

MESA COUNTY FIRE AUTHORITY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

May 26, 2026

At 7:01PM Wayne DeGesualdo called the meeting to order. Wayne DeGesualdo, Eric Talley, Murray Thiessen, Dave Upchurch and Chad Wallace were present for the board.

Also present were public member Rich Phillips, Rick Weber, Frank Rupp, Cheryl Lumbarry, Chris Rowland, Colene Rowland, and two others I could not read the name of for the public. Chief Balke and Administrative Assistant Stacy Cox, along with volunteer member Courtney Griffith, Brian Tittes, Paulina Jimenez, of Mesa County Fire Authority where also attended.

Everyone present stood and said the Pledge of Allegiance.

Wayne DeGesualdo said an opening prayer.

Approval of Minutes

Wayne DeGesualdo asked if everyone had a chance to read the minutes of the April Board Meeting, all agreed they did. There was a correction on page one to the last name of a board member. Murray Thiessen made a motion to accept the minutes with the correction of the board member's last name. Eric Talley seconded the motion. All were in favor, no opposed. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Update of Purchase of Engine

It was advised that MCFA is waiting on our attorney to finish reviewing the contract and sign off on it. Insurance is in place as of tonight.

NEW BUSINESS

Preliminary Meetings with GJFD and CFd Scheduled

May 28th meeting with GJ @ 1pm and then CFD at 2:30- all board members would like to attend this work study session.

Treasurers Report

Murray Thiessen presented the treasurer's report. We are at 41.7% through the year and income from tax revenue is at 30.56% from Lands Ends and 31.98% from Central Orchard Mesa but COM Income shows 103.53% due to the repayment of the lone of \$161,661.50 for the tender. Income is 61.6% for the year between the sale of vehicles, loan repayment and bank interest. Total expenses for the year are sitting at 20.62% for the year. Rich asked about the accounts being over 250K, Stacy Cox explained as they are public funds they are protected to 103% of all funds in the account. Eric Talley made a motion to approve the treasurer's report as presented. Dave Upchurch seconded the motion. All in favor, no opposed, motion carried.

Chiefs Report



Mesa County Fire Authority Fire Chief's Report

May 2026

Prepared By: Charles K. Balke, Fire Chief

&

Courtney Griffith

Comments from the Fire Chief

The National Wildland Fire Potential Outlook for May through August has been released. May is shaping up to be similar to normal where June through August is predicting above fire danger levels for the Western Slope of Colorado.

Administrative Update

- The Town of Palisade and Palisade Rural Fire Protection District would like to schedule a meeting with Board representatives from Mesa County Fire Authority and East Orchard Mesa to discuss the future potential of creating a new Fire District with the forementioned agencies.
- We are continuing to work through the paperwork process for the financing for the new/use fire apparatus. We are waiting for the legal opinion from the attorney and for signed minutes from the last meeting. Stacy has been working on insurance information and coordination with the finance company.
- I am going to be submitting a SAFER Grant for Volunteer Recruitment and Retention. This is a regional grant application with other departments in Mesa County, Delta County, and Montrose County. If successful this will provide reimbursement for new volunteer training, personal protective equipment and medical physicals along with small quarterly stipends.
- I attended the Mesa County Planning Commission Workshop on code revisions/updates. The most popular topic was around solar farms and lithium battery storage sites. This will be an ongoing safety concern for the fire service.

Personnel Update

- There have been several questions and concerns posed by the members as to the future of the organization since the last meeting. Many feel their efforts are going unnoticed and

unappreciated. I have tried to reassure them that they are appreciated, and their efforts are not going unnoticed.

- 23 Members with Chief, Lost 6 in the last year.
- We are going to try coordinating with other agencies to get those going through the protocol process more calls in hopes of speeding up the protocol process.

Training Update

- We currently have 12 members participating in the fire academy. This is a mixture of new and prior members. We have a tentative completion date of June 28, 2026. After that is completed, we will host a formal S130/S190 (Basic Wildland Firefighter) course followed by the Hazardous Materials Course.
- We cancelled the EMS Training for May to give everyone a small break.

