

A regular meeting of the Alma District Fire Board was held at the Alma Municipal Building. The meeting was called to order at 7:01 a.m. by Alma City Manager Aeris Ripley. A quorum of the board was present.

*Roll Call*

Board members present: Kevin Beeson, Tish Mallory (arrived after roll call), Greg Mapes, Doug Merchant, Michelle Pitts, and Aeris Ripley.

Board members absent: Ron Hunt.

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

**Motion by Mapes, seconded by Beeson, to approve minutes of the January 19, 2026 meeting, as presented. Motion carried.**

**Yes: Beeson, Mapes, Merchant, Pitts, and Ripley.**

**No: none.**

**Absent: Hunt and Mallory.**

*Fire-Rescue Reports*

Finance Director Curtis Dancer reviewed financial statements for both Fire and Rescue. He noted both budgets are healthy and as expected for this point in the year. He pointed out a revenue item for payment of an insurance claim and a disbursement for approximately \$504,000 to pay the balance on the new fire truck. Brief discussion followed regarding the current amount of Fund Balance, taking into account payment for the fire truck.

Board Member Tish Mallory arrived at 7:07 a.m.

Fire Chief Jim Bailey reviewed 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter and Annual Reports for Fire and Rescue. Mapes asked if he had noted any particular trends. Bailey said there were more investigation calls than usual, but added many were related to recent snowstorms or cold temperatures. Discussion followed regarding different types of calls, related costs per run for each unit, and options for charging a driver or homeowner for certain types of calls.

Ripley briefly reviewed the Truck Inventory list and Public Safety Director Williams indicated it hadn't been updated since it was originally provided a few years ago. Ripley noted the current unrestricted Fund Balance, taking into account the recent fire truck payment, of \$245,985.00.

*New Business – FY 2027 Proposed Fire District Budget*

Ripley presented the proposed FY 2027 Fire District Budget. He told members that costs for fire hall maintenance and future improvements had been calculated using previous three years of maintenance (\$50,000) and estimated costs of future repairs (\$290,000) for the next ten years. He explained the proposed budget reflects the additional line item for maintenance, and the funds for future maintenance will be set aside in a separate line item until needed. Brief discussion followed regarding use of the funds.

Board Member Michelle Pitts left the meeting at 7:45 a.m.

Discussion was held regarding the stop light on M-46 at Warner Road.

**Motion by Beeson, seconded by Mallory, to adopt the FY 2027 Fire District Budget as presented on Attachment A. Motion carried.**

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

**No: none.**

**Absent: Hunt and Pitts.**

*New Business – FY 2027 Proposed Rescue Budget*

Ripley presented the FY 2027 Proposed Rescue Budget, noting the change, as discussed on January 19<sup>th</sup>, for an increase to “per run” pay, on-call pay, and lieutenant pay.

Beeson asked about the need to increase Fund Balance. Discussion followed regarding the need to set aside funds for replacement of the truck. The group also discussed the space where the truck is currently stored and options for another location. Beeson suggested since there is enough in Fund Balance at this time to cover a replacement vehicle, if needed, that the funds being added to reserves be suspended at this time. Additional discussion followed regarding the district’s central location and the new facility located 1 ¼ miles from the central point.

**Motion by Beeson, seconded by Merchant, to adopt the FY 2027 Rescue Budget, revised to remove the \$5,000 allocation for the future capital additions reserve, as presented on Attachment B. Motion carried.**

**Yes: Beeson, Mallory, Mapes, Merchant, and Ripley.**  
**No: none.**  
**Absent: Hunt and Pitts.**

*Old Business*

**Motion by Mapes, seconded by Merchant, to honor a request from Tim Gustavison to release funds donated to the Alma Fire District by ABATE on August 16, 2019, in the amount of \$17,035, for transfer to the Gratiot County Community Foundation. Motion carried.**

**Yes: Beeson, Mallory, Mapes, Merchant, and Ripley.**  
**No: none.**  
**Absent: Hunt and Pitts.**

Williams offered thanks to the Luneack Foundation for grants funds that allowed the department to purchase iPads for fire trucks, and new AEDs for police vehicles.

Brief discussion followed among members regarding the disposition of Engine #3.

