interim Chief Voakes and Interim Board Chairman Bob Papke attended the Tonto Basin Fire Board meeting this morning. The Board may be agreeable to entering into a shared services agreement with Pine-Strawberry Fire District. Both Districts feel it would be in their respective District's best interests to have a joint meeting of the Boards to discuss further details of what that

would entail. The meeting time agreed upon will be February 4, 2026, at 10:00am in Payson at Payson Fire Station 11 located at 400 W. Main Street, Payson, Arizona. This interim hire would be one solution to getting Interim Chief Voakes back to his Captain position and thus reducing overtime costs for covering his position. The Board can then decide how they would like to proceed with a hiring process for a permanent position.

- d) **Discussion and possible action on Intergovernmental Agreement for shared Administrative services** – No action taken – See previous agenda item 11c.
- e) **Discussion and update on retiring old Engine 41** – Chief Voakes reported that we have been in contact with our insurance carrier and are waiting to hear back from them on the cost for coverage. The Board was curious as to the value of this 27-year-old engine. No action taken.

## 12) New Business –

*(Items to be considered, reviewed, discussed, and possible action on)*

- a) **Discussion and Possible action on filling a Board vacancy** – Interim Board Chairman Bob Papke read a letter of resignation from Board Chairman Chuck Ackerman, effective today.

Mel Palmer made a motion to accept the letter of resignation from Chuck Ackerman with regrets. Dave Burkhart seconded the motion – also with regrets – and it passed unanimously.

Interim Board Chairman Bob Papke then stated that the Board should post the vacancy and allow time for interested individuals to send a letter of interest/resume to the Fire District. Member Dave Burkhart made a motion to post the Board vacancy and request all letters of interest be turned in by February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2026. Bob Bennett seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

- b) **Discussion and possible action on selection of Board leadership positions to fill vacant terms created by resignation of Chuck Ackerman** – Mel Palmer nominated Bob Papke as the new permanent Board Chairman. Bob Bennett seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Mel Palmer nominated Dave Burkhart as the new permanent Board Clerk. Bob Bennett seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

## 13) Future Board Meeting Date

Special Meetings –

**February 4, 2026, at 10:00 am** – This meeting will be held at the Payson Fire Station #11 located at 400 W. Main Street, Payson, Arizona.

**February 4, 2026, at 2:00pm** – This meeting will be held at the Pine Strawberry Fire District Station #41 Board Meeting Room located at 6198 Hardscrabble Mesa Rd, Pine, Arizona.

**Next Regular Board Meeting** – February 19, 2026, at **4:00 pm.**

**Items for discussion** – General Obligation Bonds, Shared Services Agreement with Tonto Basin FD, Future Station 41 Location, Chief Selection, Update on Engine 41- Insurance.

- 14) **Adjournment:** Bob Bennett made a motion to adjourn. Mel Palmer seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously at 5:20 pm.



**Pine- Strawberry Fire District**  
6198 W Hardscrabble Mesa Rd  
Pine, AZ 85544



**Monthly Financial Report – December 2025**

Attached are the following for your information and review:

1. Balance Sheet as of December 31, 2025.
2. Summary of Reconciled Cash Balances as of December 31, 2025.
3. Income Statement of Revenues and Expenditures for December 2025 including budget to actual and year- to-date balances.
4. Income and Expenses Graph FY26.
5. Monthly Disbursement Report.
6. 12-Month Cash Flow.

**Key points:**

- Revenue for December is \$336,850 which is \$68,601 over budget.
  - Tax Revenue is \$ 231,637 which is \$27,725 over budget.
  - Non-Tax Revenue is \$105,213 which is \$40,876 over budget.
- Expenses for December totaled \$316,719 which is over budget by \$37,565.
- Year to Date Revenue is \$2,743,918 which is over budget by \$197,021.
- Year to Date Expense is \$2,131,566 which is over budget by \$100,841.

Please contact the Finance Department at (480) 422-9777 for any questions or concerns regarding this report.

