

Gunnison County Fire Protection District
Minutes
Regular Meeting
May 21, 2026

I. Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 6:38 p.m. by Heath Smith. Meeting was held upstairs in the meeting room at the Fire House.

The following board members were present: Walt Cranor, Rob Hughes and Heath Smith. Tom Stoeber arrived at 6:46 p.m.

City Accountant present: Ben Cowan

Board Secretary present: Deborah Ferchau

Chief present: Hugo Ferchau

Deputy Chief present: Tom McDonough

Captain present: Tyler Brown

Board Attorney: Not present

The following firemen were present: Kenny Tomlin, Captain.

Others: Elise Cothorn, Accountant-City of Gunnison, Kenneth Scott Frazier-District Board Appointee.

II. Minutes:

The minutes from the April 16, 2026 regular meeting were reviewed. A motion was made by Cranor and seconded by Hughes to approve the April 16, 2026 regular minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

III. Financial Report & Bills:

The financial report through April, 2026 was presented by Cowan. A motion was made by Cranor and seconded by Hughes to approved payment to LN Curtis in the amount of \$23,927.16 for bunker gear. Motion passed unanimously. A second motion was made by Cranor and seconded by Smith to approve the financial report and payment of the bills. Motion passed unanimously.

IV. Correspondence:

None.

V. Old Business:

- A. **Board Bylaws:** H. Ferchau gave a short summary of Lexapol and their services from the last meeting.
- B. **Firehouse Education:** A Public Engagement Plan put together by Kyle Blakely was passed out. Kyle will be in town next week Thursday and Friday.

VI. Fire Chief's Report:

- A. H. Ferchau advised the Board that there was a light call volume in April but volumes are now increasing with more people being in town.
- B. H. Ferchau stated that Wilderness Streams and Star Mountain Ranch subdivisions up County Road 730 are beginning to talk about constructing a fire station similar to what Taylor River Canyon did. It may involve some of the old railroad water towers in that area.
- C. H. Ferchau reported that FEDS
- D. H. Ferchau advised that there is a SAVER grant that is being submitted on behalf of several departments, Clifton Fire is taking the lead. The grant will pay for gear for new members and help off set training expense for volunteer fire departments. Smith asked what the cost of gear is? H. Ferchau stated \$5,000 to \$6,000 per set and the grant will pay about \$4,000 that cost. Cranor commented that he thinks the grant is a great idea. If awarded the grant would be good for 4 years. Board consensus is in support of the grant submittal. H. Ferchau further stated that the other side of the grant funds would be for full time fire fighters. Smith asked if the grant would work for a Fire Marshal position? H. Ferchau and McDonough have looked through the grant in regards to that idea and it seems that it is only for fire fighters.

VII. Deputy Chief's Report:

- A. McDonough advised the Board that Chief 1, that was involved in an accident at Spencer and Main has been taken to Denver to Diversified, who was recommended by our insurance company. The person that hit Chief 1 was not insured but our insurance company is pursuing further. Diversified has already been paid for the needed repairs int the amount of \$27,000.00 and the truck is already being repaired. McDonough advised the Board that it has been a great experience working with the insurance company. Smith asked if they are doing the painting and everything. McD stated yes, they are working with SVI as well. The deductible is \$1,000.00, which will initially be paid by the District but may be reimbursed through the process.
- B. McDonough commented that all wildland apparatus has been serviced and is ready to go. Brown stated all National Dispatch bills have been paid and they have a saw day scheduled.
- C. Brown thanked the Board members for attending the badging ceremony and advised them that he is happy to share the photo link with Board members.

VIII. New Business:

- A. Appointment: Last month Paul Morgan tendered his resignation from the Board. Scott Frazier is interested in the position and is in attendance tonight. A motion was made by Cranor and seconded by Hughes to approved that appointment of Scott Frazier to the seat vacated by Paul Morgan. Motion passed unanimously. Smith talked about the Pension Board representative. Scott stated that he is interested if there is a vacancy. Stoeber went to last meeting but has not been appointed yet. Stoeber defers to Scott.

IX. Unscheduled Business:

- A. None.

X. Adjourn:

- A motion was made by Cranor to adjourn the meeting at 7:10 p.m.