

A regular meeting of the Alma District Fire Board was held at the Alma Municipal Building. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 a.m. by Alma City Manager Aerick Ripley. A quorum of the Board was present.

*Roll Call*

Board members present: Kevin Beeson, Ron Hunt, Tish Mallory, Greg Mapes, Doug Merchant, and Aerick Ripley. (Mallory and Mapes joined after roll call.)

Board members absent: Michelle Pitts.

Others present: Jim Bailey, Curtis Dancer, and Mark Williams.

**Motion by Beeson, seconded by Merchant, to approve minutes of the October 22, 2025, meeting, as presented. Motion carried.**

**Yes: Beeson, Hunt, Mallory, Mapes, Merchant, and Ripley.**

**No: none.**

**Absent: Pitts.**

*Proposed Fire Budget for FY 2027*

Ripley reviewed the proposed fire budget for FY 2027, noting the budget total of approximately \$605,000 and suggested a 3% COLA for Fire and a 25% increase for equipment, truck and apparatuses.

Mapes proposed the Fire Board help with annual maintenance to the fire building. Beeson would like an estimate of what the annual cost might be so he can base any upcoming millage rates accordingly. Mapes asked Dancer if he could prepare an estimate by the next meeting. Dancer agreed to have a proposal by the next meeting.

Discussion was had on the ages of some of the fire trucks. Williams explained that the oldest truck is either a 1997 or 1998 and would cost approximately \$1.5 million to replace. Mapes asked if having a truck that old hurt ratings or points. Williams responded with it does not hurt ratings or points. Williams continued stating that engine 75 was bought in 2005 and will need to be replaced between 2030-2040. The tanker truck was bought in 2010 and will need to be replaced in 2035.

*Proposed Rescue Budget for FY 2027*

Ripley reviewed the proposed rescue budget for FY 2027, noting the overall budget total of approximately \$58,000 an increase of \$2000 from last year's budget.

Discussion was made about why the board didn't have 4th quarter reports. Williams explained that the reports had been provided by Bailey, but they were not ready before the deadline for the agenda. He will present the 4th quarter and year end reports at the next meeting.

Mallory proposed a \$5.00 across the board pay rate increase bringing the rate of pay to \$35.00 for responders, \$40.00 for lieutenants, and \$45 for on-call. Williams explained on call to the board.

*Old Business*

Bailey explained the drivers have been logging their 3 hours on driving the new fire truck and continue getting their 3 hours on pump training. Williams explained that training is mandatory before the truck can be in service. All training should be wrapped up, and the truck should be in service by the end of next week.

No public comments were offered.

**Motion by Merchant, seconded by Mallory, to adjourn the meeting at 7:49 a.m. Motion carried.**

**Yes: Beeson, Hunt, Mallory, Mapes, Merchant, and Ripley.**

**No: None.**

**Absent: Pitts.**

  
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Amy Huntoon, Deputy City Clerk

Date of Approval: January 28, 2026