



UNIFIED FIRE AUTHORITY BOARD MINUTES

February 17, 2026 7:30 AM

Electronically via Zoom Webinar/UFA Headquarters-3380 South 900 West SLC, UT 84119

- Call to Order

Quorum present

Chair Fotheringham called the meeting to order at 7:30 am.

- Public Comment

None

Public comment was available live and with a posted email address.

- Board Member Recognition

Chair Fotheringham presented Former Mayor Mike Weichers with a plaque to thank him for his years of service to the Unified Fire Authority.

- Minutes Approval

a. January 20, 2026

Mayor Gettel made a motion to approve the January 20, 2026, minutes as submitted. Mayor Sudbury seconded the motion, and all voted in favor; none opposed.

- Oath of Office for New Board Members

The following Board Members were administered the UFA Board Member Oath of Office.

Mayor Gray, Eagle Mountain

Mayor Bennion, Cottonwood Heights

Mayor John, Brighton

Mayor Sudbury, Magna

- Annual Board Member Requirements

Chief Legal Officer Roberts reviewed the UFA Board Code of Ethics policy, and the UFA Conflict of Interest Disclosure Form. A physical copy was handed out in the packet, and Clerk Dinkel will email an electronic copy to the Board Members as well. This form needs to be completed and submitted should there be a conflict to disclose.

The UFA Board Members will need to participate in the annual Open Meetings Act Training that will be given in April or May of 2026.

CLO Roberts reviewed the interlocal provision allowing a designated alternate board member for each municipality. Alternates must be designated formally (letter or email) in advanced, allowing alternates to be fully voting members when present. Please send designated alternate letters/emails to Clerk Micayla Dinkel.

- Board Elections

CLO Roberts asked the Board to consider aligning the new board member elections with the fiscal year instead of a calendar year. There is usually some turnover on the UFA Board in January due to elections. The change would also allow new board members to acclimate and participate in budget development.

Council Member Stewart made a motion to move the UFA Board election process to align with the fiscal year. Mayor Jackson seconded the motion, and all voted in favor; none opposed.

- Consent Agenda

CFO Hill presented the January disbursements and noted no items requiring special attention.

Mayor Gettel made a motion to approve the consent agenda items as submitted. Mayor Overson seconded the motion, and all voted in favor; none opposed.

- Public Hearing to Receive and Consider Comments on Proposed Amendments to the 2025-2026 Fiscal Year Budget

CFO Hill highlighted the following proposed amendments for the board to consider:

Behavioral Health & Wellness Grant True-up

Approximately \$2,500 unspent from the prior year is requested to be appropriated for training costs supporting the peer support program.

Deployments Reimbursement

USAR and IST deployments totaling approximately \$674,000 in wages/overtime/benefits; amendment captures federal reimbursements.

SelectHealth Contingent Health Insurance Premium (+5/-5)

Employer portion (80%) for the “plus 5” adjustment, anticipated in the budget.

Wildland Fund Amendments

2025 fire season true-up: Add approximately \$1.2 million in additional revenue due to a busy season; bulk directed to firefighter wages; excess to fund balance for future apparatus replacement.

Appropriate fund balance from Camp Williams fund balance to purchase a vehicle now rather than in future years, taking advantage of readiness/cost considerations. The Wildland Division portion of the

SelectHealth contingent funding is around \$6,000. Lease financing adjustment: Two wildland crew carriers exceeded budget by \$89,000 (from \$450,000 baseline). The amendment increases the Wildland budget to cover the full cost.

Emergency Management Fund Adjustment

SelectHealth Contingent Adjustment for Emergency Management. Mayor Kanter asked staff to notify the Salt Lake County Council when fund balance is being appropriated in the Emergency Management budget.

Fire Capital Replacement Fund

Reduction in bond proceeds and reduction in debt service payment.

Two Budget Transfers (no new money)

Reclass power ambulance cots from station equipment to correct medical equipment GL.

Debt service budget cleanup: move \$462,000 budgeted as interest to principal for first-year bond payment (first year is principal-only).