**This report and the attached detail reports have been reviewed and approved by the Fire Board.**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Board Clerk

01/22/2026  
Date

P.O. Box 441  
6198 W. Hardscrabble  
Pine, AZ 85544  
Phone: 928-476-4272  
Fax: 928-476-4634

## Pine-Strawberry Fire District

### PINE-STRAWBERRY FIRE BOARD SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES December 30, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 pm.

- 1) **Pledge of Allegiance**
- 2) **Invocation** – Marilyn Bennett
- 3) **Roll Call** – Present were Interim Board Chairman - Bob Papke, Member - Bob Bennett, Member - Dave Burkhart, and Member - Melvin Palmer. Board Chairman - Chuck Ackerman was absent.
- 4) **Old Business** – Discussion and possible action on hiring a full-time Fire Chief.

Interim Board Chairman Bob Papke stated that the Board still needed to decide on the direction they will take for this hiring process. There are several options available to the Board including Appointing a Chief, Recruiting a Chief, Hiring an Interim Chief, or even contracting with another Fire District for shared services of a Fire Chief. There was much discussion regarding the option of shared services.

Current Interim Fire Chief Paul Voakes explained that the overtime it is costing the District to cover his position as Captain is significant, and that it is his intent to return to that position as soon as possible. He reluctantly agreed to continue in his current position as Interim Fire Chief until the end of March.

The Board discussed the possibility of hiring an Interim Chief for a period of 6 months to determine if that would be a good fit for both the new Chief and the District. After much discussion, Member Dave Burkhart made a motion that the Board hire an Interim Chief (to be determined) for a period of time that would end no later than June 30, 2026. Member Mel Palmer seconded the motion. After clarification from Interim Chief Voakes that he would remain in his position through the end of March 2026, the vote passed unanimously.

Chief Stoltenberg of Tonto Basin Fire District was in attendance, along with his Board Chairman, John France. Chief Stoltenberg clarified that Tonto Basin Fire District Board had not yet discussed or endorsed a Shared Services Agreement. The only way he could accept an Interim Chief Job offer would be if the two districts entered into an IGA with TBFD being the employer and PSFD contracting for Fire Chief services.

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1/22/2026  
Dave Burkhart

John France, Chairman of the TBFD Board addressed the Board to the effect that, although he was aware of the potential for a Shared Services Agreement, it had not been discussed by their Board, and he could not guarantee the direction any discussion would take. He did say that Chief Stoltenberg could present the issue to the Board at their next meeting, the third Thursday in January.

No further action toward hiring was taken at this time, pending possible discussion with TBFD as to whether a Shared Services Agreement is a viable option for an interim or permanent hire. Consensus was that should TBFD wish to pursue an IGA, PSFD would join them in discussion.

Chief Stoltenberg then gave a brief presentation of the nature of a Shared Services Agreement, including that some agencies (Verde Valley) are currently using such agreements, and that others are seeking to do so. He stressed that the only thing “shared” would be Fire Chief Services, and that all involved districts would retain responsibility for administration, budget, and identity.

The Board will await input from the TBFD Board, and Interim Chief Voakes will continue in his position for the time being.

- 5) **Future Meeting Agenda Items and Next Meeting Date** – No future Special Board Meeting date planned at this time. Next Regular Board Meeting is scheduled for January 22, 2026, at 3:00 pm.
  
- 6) **Adjournment** – Dave Burkhart made a motion to adjourn. Mel Palmer seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously at 6:53 pm.

cw

## **Pine-Strawberry Fire District**

### PINE-STRAWBERRY FIRE BOARD REGULAR MEETING MINUTES December 18, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 pm.