**Motion by Beeson, seconded by Merchant, to proceed with the sale of Engine #3, through GARAGE/www.shopgarage.com, with a recommended asking price of \$80,000.**

**Yes: Beeson, Mallory, Mapes, Merchant, and Ripley.**  
**No: none.**  
**Absent: Hunt and Pitts.**

*Invitation to the Public*

No public comments were offered.

*Next Quarterly Meeting*

Ripley offered a reminder of the next regularly scheduled meeting on April 22, 2026, at 7:00 a.m.

*Adjournment*

**Motion by Beeson, seconded by Merchant, to adjourn the meeting at 8:14 a.m. Motion carried.**

**Yes: Beeson, Mallory, Mapes, Merchant, and Ripley.**  
**No: none.**  
**Absent: Hunt and Pitts.**

Alma District Fire Board  
January 28, 2026  
Attachment A

**Alma District Fire Department  
FY 2027 Adopted Budget**

Expense Classifications	2022/2023	2023/2024	2024/2025	2025/2026	2026/2027
Personnel	\$318,000.00	\$319,500.00	\$329,000.00	\$342,500.00	\$366,500.00
Training	\$8,000.00	\$8,000.00	\$8,000.00	\$8,000.00	\$8,000.00
Operating Supplies	\$88,000.00	\$91,500.00	\$90,000.00	\$85,600.00	\$79,500.00
Contractual Services	\$25,000.00	\$25,000.00	\$28,000.00	\$28,550.00	\$29,000.00
Utilities/Communications	\$8,000.00	\$8,000.00	\$8,000.00	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00
Building Maintenance	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$5,000.00
Insurance	\$18,000.00	\$12,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$9,000.00	\$12,000.00
<b>Operating Budget</b>	<b>\$465,000.00</b>	<b>\$464,000.00</b>	<b>\$473,000.00</b>	<b>\$481,150.00</b>	<b>\$507,500.00</b>
City of Alma Internal Service Charges	\$35,000.00	\$36,000.00	\$37,000.00	\$38,850.00	\$40,000.00
Capital Outlay *	\$0.00	\$850,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Less:					
Capital Additions funded through fund balance	\$0.00	-\$850,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Additional contribution for future apparatus replacement	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00	\$62,500.00
Additional contribution for future fire hall maintenance capital projects	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$30,000.00
<b>Total Allocated to Local Units</b>	<b>\$550,000.00</b>	<b>\$550,000.00</b>	<b>\$560,000.00</b>	<b>\$570,000.00</b>	<b>\$640,000.00</b>

**Budget Based on Current Formula in Bylaws**

Local Unit	Cumulative Allocation %†	Operating Expenditures	Internal Service Charges	Apparatus Replacement	Building Maintenance	Annual Contribution	Quarterly Contribution	Prior Year Quarterly Contribution	Difference in Annual Contribution
City of Alma	52.07%	\$ 264,255	\$ 20,828	\$ 32,544	\$ 15,621	\$ 333,247	\$ 83,312	\$ 75,462	\$ 31,398
Arcada Twp	8.21%	\$ 41,642	\$ 3,282	\$ 5,128	\$ 2,462	\$ 52,514	\$ 13,129	\$ 10,176	\$ 11,808
Pine River Twp	17.53%	\$ 88,979	\$ 7,013	\$ 10,958	\$ 5,260	\$ 112,210	\$ 28,052	\$ 24,099	\$ 15,816
Seville Twp	12.21%	\$ 61,972	\$ 4,884	\$ 7,632	\$ 3,663	\$ 78,152	\$ 19,538	\$ 18,194	\$ 5,377
Sumner Twp	9.98%	\$ 50,652	\$ 3,992	\$ 6,238	\$ 2,994	\$ 63,877	\$ 15,969	\$ 14,569	\$ 5,601
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>\$507,500.00</b>	<b>\$ 40,000</b>	<b>\$62,500.00</b>	<b>\$30,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 640,000</b>	<b>\$ 160,000</b>	<b>\$ 142,500</b>	<b>\$ 70,000</b>

**Net Position of Rural Urban Fire Board (as of June 30)**

	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
Net Investment in capital assets	1,029,038.00	711,243.00	704,406.00	665,358.00	693,262.00	750,829.00	808,909.00
Unrestricted	612,351.00	976,119.00	867,139.00	714,063.00	640,027.00	574,494.00	539,276.00
<b>Total net position</b>	<b>1,641,389.00</b>	<b>1,687,362.00</b>	<b>1,571,545.00</b>	<b>1,379,421.00</b>	<b>1,333,289.00</b>	<b>1,325,323.00</b>	<b>1,348,185.00</b>

