REDMOND FIRE & RESCUE
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
February 18, 2026

BOARD PRESENT: President Jessica Meyer, Vice President John Blanton, Member Gary Ollerenshaw, and Member Dick Knorr.

STAFF PRESENT: Fire Chief Ryan Herrera, Deputy Chief Dustin Miller, Human Resources Manager Diane Cox, CFO Jodi Burch, Fire Marshal Tom Mooney, EMS Captain Luke Jerome, Captain Kevin Broadsword, and Confidential Admin Specialist Jessica Jackson.

STAFF ABSENT: None

PUBLIC PRESENT: None

CALL TO ORDER: President Meyer called the meeting to order at 9:30 am.

ROLL CALL: All present.

AGENDA CHANGES: Budget committee vacancies agenda item moved from Old Business to Reports.

PACKET DOCUMENTS FOR INFORMATION:
Member Meyer commented on calls. Chief Miller added to his operations report that Firefighter Francesca McLean and Firefighter Cameron Sykes received letters of recognition from their captains. He explained the situation and their actions, stating he wished to formally acknowledge them before the board for their commendable actions.

CONSENT AGENDA:
1. Meeting Minutes – January 21, 2026

Board Member Fisher made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Board Member Ollerenshaw and approved by unanimous vote.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

PUBLIC PRESENTATION: None

REPORTS:
1. Budget Committee
   CFO Burch reported that budget season is beginning. The board currently has one (1) vacancy. One current member has expressed willingness to serve another three (3) year term, and another member is eligible to serve but is unable to attend the meeting; this will require further discussion. Staff typically advertise openings through social media and an application process; however, positions are most often filled through word-of-mouth. HR

Manager Cox reported that the application has been posted twice with no responses and requested that board members assist with recruitment efforts.

ACTION ITEMS:

1. Ordinance No. 6
   A Public Hearing opened at 9:38 am for the 2nd reading by title of Ordinance No. 6.

   President Meyer opened the floor for public comment. There were none.

   The public hearing was closed at 9:50 am.

   Confidential Admin Specialist Jackson read the Ordinance by title.

Board Member Fisher made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 6 as presented. The motion was seconded by Board Member Ollerenshaw and approved by a unanimous vote by roll call.

2. Command Vehicles
   Chief Herrera gave a high-level overview of the new command vehicles being purchased and the repurposing of capital funds being used to cover the cost.

   Member Ollerenshaw asked about the Ford and GM chassis order issues. Chief Herrera stated no issues have been brought to their attention at this time. A build meeting with the vendor is scheduled for Thursday to discuss all details, including branding.

   Member Blanton asked if the order had already been made. Chief Herrera confirmed that it had. Correspondence was sent to the board via email, and the agreement was reviewed by legal counsel, who had no concerns. However, since the purchase requires repurposing funds, it is being brought to the board in accordance with policy. The language in the policy is being reviewed to clarify whether board approval is required when an item is already approved in the budget.

   Member Blanton stated that he does not have an issue with obtaining the necessary equipment but suggested that in the future it would be better to bring these orders before the board prior to purchasing so members are aware. He also asked if Fast Lane is one of the only companies available and commented that the cost of shipping seems excessive. Chief Herrera explained that Fast Lane has a contract team that confirmed the cooperative purchasing agreement and evaluated whether the vehicles would meet the district's needs. He also acknowledged the cost of shipping and stated that additional options are being explored.

   Member Ollerenshaw asked whether SDOA had been consulted to ensure proper procedures were being followed. Chief Herrera confirmed that the district has contacted them several times and is following procurement law requirements. The district posted its intent to purchase in the Daily Journal of Commerce (DJC) for seven (7) days and received no feedback. Aside from board approval, this satisfies all requirements.

Member Fisher expressed concern about ensuring the board remembers this decision when the budget is developed in two months.

Member Meyer asked if this would affect construction at Station 404. CFO Burch responded that it would not and that the funds would simply be swapped.

Member Blanton noted that the grant associated with the project has a sunset date and emphasized the importance of keeping on schedule. Chief Hererra noted that a meeting with the contractor took place the previous week, and a notice was posted in the DJC to move toward a general contract route. This will come before the board at the next meeting for approval.

The board had a general discussion about the delays and timeline of the design process for Station 404. The project is now moving into the construction phase. Staff is recommending the general contractor route because it is less expensive, may expedite the process, and offers additional benefits that will be discussed at the meeting next month. The district has until September 2027 to complete the project.

Board Member Fisher made a motion to approve Resolution 2026-27 authorizing the repurpose of capital funds and the purchase of fire command vehicles. The motion was seconded by Board Member Ollerenshaw and approved by a unanimous vote.

