



Superstition Fire & Medical District

Serving the Communities of Apache Junction and Gold Canyon since 1955

Phone | (480) 982-4440

Website | sfmd.az.gov

Governing Board Meeting Minutes

May 21, 2025

PURSUANT TO A.R.S. §38.431.02, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC THAT THE SUPERSTITION FIRE & MEDICAL DISTRICT GOVERNING BOARD OF DIRECTORS HELD A MEETING ON WEDNESDAY, May 21, 2025. THE MEETING WAS HELD AT THE SUPERSTITION FIRE & MEDICAL DISTRICT'S ADMINISTRATION OFFICE, 565 N. IDAHO ROAD, APACHE JUNCTION, ARIZONA.

[THIS MEETING WAS OPEN TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC AND BEGAN AT 5:30 PM.](#)

A. Call to Order

Chairman Chamberlain called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM.

B. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance led by Chief Whitney.

C. Roll Call

Board Members in attendance were Chairman Kathleen Chamberlain, Clerk Connie Van Driel, Director Jason Moeller, and Director Jeff Cross attended via conference phone.

Senior Leadership Team in attendance were Fire Chief John Whitney, Assistant Chief Brian Read, Assistant Chief Richard Mooney, Deputy Chief Dave Pohlmann, Transportation Services Director Billy Warren, Administrative Services Director Anna Butel, Sarah Simonton with James Vincent Group. Also in attendance was Tanya Anderson, Administrative Specialist / Board Secretary. Attorney William Whittington attended via conference phone.

1. Review and approval of the July 2025 financial reports and bank reconciliations.

Motion by Director Van Driel to approve the April 2025 financial reports and bank reconciliations.

Seconded by Director Moeller

Vote 4 ayes, 0 nays, MOTION PASSED.

Administration Office
565 North Idaho Road
Apache Junction, AZ 85119

Regional Training Center
3700 East 16th Avenue
Apache Junction, AZ 85119

Fleet Services
1455 East 18th Avenue
Apache Junction, AZ 85119

2. Recognition of employee performance, achievements, and special recognition for community members.

May Anniversaries

23 Years of Service

Firefighter **Paul Garcia**

Firefighter / Paramedic **Stephan Wagner**

9 Years of Service

Firefighter / Paramedic **Kevin Montgomery**

4 Years of Service

Fire Chief **John Whitney**

Firefighter **Michael Gallagher**

3 Years of Service

Paramedic **Amanda Valles**

2 Years of Service

Firefighter / Paramedic **Sean Semrad**

Firefighter Recruit **Nick Selover**

Fire Mechanic I **Jesse Stapleton**

1 Year of Service

Transport EMT **Alec Lezcano**

Annual Award Winners for 2025

Lance Frawley, Captain / Paramedic – **Officer of the Year**

Nolan Willoughby, Firefighter – **Firefighter of the Year**

Jenn Burke, Fleet & Facilities Support Specialist – **Civilian Employee of the Year**

Holly Bassett, Paramedic – **Transportation Services Employee of the Year**

Sophie Boukatch, Firefighter – **Fire Chief Outstanding Service Award**

John Christensen, Engineer – **Lifetime Achievement Award**

3. Call to the Public.

None

4. Consideration and possible approval of all consent agenda items listed below:

A. Board Meeting Minutes from April 16, 2025

B. Intergovernmental Agreement with Scottsdale Fire

C. Vector Solutions Order Agreement – Addition of Evaluations+ Module

- D. Combined Resolution Affecting County Treasurer Transactions for Fiscal Year 2024 / 2025 from the Pinal County Treasurer's Office
- E. Runbeck Election Services to produce the Voter Publicity Pamphlet for the November 4, 2025 election
- F. Amendment to PSPRS 457(b) Joinder Agreement
- G. Disposition of Surplus Property

Motion by Director Moeller to approve all consent agenda items for May 21, 2025.

Seconded by Director Van Driel

Vote 4 ayes, 0 nays, MOTION PASSED

5. Discussion and possible adoption of Resolution 2025-05-21-06, for possible action regarding the development of the Tentative Fiscal Year 2025/2026 Revenue and Expenditure Budget.

Speakers: Chief Whitney

The Board was presented with a budget that may still be modified and adjusted as the Board decides. It is suggested that the Board adopt a Tentative Budget by adopting **Resolution 2025-05-21-05** at this meeting after any adjustments, changes, or other modifications. This allows sufficient time for staff to post the budget as required by law and meet timelines necessary for allowing at least a 20-day public review and comment period.