- 1) **Pledge of Allegiance**
- 2) **Invocation** – Marilyn Bennett offered the invocation.
- 3) **Roll Call** – Present were Interim Board Chairman - Bob Papke, Member - Bob Bennett, Member - Melvin Palmer, and Member - Dave Burkhart. Board Chairman - Chuck Ackerman was absent on medical leave.
- 4) **Presentations** – None.
- 5) **Correspondence** – One letter of thanks was read.
- 6) **Call to the Public** – None.
- 7) **Approval of Previous Minutes**  
  
**November 20, 2025** – Regular Meeting Minutes – Dave Burkhart made a motion to accept the minutes as written. Mel Palmer seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.
- 8) **Financial Report of November 2025** – Ben Archer-Clowes of the James Vincent Group was in attendance and presented the financials for November. Dave Burkhart made a motion to approve the financial report as given and to authorize the Board Clerk to sign. Mel Palmer seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. (See attached Financial Report.)
- 9) **Fire Chief's Report** – Including but not limited to:  
(See attached Fire Chief's Report.)

#### **Emergency Activity-**

Total Dispatches for November = 57 Total Calls for Service - Previous Month 71

- 0 Fire Calls
- 38 Rescue and EMS
- 1 Gas Leak/Hazmat
- 14 Misc. Service Calls
- 4 Motor Vehicle Accidents

Ps 1 of 3  
1/22/2026  
Dave Burkhart

10) **Other Fire District Related Reports**

- a) **District Board Chairman's Report** – Bob Papke reported that he was pleased to see that a new page has been added to our website with referrals to other agencies and services.
- b) **Public Safety Personnel Retirement System Local Board Report** – None.
- c) **Firefighter's Association Report** – Garrett Turley reported that the Association participated in collecting gifts for the Christmas Toy Drive and pancake breakfast held on December 6<sup>th</sup> in conjunction with the Mountain Village Foundation. They also purchased a nice gift for the raffle. This first year of doing the local Christmas Toy Drive and Breakfast was very successful, and we hope it continues to grow. The Association also purchased children's gifts for the Pine Strawberry Annual Awards banquet that was held on December 13<sup>th</sup>.
- d) **Labor Organization Report** – None.

11) **Old Business –**

- a) **Update/Discussion on future Station 41 Locations** – Interim Chief Voakes stated that he has reached out to the owner of the property on Randall, behind the school, but has not heard back from him yet. The 'Fuller' property, across from our current Pine Station 41, is due to be surveyed in the middle of January. Chief Voakes said he will be present when the survey takes place. No action taken.

12) **New Business –**

*(Items to be considered, reviewed, discussed, and possible action on)*

- a) **Discussion and Possible action regarding Fiscal Year 2024/2025 annual Audit** – Auditor Brian Richards was in attendance and presented the audit. He stated that there were no findings that needed to be reported. He explained that there are two reports: the Financial Report and the Internal Controls Report. Both reports came back with the highest rating of "unmodified". He further stated that Pine-Strawberry Fire District is doing very well, better than most fire districts and that he could find no changes that needed to be made.

Dave Burkhart made a motion to accept the Fiscal year 2024/2025 Audit findings as presented. Bob Bennett seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

- b) **Discussion and possible action on Payment/Lease Purchase for the New Engine** – The Lease purchase price for ½ of the cost of the new Engine 41 (the other ½ to be paid from District capital reserve) from Zions Bank at 4.57% interest for eight years results in a slightly lower cost than originally anticipated. There is no pre-payment penalty should the balance be paid off early. Mel Palmer made a motion to accept the Lease/Purchase agreement presented to the Board and authorize the Board Chairman, Clerk, and Interim Chief to sign as required. Bob Bennett seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

- c) **Discussion and possible adoption of Reimbursement Resolution #25-003** – Member Dave Burkhart made a motion to adopt Resolution 25-003 and authorize the Board Chairman and Board Clerk to sign same. Bob Bennett seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.
  