After hearing the proposed budget amendments, Mayor Jackson made a motion to open the public hearing to receive and consider comments on proposed amendments to the 25-26 fiscal year budget. Mayor Bennion seconded the motion, and a roll call vote was taken.

Bailey	-	Huish	YES
Bennion	YES	Jackson	YES
Bourke	YES	John	YES
Buroker	YES	Kanter	YES
Butterfield	YES	Overson	YES
Fotheringham	YES	Stewart	YES
Gettel	YES	Sudbury	YES
Gray	YES		
Harris	YES		
Henderson	YES		

Chair Fotheringham asked for any public comment on the proposed amendments to the 25-26 fiscal year budget. There were no public comments.

Mayor Sudbury made a motion to close the public hearing to receive and consider comments on proposed amendments to the 25-26 fiscal year budget. Mayor Overson seconded the motion, and a roll call vote was taken.

Bailey	-	Huish	YES
Bennion	YES	Jackson	YES
Bourke	YES	John	YES
Buroker	YES	Kanter	YES
Butterfield	YES	Overson	YES
Fotheringham	YES	Stewart	YES
Gettel	YES	Sudbury	YES
Gray	YES		
Harris	YES		
Henderson	YES		

Mayor Gettel made a motion to approve Resolution 02-2026A, amending the 25/26 fiscal year budget as presented. Mayor Jackson seconded the motion, and a roll call vote was taken.

Bailey	-	Huish	YES
Bennion	YES	Jackson	YES
Bourke	YES	John	YES
Buroker	YES	Kanter	YES
Butterfield	YES	Overson	YES
Fotheringham	YES	Stewart	YES
Gettel	YES	Sudbury	YES
Gray	YES		
Harris	YES		
Henderson	YES		

• Quarterly Financial Report

CFO Hill presented the quarterly financial report to the board members, noting that this report reflects the midpoint of the fiscal year.

General Fund – Revenue

- Member fees: approximately 50% collected; members are current.
- Ambulance revenue: \$6.2 million collected (44%), acknowledging billing lag; CFO indicated the revenue source is tracking well.
- Total revenue collected in the first half: \$49.2 million.

General Fund – Expenditures

Salary and benefits: \$39.8 million spent

- Salary and benefits: \$39.8 million spent (~49%) aligned with midpoint expectations.
- Total expenditures through Dec 31: \$51.9 million; slightly above revenue due to timing of some annual/early-year expenses and encumbrances.
- CFO indicated no major concerns; expenditures tracking as expected.

Other Funds

- Wildland Fund: \$2.8 million collected; \$3.4 million expended through December; amendment adjustments discussed earlier support balancing.
- Emergency Management Fund: \$1.5 million selected/received; just under \$1.4 million expended; \$863,000 in salary/benefits.
- Capital Funds:
 - Fire Capital Replacement Fund: transfer from General Fund \$5.8 million made for lease payments; loan proceeds received a little over \$22 million for capital plan; debt service principal+interest totaling approximately \$5.5–\$5.8 million; heavy apparatus expenditures \$16.2 million; other capital costs tracking to plan.
 - Other two capital funds: no activity yet for the fiscal year (Emergency Management and Wildland capital funds referenced).

Mayor Overson made a motion to approve the quarterly financial report, including the list of expenditures for the last quarter as presented. Council Member Stewart seconded the motion, and all voted in favor; none opposed.

• Committee Updates

- Benefits and Compensation Committee
 - Mayor Buroker updated the full Board on the Benefits and Compensation Committee Meetings that have been held. The meetings have had strong attendance with a robust discussion. The committee is actively engaged and involved. The next meeting will be on March 19, 2026.
- Governance Committee
 - Mayor Gettel stated that staff is working on setting up a meeting for March.
- Finance Committee
 - Council Member Henderson stated that the next Finance Committee Meeting will be on April 9, 2026.

• Contract Employees Compensation Process

CLO Roberts stated that the two contract employees are the Chief Legal Officer and the Fire Chief. Both contracts require periodic market reviews, historically conducted in April or May of each year, which is late for the budget process. The proposal is to shift the performance review to March this year; potentially February in future years, to help with budget planning.