The budget the Staff is presenting represents a tax rate of \$3.69 per hundred dollars of secondary valuation for District operations and a \$0.115 special assessment related to the JPMorgan Chase Refinancing Bond debt principal and interest repayment.

Motion by Director Van Driel to adopt Resolution **2025-05-21-05**, adopting a tentative budget in the amount of \$30,444,334 for the fiscal year July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026, using the tax rate of \$3.6900 for operations and \$0.1150 for the principal and interest payment of the Bond refinancing with JP Morgan. Also, giving notice to the public of the tentative budget, and a time and place for a public meeting to hear comments before final adoption of the budget, as required by law.

Seconded by Director Moeller

Vote 4 ayes, 0 nays, MOTION PASSED

6. Discussion and possible approval of Policy 1044 Member Speech, Expression, and Social Networking.

Speaker: Administrative Services Director Anna Butel

The SFMD, through the committee process, has revised policy 1044, Member Speech, Expression, and Social Networking, to represent both practice and policy accurately.

Updates include:

- Wordsmithing to improve clarity
- Removal of unnecessary examples

- Added reference to our Mission, Vision & Values

Motion by Director Moeller to approve Policy # **1044** Member Speech, Expression and Social Networking.

Seconded by Director Cross

Vote 4 ayes, 0 nays, **MOTION PASSED**

7. Senior Leadership Team Reports

Fire Chief Report

Chief Whitney reported the following:

- Budget, Budget, Budget
- Regional Training Center Discussion (x3) with Pinal County, DFFM, AJUSD
- Firefighter Interviews
- Labor/Management
- PILT Discussion with Pinal County
- SFMD Gala
- AJPD/SFMD Golf Tournament
- Personnel matters
- Battalion 261 coverage
- Pinal County Special Districts meeting
- Ironwood Station Visit with City
- AFSI
- Paramedic Interviews
- Fire Chief Forum
- CALSC
- Budget Manager Quarterly Meeting
- EVRA Class 25-1 Graduation
- Central Arizona Life Safety Council
- MFMD Fallen Firefighter Services
- MOU Discussion
- Bond Meetings (HighGround, City of AJ, Maricopa County)
- Budget, Budget, Budget

Emergency Services

District & Regional

- TRT – Trench Rescue Demonstration – Superstition Vistas for DCS Construction
- Fire Chief Forum
- Budget Manager Quarterly Meeting
- EVRA Class 25-1 Graduation
- MOU Discussion
- Temp BC Process

- Central Arizona Life Safety Council
- 25-2 discussion with SFD Training
- E263 move-up to MFMD FS220

- SFMD Pipes and Drums
- FF Keller's Services
- EVRA Class 25-1
- PCSO Peace Officer Memorial
- AJPD Annual Awards Ceremony

Significant Incidents:

Working Fires

- Date: 04.27.25
- Location: N. Saguario
- Response: E261, E263, E262, LT219, BC261, BC202, LT263, E213, L264, M261, U208, T261, M262
- Report: Reported a working fire. Fire started in the exterior shed and appeared to have spread to two adjacent homes. In spite of high wind conditions, on-scene crews contained the fire to the initial structures, with no extensions.
- No reported Civilian or FF injuries.

- Date: 05.10.25
- Location: Delaware and Jasper
- Response: E263, LT263, E217, E212, BC261, BC202, E262, L264, M262, U251
- Report: Two-story structure, working fire with heavy fire conditions to the 1st floor and patio.
- A transitional attack was performed before making entry. The fire was contained on the 1st floor, with minor extensions to the second floor and attic.
- No reported Civilian or FF injuries. Two residents were displaced. Red Cross notified.

Mountain Rescue

- Date: 05.11.25
- Location: Carney Springs Trail
- Response: BR264, E262, SQ219, E265, E263, L209, UTV262, M264, M263, M262, M261, BC261, BC202, EDC, PCSO
- Report: initial report of a hiker unconscious and seizing with four others needing assistance. 5 total patients.
- Crew assigned to gain access to the trail and locate the patient. Patients located approximately .75 miles from the trailhead.
- Crew reported four delayed patients and one in cardiac arrest.
- The four delayed patients were assisted off the trail by UTV and relocated to the parking lot for further evaluation.
- Cardiac arrest patient did not survive. Scene turned over to PCSO.
- The four patients were evaluated and refused treatment.
- No reported FF injuries.