- d) **Discussion and possible action on hiring a full-time Chief** – Board Member Dave Burkhart said that the question had been raised as to whether to employ an outside firm to conduct the recruitment and screening for candidates for the full-time Chief position. Chief Voakes stated that he had a representation of the membership consisting of Captain Nathan Lynch, Engineer Dan Green, and Firefighter Chris Williamson. The members felt that we should use a formal hiring process conducted in-house, and that the Board should consider hiring an interim chief from outside the District to allow Chief Voakes to return to his position of Captain. This would also reduce the cost of overtime currently incurred by backfilling a Captain position with overtime. Consideration should also be given to utilizing a shared service contract with a nearby District to reduce costs and secure a local candidate familiar with the Rim Country area until the formal process can be completed.

Member Dave Burkhart suggested that a special meeting be held later in December to consider an interim chief position and shared service agreement. Members agreed upon December 30<sup>th</sup> at 5:00pm for a Special Meeting Date.

Member Dave Burkhart made a motion that the Board conduct an in-house process to recruit and elect a candidate for the permanent Fire Chief position. Mel Palmer seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

- e) **Discussion and possible action on exit strategy for old apparatus, Engine 41** – Payson Fire Department has agreed to house Engine 41 at their Houston Mesa Station. All of Pine-Strawberry's equipment would be removed from the vehicle. It would still be available for PSFD to use should there be a need for a back-up engine. It could also be made available regionally if there was a need; however, they would be responsible for their own tools, equipment, and for insuring the vehicle against damage and liability while in their use.

Bob Papke made a motion to place the current Engine 41 at Houston Mesa as negotiated with Payson Fire Department, making it available for back-up use by regional districts, with the caveat that the user properly insure it against damage and liability. Bob Bennett seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

- 13) **Future Board Meeting Date** – Special Meeting – December 30<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 pm.  
**Next Regular Board Meeting** – January 22, 2026, at 3:00 pm.

**Items for discussion** – Future Station 41 Location, Chief Selection, Update on Engine 41-Insurance.

- 14) **Adjournment:** Dave Burkhart made a motion to adjourn. Bob Papke seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously at 3:20 pm.

cw



## Pine-Strawberry Fire District

P.O. Box 441 □ Pine, Arizona 85544

Phone: (928) 476-4272 □ Fax: (928) 476-4634

Website: [www.psfhdaz.com](http://www.psfhdaz.com)

# Fire Chief's Report - January 2026

**Emergency Activity** – Total Dispatches for December = **45** calls for service

1 Fire Calls

20 EMS Calls

2 Gas Leak/Hazmat/Electric/TRT

6 Motor Vehicle Accidents

16 Misc. Calls for Service

Last month there were 57 calls for service.

**2024 Total calls = 701**

**2025 Total calls = 852**

### Vehicle Report

- Traveled to Braun Northwest in Washington for new ambo inspection & drove back.
- A41 Right Rear door outside handle replaced **\$252.37**
- C42 sent to Mid-State Diesel for Front track bar and axle U-Joints **\$1435.57**
- Ambo Remount Prep for service
- Tims Tire swapped tires on front of new ambo & spares for it along with A42 tires, swapping them with the old chassis tires **\$370.00**
- E42 Replaced Hose bed gas struts **\$121.80**
  
- Budget Acct 6110 Total **\$2,179.74**

**Training Report** - Total training hours completed this month were 725.5 hours for all members.

**Plan Reviews** – The PSFD Fire Marshall reviewed 9 sets of plans this month with a total addition of 20,668 sq ft. to the district. The total fees collected this month were \$3,345.72.

**Significant Incidents and Events:**

PSFD participated in the annual "Shop With a Hero" event in Payson in December.

To: P. Voakes, Interim Fire Chief Pine Strawberry Fire District (PSFD)

From: R. Papke, Clerk, Acting Chair, Fire Board, PSFD

Date: January 10, 2026

Subject: District Calls For Service (CFS) by Call Type

### Summary

- Key Points:**
- increasing growth in Total CFS
  - Relatively consistent distribution of call types across years
  - Steady decrease in Fire CFS
  - Inconsistent volume of Traffic Accident CFS
  - Atypical growth in Other CFS