**Unrestricted Fund Balance as of 1.20.26 = \$245,985**

**Alma District Rescue Department  
 FY 2027 Adopted Budget**

Expense Classifications	2024/2025	2025/2026	2026/2027
Personnel	\$30,000.00	\$30,000.00	\$35,000.00
<b>Total Personnel Budget</b>	<b>\$30,000.00</b>	<b>\$30,000.00</b>	<b>\$35,000.00</b>
Manager Stipends	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00
Training	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
Media Advertising	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$250.00
Materials/Supplies/Tools/Equipment	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00
Uniforms/Safety Equipment	\$1,600.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00
Fuel	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,000.00
Contractual Services	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$500.00
Utilities/Communications	\$1,000.00	\$750.00	\$500.00
Insurance	\$1,500.00	\$1,100.00	\$1,000.00
<b>Total Operating Budget</b>	<b>\$17,850.00</b>	<b>\$17,100.00</b>	<b>\$15,750.00</b>
City of Alma Internal Service Charges	\$3,650.00	\$3,900.00	\$4,250.00
Reserve for Future Capital Additions	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$0.00
<b>Total Allocated to Local Units</b>	<b>\$56,500.00</b>	<b>\$56,000.00</b>	<b>\$55,000.00</b>

**Allocation of Fixed (Overhead) Costs**

Local Unit	Cumulative Allocation %	Operating Expenditures	Internal Service Charges	Total	Annual Billing
Arcada Twp	16.67%	\$ 2,625	\$ 708	\$ 3,333	\$ 3,333
Pine River Twp	16.67%	\$ 2,625	\$ 708	\$ 3,333	\$ 3,333
Seville Twp	33.33%	\$ 5,250	\$ 1,417	\$ 6,667	\$ 6,667
Sumner Twp	33.33%	\$ 5,250	\$ 1,417	\$ 6,667	\$ 6,667
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>\$15,750</b>	<b>\$4,250</b>	<b>\$20,000</b>	<b>\$ 20,000</b>

**Allocation of Projected Personnel Costs**  
 (Based on PY actual call volume) - will be billed quarterly for actual cost incurred based on run data

Local Unit	Cumulative Allocation %	Projected Salaries	Projected Fringe Benefits	Projected Total	Projected Quarterly Bill
Arcada Twp	6.38%	\$ 2,040	\$ 191	\$ 2,231	\$ 558
Pine River Twp	33.87%	\$ 10,840	\$ 1,016	\$ 11,856	\$ 2,964
Seville Twp	35.11%	\$ 11,236	\$ 1,053	\$ 12,289	\$ 3,072
Sumner Twp	24.64%	\$ 7,884	\$ 739	\$ 8,623	\$ 2,156
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>\$32,000</b>	<b>\$3,000</b>	<b>\$35,000</b>	<b>\$8,750</b>

**Total Proposed Budget**

Local Unit	Cumulative Allocation %	Non-Personnel (Fixed) Costs	Proj. Personnel Costs	Total	Prior Year
Arcada Twp	11.52%	\$ 3,333	\$ 2,231	\$ 5,565	\$ 6,829
Pine River Twp	25.27%	\$ 3,333	\$ 11,856	\$ 15,189	\$ 12,606
Seville Twp	34.22%	\$ 6,667	\$ 12,289	\$ 18,956	\$ 19,263
Sumner Twp	28.99%	\$ 6,667	\$ 8,623	\$ 15,290	\$ 17,802
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>\$ 20,000</b>	<b>\$ 35,000</b>	<b>\$ 55,000</b>	<b>\$ 56,500</b>

**Net Position of Alma District Rescue**

	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021
Net Investment in capital assets	16,665.00	24,605.00	32,545.00	40,485.00	47,398.00
Unrestricted	122,393.00	100,269.00	85,000.00	46,125.00	36,072.00
<b>Total net position</b>	<b>139,058.00</b>	<b>124,874.00</b>	<b>117,545.00</b>	<b>86,610.00</b>	<b>83,470.00</b>

**Unrestricted Fund Balance as of 1.20.26 = \$138,944**