Divisional Report Training & EMS

District

- Temporary BC of Training Selection Process
- Touch The Truck Special Event Support
- Labor Management

- Bond Support Meetings
- Data backup process SCBA Team
- Technical Rescue Trench Rescue Demonstration

Regional Partners

- Central Arizona Region Medical Directors Meeting
- EMS Support with Flagstaff Fire Department
- Central Arizona Life Safety Council Meeting

Training

District

Candidate Development Program

- Since the last board meeting, two sessions of the Candidate Development Program have been facilitated, including:
- Mock interview exercises to prepare candidates for professional evaluations
- Physical training (PT) sessions and skills development courses

Academy Class 25-1

- Engine 261 supported the East Valley Regional Academy (EVRA) during the Legacy Night Burn and Family Night events.
- Recruits have completed their Work-Along assignments.

Training Workshops

On May 11 and 12, a Tender Operations Workshop was conducted, led by Engineer Schow, covering:

- Water shuttle operations
- Drop tank deployment
- Drafting procedures

Regional Partners

Ladder Training

- Ladder crews have commenced participation in the East Valley Ladder Training (EVLТ) to enhance operational proficiency and safety standards.
- Roof and 360-Degree Assessment Reports
- Analysis of Previous Fire Incident
- A formal review of a past fire incident is underway to identify lessons learned and implement improvements in response strategies and risk mitigation.

Technical Rescue Team Training

- Steep-angle rescue techniques
- Trench rescue procedures

East Valley Fire Cadets (EVFC)

- The district extended support to the East Valley Fire Cadets program, facilitating training in water rescue operations, driver training, and graduation ceremonies.

EMS

District

- Operative IQ Training
- Logistics for Touch the Truck Special Event
- Temp BC Interview Process
- Hamilton Ventilator Training

Regional Partners

- EMS ROCC
- East Valley Agencies Meeting
- Central AZ Regional Medical Directors Meeting
- Vector Solutions Training with QCFD
- EMS Support with Flagstaff Fire Department

Transportation Services

- Mountain Vista name change ceremony. Now called Four Peaks Medical Center.
- EMS ROCC
- Deferred Comp Committee Meeting
- State Trauma Advisory Board Meeting (STAB)
- AZDHS EMS Council Meeting
- Conducted Paramedic Interviews – Extended Conditional Offers
- Two new EMTs started Monday
- Fire Chief Forum
- Arizona Emer4gency Medical Systems
 - AEMS Education Committee Meeting
 - AEMS Functional Group Meeting
- Budget Manager Quarterly Meeting
- MFMD Firefighter Mark Keller Memorial
- East Valley Agencies Meeting

Support Services

- Monthly Special Events Meeting
- Radiance Community Event
- Renaissance Festival Site Visit
- Code Enforcement Symposium
- Assistant Chief Forrest Smith Retirement (Mesa)
- Fire Marshals Meeting
- Tower Site Visits with TRWC & Operations Manager
- LEPC Meeting
- LEPC Tabletop Exercise
- Ironwood Station Visit with City
- Fire Chief Forum
- CALSC Meeting
- Budget Managers Meeting
- Fire Recruit Graduation
- April Pool's Day
- AED/CCR Training with City Staff
- PTES STEAM Night Egg Drop (L264)
- 261 Station Tour with Divergence Scholar Academy Students
- City of AJ Building Expo Event: Touch the Truck
- Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive at Superstition Food Bank
- PTES End of the Year Water Day

Resource

- Investigator 2 Class
- Radio Updates
- New E261
- SCBA Airpack Demo
- Safety Committee
- Turnout Testing
- Budget Meetings
- Uniform Committee Meeting
- Rotate Apparatus through Annex for PM
- Facility PM
- Bills & Purchases

Administrative Services

- Transition Meeting – Nationwide PSPRS 457b
- Nationwide/Galloway Deferred Compensation Meeting
- HighGround Bond Discussion
- Maricopa County Menu of Service (Bond Election)
- Fire Chief Forum
- Budget Variance Meeting
- Annual Motor Vehicle Reporting
- Firefighter Recruit Home Day
- Two new hires: Tori Dow & Keith Spletter, Transport EMT's

8. New Business / Future Agenda Items

None

9. Announcements / Document Signing

- Chairman Chamberlain thanked the District for the support shown to her over the last few months.

10. Adjourn

Motion by Director Cross to adjourn the board meeting at 6:50 p.m.

Seconded by Director Moeller

Vote 4 ayes, 0 nays, **MOTION PASSED**

Governing Board Approval:

DocuSigned by:

Connie Van Driel

6/18/2025

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Board Clerk Connie Van Driel