The Pine Strawberry Fire District (population 2850) is experiencing a projected 22.64% increase in Calls For Service since July 2023 as reported in the Fire Chief's monthly report to the governing Fire Board. Although the distribution of Calls for Service has remained relatively constant within each Fiscal Year there has been atypical growth\* in two types of calls across the period; **Traffic Accidents**, which increased 66% when compared, as monthly CFS averages, and **Other** Calls for Service which are projected to increase 83.2% from FY 23-24 to 25-26. There has also been a consistent decline in **Fire CFS** The table below shows the total, or projected total number of Calls For Service in six categories for Fiscal Years 23-24, 24-25, and 25-26. Comparisons are based primarily on CFS/Month averages to accommodate the partial 25-26 year to date. Totals for FY 25-26 are projected from current (through December 2025) Monthly averages call volumes without seasonal or other adjustments. All of these growth metrics outstrip the statistics estimate of 2% population growth per year.

PINE-STRAWBERRY FIRE DISTRICT CFS FY 23-24 to 25-26						
FY	Fire	EMS	Traffic Accidents	Gas, Electric Haz Mat	Other	Total
23-24	22	464	56	13	143	698
% tot	3%	66%	8%	2%	20%	
24-25	13	480	39	12	189	733
% tot	2%	65%	5%	2%	26%	
Y/y dif	-41%	+3%	-30%	-8%	+32%	+5%
25-26 (projected)	10	509	65	12	262	857
% tot	1%	59%	8%	1%	31%	
Y/y dif	-26%	+6%	+66%	0%	+38%	+17%

Average distribution of call type across FY 23-24, 24-25, 25-26				
Fire	EMS	TA	G, E, HM	Other
2%	63%	7%	2%	26%

Source: Fire Chief's Monthly Report to PSFD Fire Board

\*atypical growth (or decline) is that which varies from the general trend or significantly exceeds growth (or decline) of the total CFS volume

### Background

At the December 2025 Fire Board Meeting Member Mel Palmer asked for data regarding the generally increasing volume of Calls for Service in the District. Specifically information on any patterns or types of calls which may be increasing disproportionately to others.

For the past two and a half Fiscal Years (FY), I have tracked call volume in the district, based on the monthly report given to the Board by the Fire Chief. This is limited to call volume in six fixed categories:

- Total Calls
- Fire Calls (Fire)
- Emergency Medical Services Calls (EMS)
- Traffic Accidents (TA)
- Gas, Electric, and Hazardous Materials Calls (G, E, HazM)
- Other Calls for Service (Other) (not generally of an emergency nature)

There is no distinction as to time of day, location, duration, personnel or equipment involved or outcome. Nevertheless there are some notable trends. These trends may vary slightly, if grouped in calendar years vs. Fiscal Years. To be consistent with budget considerations the aggregate 29 months reported are shown in Fiscal Year sets. Since the current Fiscal Year is only one half complete and only five months of data were available as of the time of this memo it is helpful to consider Average Monthly Call Volumes for year over year or overall comparisons, that data was calculated by dividing the number of calls by the number of months to determine the average monthly call volume and is included where indicated. No attempt to identify or apply seasonal or other temporal adjustments.

This memo does not attempt to address the cause(s) of the growth in call volume such as changes in community population, type of new construction, number of full time vs part time or short term rental residences. The growth in call volume far out paces the reported (5.5%) population growth of the community. Recommendations as to methods to address the anticipated continued growth in call volume are beyond the scope of this memo.

#### **Total Call Volume:**

The total CFS volume, expressed as a monthly average, increased 22.74% over 29 months, from an average of 58.17 total CFS/month in FY 23-24 to 71.40 in FY 25-26 to date. Total CFS in FY23-24 were 698 and to date in FY 25-26 the District has answered 357, with a total for the year projected to be 857 (856.8).

In FY 24-25 the call volume monthly average increased 5% from FY 23-24 to 61.08. The monthly average is projected to increase 10 calls per month (17%) from FY 24-25 to 25-26 or 71.40 CFS/Month.

In order to see any developing trends in the nature of changing call types it is helpful to compare call type categories both within and across Fiscal Years.