Concerns were expressed by some board members, noting the unique nature of the positions and the unclear comparable market. CLO Roberts confirmed that COLA is included in the current contract language for both contracts. The Board agreed to hold the performance review for both positions in a closed session of the March UFA Board Meeting.

- Administrative and Planning Report

- a. 2025 Accomplishments Poster

Assistant Chief Russell highlighted the 2025 accomplishments poster for the board to review. Some highlights included on the poster are operational performance, EMS oversight, prevention/compliance, leadership development, governance improvements, fiscal management, and community risk reduction. UFA responded to over 36,000 incidents in 2025. Key organizational performance statements include clinical QA strengthened, regulatory audits completed with no adverse findings, leadership and wellness programs expanded, budget discipline maintained, inspections and community risk reduction efforts increased.

The “Wicked Issues” section was replaced with “Emerging Challenges” to reflect proactive planning and solvable pressures.

- b. Legislative Session Update

Assistant Chief Russell reported that UFA is tracking over 20 bills that could potentially impact the organization and highlighted the following five bills for the board.

- HB 41 – Construction and Fire Code Amendments

- Updates WUI code from 2006 to 2024 version; sprinkler installation requirement exempted.
 - WUI mapping provision tied to SES risk of 5+; UFA continuing to track and will provide updates/actions as needed.

- HB 79 – Governmental Immunity Amendments

- Clarifies immunity applies to first responders providing emergency medical assistance (not just catastrophic events).
 - Passed House and Senate unanimously; pending the governor's signature; expected to take effect upon enactment.

- HB 269 – Ambulance Provider Payment Amendments

- Follow-up to last year’s HB 301; rolls medication costs into base ambulance transport rate at 1.8% of base rate.
 - Clarifies balance billing authority when insurers do not pay the statutory base rate.

- HB 402 – EMS Controlled Substance Licensing Amendments (UFA-initiated)

- Creates state EMS controlled substance license; delayed in Rules due to fiscal note; expected to move forward soon.

- HB 416 – Firefighter Cancer Trust

- Creates a trust funded with approximately \$4 million from insurance premium tax previously directed to Tier 1 retirement system.
 - Establishes board/duties and enables supplemental support for firefighters with presumptive cancers.

- Support Services Report

- a. Personal Protective Equipment Decontamination

Assistant Chief Robinson provided an information update regarding a congressionally directed spending request of approximately \$1.3 million for a liquid Co2 cleaning system for firefighter PPE turnouts. Cancer remains the leading cause of line-of-duty death in the fire service; carcinogens embed in turnout gear. CO2 cleaning removes contaminants traditional laundering cannot fully extract. Utah currently lacks this capability and ships highly contaminated gear to other states. This system would be the first in-state CO2 turnout decontamination, positioning UFA as a regional resource for surrounding departments. The funding would include the purchase of equipment, installation, and the first two years of consumables/maintenance. After two years, ongoing operations/maintenance would shift to UFA. UFA is exploring cost-sharing/fee-for-service with neighboring agencies.

The board asked for an estimated range of ongoing costs after the two-year funding period is over.

Assistant Chief Robinson stated that the preliminary figures show the cost would be approximately \$60,000 annually. This unit would be housed at the UFA Logistics building. Assistant Chief Robinson stated that UFA needs some letters of support from board members and will work directly with the board to draft letters of support.

- b. UFA/BLM Hotshot Fire Station Update

Design RFP awarded to Method Studios and work to proceed on the design phase.

- c. Herriman Station 103 Update

Assistant Chief Robinson provided an update on the construction of the new Station 103 fire station in Herriman. Completion date is targeted for October 7, 2026 and construction is going well.

- Operations Report

- a. Call Volume Report

Assistant Chief Dern reported completion of the transition from the old national reporting system to the new system and provided the board with the new call volume report to review. This new report provides a high-level organization overview.

Year-to-Date Snapshot

- Year-to-date incident responses: 4,190
- Comparison: down 143 compared to the same time period the prior year (as displayed)
- Response volume metric included (units responding to incidents).