3. Purchase of Defibrillators
   Chief Herrera recognized Captain Jerome for his leadership and work on this project. The district initially applied for the Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG); however, anticipating that the request might not be funded, $450k was budgeted in capital as a contingency. The grant was ultimately not awarded.

   The district will make an initial payment of $400k this year. With the total cost for all units being approximately $574k, the remaining balance will be financed through annual payments of roughly $45k over five years. The goal is to pay off the remaining amount ahead of schedule, with no penalty for early repayment.

   While reapplying for the AFG was considered, the district has been experiencing equipment failures in the field, making it necessary to proceed with the purchase immediately.

Board Member Fisher made a motion to approve the purchase of defibrillators. The motion was seconded by Board Member Ollerenshaw and approved by a unanimous vote.

FIRE CHIEF COMMENTS:
Chief Herrera gave the Board a report on the following topics:

1. Hiring Processes
   Chief Herrera expressed his appreciation to staff, with special recognition to HR Manager Cox, and the entire administrative team for their work in managing the hiring processes. He noted that the assessments and coordination involved require significant effort and attention

to detail. He also acknowledged Captain Jerome, who is currently leading an EMT academy, and thanked everyone involved for their contributions.

2. New Hires
   Two (2) new EMTs are completing their academy training. Five (5) Firefighter/Paramedic candidates have accepted conditional job offers. The district has received eleven (11) applications for the Training Division Chief position, with interviews scheduled for March 5th.

3. Update on Community Initiative Project (CIP)
   There are currently two separate CIP request processes going on simultaneously. The first request is for approximately $2.5M to fund the purchase of a ladder truck equipped with updated features not included on the district's current apparatus. The second request seeks approximately $473k to install vehicle exhaust systems at all our stations. There was a general discussion on the equipment and what it would mean for the district.

   In response to Member Meyer's question regarding housing and deployment of the new ladder truck, Chief Herrera noted that stationing the apparatus here at Station 1 would immediately improve the community's Insurance Services Office (ISO) rating from Class 3 to Class 2.

   Chief Herrera formally thanked the Redmond City Council and Deschutes County Commissioners for their prompt letters of support that were required for the CIP process.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:
President Meyer recessed the regular session at 10:07 am and opened an executive session at 10:07 am per ORS 192.660(2)(i) authorizing executive sessions "to review and evaluate the employment-related performance of the chief executive officer of any public body, a public officer, employee or staff member who does not request an open hearing".

Oregon Law permits public bodies to meet in executive session to discuss specific matters which are not open to the public. Final actions or decisions on these matters will be made during regular session.

President Meyer closed the executive session at 11:32 am and resumed the regular session at 11:32 am.

The evaluation for Fire Chief Herrera was completed in executive session.

NEW BUSINESS:
A compensation study for the Fire Chief will need to be conducted next month. The Board discussed whether to establish a subcommittee for this work or to hold the full discussion during a regular meeting. Member Meyer noted that a subcommittee could be formed if two members were willing to volunteer.

Board Members Fisher and Ollerenshaw volunteered to serve, and with no additional volunteers, the Board appointed them as the subcommittee to work with HR Manager Cox on the compensation study.

Regarding the Public Meeting Law Training, it was noted that next month's session may be completed online or attended in person following the open meeting. The Board agreed to proceed with the in-person training.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:
Member Fisher thanked the entire staff and expressed his appreciation for all they do, emphasizing the importance of not losing sight of that appreciation.

Member Blanton expressed his appreciation to the men and women who serve the community each day, noting their dedication to saving lives. He also thanked Chief Herrera for recognizing the administrative staff and extended his gratitude to HR Manager Cox for her ongoing contributions.

Member Knorr stated that the hiring process was conducted exceptionally well. He commended Chief Miller for emphasizing the importance of doing the right thing, noting that this reflects the type of organization the community can trust to care for their families. He added that the work is more than a job, it's a calling centered on helping others.

Member Ollerenshaw concurred with the comments made by his fellow board members.

BOARD PRESIDENT COMMENTS:
President Meyer expressed her appreciation for the extensive work Chief Herrera is undertaking on the CIP process. She noted that his engagement in the effort is significant and commended him for taking on such an important and impactful role.

ADJOURN: Being no further business, Board Member Ollerenshaw moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Board Member Meyer and was approved by unanimous vote. The meeting was adjourned at 11:39 am.

Approved:

Jessica Meyer, President	March 18, 2026 Date
Earl Fisher, Secretary/Treasurer	March 18, 2026 Date

Attest:

Katie Annen, Administrative Assistant II	March 18, 2026 Date