

# Jackson County Fire District 1

Budget Committee Meeting Minutes  
Meeting of May 19, 2026 at 5:30pm



## **CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Board of Directors President, John Ellis.

## **PLEDGE OF ALLEGEANCE**

**Roll Call** – John Foster, John Ellis, Jim Stearns, Craig Berry, Nga Vu, Mark Moran, Rick Dennehey, Gerry Gay and Cliff Bigham; Present. Randy Cort not in attendance. Also in attendance were Mike Hammond, Jenna Kurzyniec and Jeni Darr.

## **Election of Officers:**

Cliff Bigham nominated Mark Moran as president, Gerry Gay 2<sup>nd</sup>, all in favor - motion passed.

Cliff Bigham Nominated Gerry Gay as Vice President, Jim Stearns 2<sup>nd</sup>, all in favor - motion passed.

Gerry Gay nominated Cliff Bigham as Secretary, Mark Moran 2<sup>nd</sup>, all in favor – motion passed.

## **Budget Message:**

Fire Chief Mike Hammond presented the changes to the budget message, Presented recommended annual budget for FY 2026–27. Budget stated as balanced. Emphasized conservative revenue assumptions, but budget assumes only 3% increase and assumes 7% of assessed taxes uncollected. The budget includes the following projects: Represented employees with a 2.7% Cost of Living Allowance, receiving grant monies to install solar panels and battery storage system, receiving grant monies from Oregon State Fire Marshal (OSFM) to hire 3 seasonal firefighters, setting aside funding for the replacement of aging HVAC units or other anticipated repairs, installing Tablet Command software and hardware into district vehicles, purchasing a stair chair and power gurney for the new ambulance, installing fire station alerting into the fire station and also carrying forward unspent Capacity Grant funds in anticipation of paying it back to OSFM.

## **Budget Review Discussion Points:**

-Fuel reimbursement line: Confirmed fuel reimbursement is tracked as revenue; change made to separate city vs district fuel tracking. Materials and services budgets \$80,000 fuel total (city + district) with expectation of \$30,000 reimbursement.

-Fire protection contracts line: Revenue shown as \$500 was flagged as too low; Chief Hammond said it should be about \$2,000.

-Ambulance GEMT Revenue line: Revenue budgeted at \$50,000 with \$18,000 in admin fees prompted discussion; staff stated GEMT receipts are inconsistent and FY 2026 program not yet approved, so budgeting remains conservative.

-Personnel Services line: Salaries increased from estimated \$1.49M to an estimated \$1.65M. Drivers included 2.7% COLA for represented employees, potential larger increases for certain admin roles, seasonal firefighters

(grant-funded) now included in salaries line, paramedic and degree incentive impacts. Confirmed \$40,000 budgeted for compensated absences (vacation payout and possible retirements).

-Contract services line: Increased due to higher audit costs, audit work tied to the solar grant, and executive recruitment line. \$10,000 noted, but potential lower cost via SDAO.

-Elections budget line: Not funded this year; discussion indicated board positions are up next year and the district does pay election costs, estimated roughly \$3,000–\$5,000.

-Prevention budget line: Reduction attributed to moving a reader board to capital and budgeting advertising that wasn't ultimately spent; pre-fire planning is part of prevention, with software paid from a different/software fund.

-Capital fund detail: Revenue described as including estimated \$339,000 carryforward and estimated \$205,000 property taxes. Station maintenance set at \$50,000 as a growing "savings account" anticipating failures of older HVAC. Capital purchases listed: bay doors, equipment maintenance, nozzles/appliances, power gurney, radios peripherals, station alerting, stair chair, Tablet Command.

- Radios: funded via an ECSO grant (equipment provided), but district must buy peripherals.
- Tablet Command: budget stated to cover entire fleet; district transitioning from MDTs to tablets.
- Stair chairs: confirmed 3 ambulances exist; only 2 stair chairs currently; need a third.

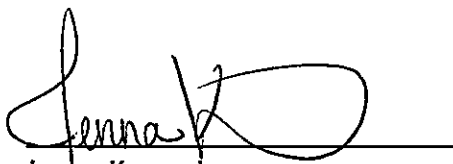
**Public Comments:** The meeting was opened for public comment. No public in attendance. No comments.

Chief Hammond to increase Fire protection contracts by \$2000 and spend \$2000 out of elections to balance budget. Making the budget balanced at \$6,279,943 for FY26-2027.

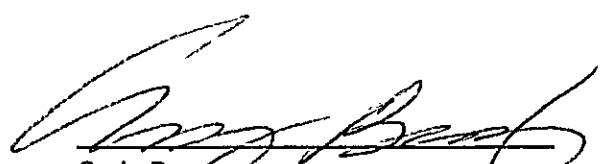
Jim Stearns moved that the Jackson County Fire District 1 budget committee approves the 2026-2027 budget as presented and approves taxes for the 2026-2027 fiscal year at the rate of 1.9313 per \$1000.00 of assessed value for the General Fund, .25 cents per \$1000.00 of assessed value for the Capital Levy, .80 cents per \$1000.00 of assessed value for the Local Option Levy.

Roll call vote resulted in: John Foster-yes, John Ellis-yes, Jim Stearns yes, Craig Berry-yes, Nga Vu-yes, Mark Moran-yes, Rick Dennehey-yes, Gerry Gay-yes, Cliff Bigham-yes. Motion passed unanimously.

John Ellis moved to adjourn meeting at 6:23p.m., Craig Berry 2<sup>nd</sup>; motion passed unanimously.



Jenna Kurzyniec  
Clerk to the Board



Craig Berry  
Secretary/Treasurer- Board of Directors