First Due Metrics and Response Time Components

- First due performance: for emergent calls, the first-due unit responded within its zone 52% of the time (organization-wide).
- Assistant Chief Dern explained reasons for non-first-due responses (unit busy, training, not closest at dispatch time).
- Benchmarks: Assistant Chief Dern cited having seen 50%–75% as “good,” but emphasized this depends on risk tolerance and Board-adopted benchmarks (to be addressed through Standards of Cover).
- First due over goal: number of incidents where response exceeded goals in dispatch/turnout/travel/total response time.
- Baseline goals currently reflected in data:
 - Urban: 6:26
 - Rural: 10:10
 - Assistant Chief Dern stated these will be refined in Standards of Cover and tied to Board expectations.
- Response time components defined:
 - Dispatch: call answered to station notified
 - Turnout: station notified to en route
 - Travel: en route to arrival
 - Total response: combined metrics

Unit Hour Utilization and Concurrency

- Unit hour utilization: organizationally, primary response units were on calls 8.3% of available time.
- Assistant Chief Dern noted no single accepted “too high/too low” benchmark for fire agencies; private EMS uses it differently; UFA will evaluate acceptable levels as reporting matures.
- “Call concurrency 2+”: 3,800 instances where additional calls came into a zone while another was already in progress.
- Station response reliability: 82% of the time, stations were ready to respond within the first-due area.

Visualizations and Unit-Level Breakouts

- Graphs included total response, dispatch, turnout, and travel times to the 90th percentile, illustrating that most calls were significantly under the 90th percentile, with outliers.
- January unit utilization listing showed Medic Ambulance 110 at 21%, attributed to ski season canyon responses.
- Incident type breakdown and time-of-day/day-of-month visuals used to inform resourcing decisions (peak load units, low acuity unit timing, etc.).

b. Incident Highlight

Operations Chief Kay updated the Board on a four-alarm fire at a seven-story podium-style apartment building under construction in Harriman.

The first two floors of the building were parking/retail; five stories of wood-framed apartments above. 100+ firefighters responded across the valley; significant automatic aid and move-ups.

Fire involved floors 3 through 5, with multiple floor collapses on floor 4, complicating access and suppression efforts.

Weather impacts: South winds 20–30 mph during operations; overnight winds reportedly up to 40 mph.

Crews contained fire to affected areas, preventing rapid spread; construction buildings were noted as particularly vulnerable due to incomplete suppression systems, limited egress, and site obstacles.

Scaffolding across the building’s front impeded access. Fire crews remained on fire watch overnight.

The Board expressed appreciation for the response and communications. There was potential for significant loss, and gratitude that damage was limited.

Upcoming Events

Chair Fotheringham reminded the Board of the upcoming events

Fire School 101

March 27, 2026

UFA Fire Training

UFA Banquet

April 24, 2026

This is the Place Heritage Park

Recruit Camp 61 Graduation

May 6, 2026

JATC Riverton Campus

Possible Closed Session

None

Adjournment

Mayor Sudbury moved to adjourn the February 17, 2026, UFA Board Meeting. Mayor Jackson seconded the motion, and all voted in favor; none opposed.

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Mayor Cheri Jackson

Council Member Tyler Huish

Mayor Paul Fotheringham

Mayor Tish Buroker

Council Member Jared Henderson

Council Member Sheldon Stewart

Council Member Chrystal Butterfield

Mayor Dustin Gettel

Council Member Catherine Harris

Deputy Mayor Catherine Kanter

Council Member Kathleen Bailey
Mayor Scotty John
Mayor Kristie Overson

Mayor Jared Gray
Mayor Roger Bourke

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Council Member Bailey

STAFF IN ATTENDANCE

CFO Tony Hill
CLO Brian Roberts
Clerk Micayla Dinkel

ATTENDEES

AC Dern
AC Russell
DOC Easton
Courtney Samuel
Rachel Anderson
Captain Beckman

AC Robinson
DC Widdison
HRD Day
DC Greensides
OC Kay

Bill Brass
Shelli Fowlks
Kiyoshi Young
FM Watkins
Captain Park