#### **Call Type Distribution Within Fiscal Years:**

The distribution of call types, expressed as a percentage of the total call volume within years remained relatively stable across the Fiscal Years:

#### **Call Volume as a percentage of the total number of Calls For Service**

FY	Fires	EMS	TA	G, E, HazM	Other
23-24	3%	66%	8%	2%	20%
24-25	2%	65%	5%	2%	26%
25-26	1%	59%	8%	1%	31%
Average	2%	63%	7%	2%	26%

This stability suggests internal consistency and which suggests, but does not prove, the significance of apparent variances in the raw volume of calls across types. The most notable of these are some generalized trends in the distribution of call types. most notably a consistent decrease in Fire CFS, a decrease in TA CFS for one year followed by a rebound the next year, and a marked increase in Other CFS.

There were only five months of data available for the current year and caution should be applied to any generalizations from less than a half year.

#### **Call Type Distribution Across Fiscal Years:**

While the distribution of call types within Fiscal Years has remained relatively stable, there is noticeable growth in volume of two call types and a similar decline in one across the nearly two and a half years included here.

#### **“Fire” Calls Decline**

The most obvious change in CFS volume is the Decline in Fire CFS, from an average of almost 2 (1.83) calls per month in FY 23-24 to less than 1 (.80) in FY 25-26, a decrease of more than half 56.28%.

To be sure Fire calls are a defining characteristic of a Fire District and as high risk, low frequency calls can not be down-played in terms of equipment or training, and the decline is certainly positive for the community.

#### **“Traffic Accident” and “Other” Calls increase**

The two Call Types with notable increases over the period covered are Traffic Accidents with a 15.63% increase over 29 months and a 66% increase in average calls per month from FY 24-25 to FY 25-26 and Other CFS at a 38% increase from FY 24-25 to FY 25-26. Both Call Types are out-performing the total growth percentage in FY 25-26.

The large increase in TA CFS between FY 24-25 and FY 25-26 is skewed by an unexpected decrease in Traffic Accident calls from 56 in FY 23-24 to 39 in FY 24-25. Perhaps little weight should be given to this blip as TA CFS are projected to increase to 65 (64.8) in the current Fiscal Year based on monthly averages through November, representing a more typical 16.07% increase over the FY 23-24. Additionally there was a statewide 1.7% decline in Traffic Accidents, in calendar 2024.

The remaining atypical increase; “Other” CFS, from 143 in FY 23-24 to a projected 262 (261.6) in FY 25-26 reflect steady growth across years; up 32% from FY 23-24 to FY 24-25 and 38% from FY 24-25 to FY 25-26, and 83.22% (143 to a projected 261) increase over the 29 months covered here. With a call type Category as broad as “Other” variations should be expected. This call type reflects the District’s commitment to service to the community, beyond emergency response and is generally managed with on duty personnel, with minimal budgetary impact.

To the Members of the Pine/Strawberry Fire District,

After much thought and reflection, I am writing to formally resign from my position as Chairman of the Fire Board, effective immediately.

Serving on this Board and especially serving as Chairman for these past years has been one of the great honors of my life. I have always believed deeply in the mission of this department and in the importance of supporting the brave men and women who dedicate themselves to protecting our community. Being able to play even a small role in that effort has been truly meaningful to me.

I want to express my sincere gratitude to each of you for your partnership, commitment, and hard work over the years. Together we have faced challenges, celebrated successes, and worked to strengthen this organization for the benefit of the community we all care about. I am proud of what we have accomplished, and I am confident that the Board will continue to move forward with integrity and purpose.

Thank you for the trust you placed in me for so many years. It has been a privilege to serve alongside such dedicated individuals, and I will always value the friendships and experiences I have gained through this role.

I wish each of you and the entire department continued success in the years ahead. Please know that I will always be cheering you on and supporting the important work you do.

With sincere appreciation and best wishes,

Chuck Ackerman

Chairman, Pine/Strawberry Fire Board