Apparatus/Equipment Update

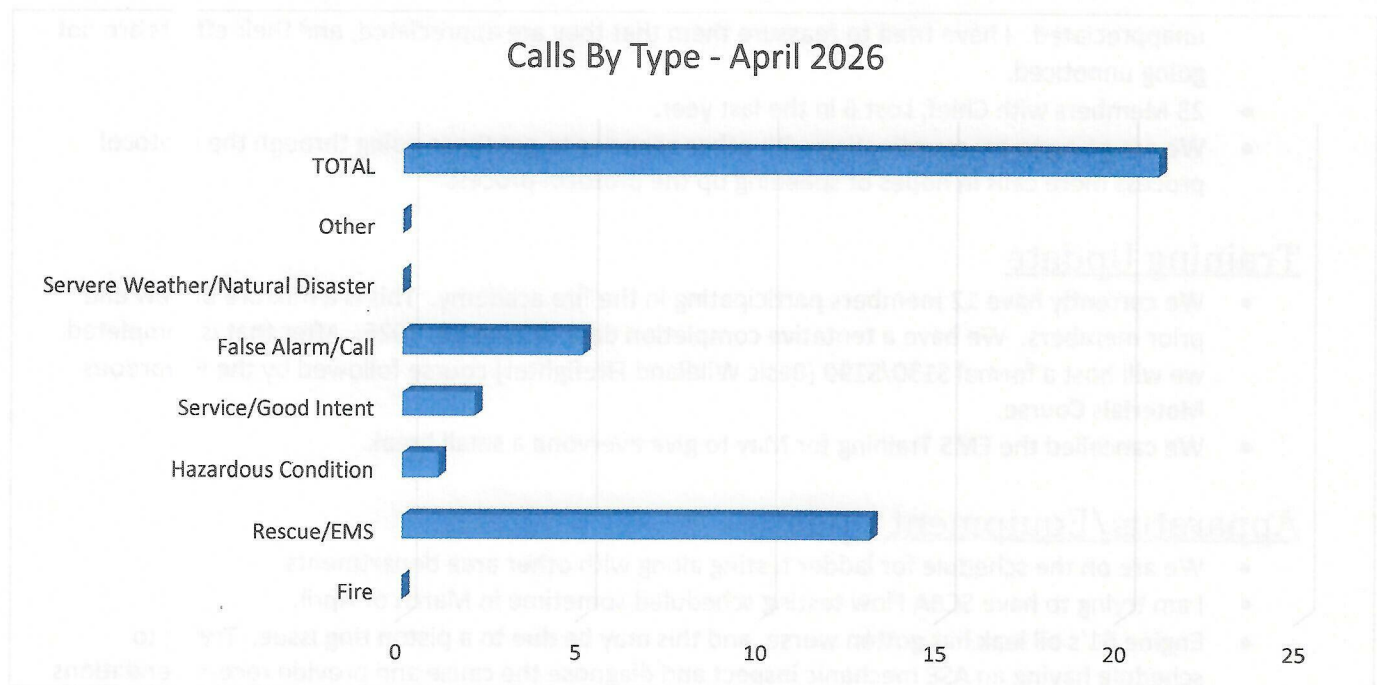
- We are on the schedule for ladder testing along with other area departments
- I am trying to have SCBA Flow testing scheduled sometime in March or April.
- Engine 51's oil leak has gotten worse, and this may be due to a piston ring issue. Trying to schedule having an ASE mechanic inspect and diagnose the cause and provide recommendations for repair.
- Squad 51 will be going in for maintenance, specifically for brake inspections.

Miscellaneous

- We are still waiting for quotes for repairing the mezzanine and apparatus apron at Station 53. This is a safety concern as it continues to deteriorate.
- The pothole in front of Station 51 has been repaired. It is unsure if this will be a long-term fix or not.
- The Golden Gate officially opened.

Operations

- We will be implementing new daily/weekly duties and check sheets.
- For the month of April there were 21 incidents. This is a decrease of 8 calls compared to the same time last year. For the same period in 2026 there have been 110 incidents, an increase of 1 call for the same time last year. Reports



Stacy Cox advised 22 calls in 4 weeks and only one call without MCFA staff.

Rick Weber and Rich Phillips:

Provided the following information as written below:

To: Mesa County Fire Authority Board 5/26/2026

Thoughts from Rich Phillips and Rick Weber, both citizens of the Whitewater area, on the direction that the MCFA should be taking at this critical juncture in the best manner of providing Fire and EMS services to both the Lands End / Whitewater and Orchard Mesa service areas.

With all due respect for the MCFA Board for their time involved in coming up with solutions, Fire Chief Balke for his efforts in producing options to move forward, and the Volunteers themselves, Rick Weber and Rich Phillips, appreciate your time and effort in this endeavor to find a solution to serve the best interests of the citizens of the districts.

Newest proposal for MCFA from Chief Balke: Well written and sounds good on paper, but we have little confidence it will work.

□ Palisade is losing three paramedics in the near future according to another fire chief in the County. One is retiring, one is moving, and one is quitting. How will this affect

Chief Balke's plan for MCFA?

□ Palisade already requests mutual aid from Clifton. We have little confidence Palisade will be able to spare extra manpower for MCFA.

□ Training and educational standards have changed significantly since Dr. Burkett became the Medical Director. He no longer allows patients to be handled by First Responders; responders must now be EMT-qualified. Most volunteers cannot meet these qualifications. Even those who do qualify—often through MCFA training—typically leave volunteer service for full-time EMT positions elsewhere.

□ There has been a paradigm shift. Volunteerism has been trending downward for over 40 years with its peak in 1983. Key reasons include:

- Increased mobility of people (frequent job and location changes)
- Weak connection to the local community
- Need for dual incomes to afford housing and family life
- Dramatic increase in training and education requirements for volunteers

□ Volunteer numbers are declining across the country. In Colorado, 60% of volunteer agencies on the Eastern Slope have reported they may need to close due to lack of

volunteers. One recent report, shared by MCFA Board Chairman Wayne DeGesualdo, (information through another source, not verified as of yet), after attending a Special District Association conference, stated that all volunteer departments on the Eastern Slope could be gone within five years. Rick or Rich will get with Wayne to verify the validity of this statement.

□ Several years ago, Grand Junction Fire and Mesa County agreed that Grand Junction Fire would handle all EMS calls, eliminating the need for private ambulance services. Lands End Fire previously relied on those private services for assistance and transport. Lands End then began training its own personnel; however, Dr. Burkett has since raised medical/EMT standards to professional levels that most volunteers cannot meet. Dr. Burkett has been advised that these standards are too high for volunteers. Some believe his intent is to phase out volunteer services—whether due to

reluctance to work with them, liability concerns over their training level, or other reasons. Meanwhile, Grand Junction Fire and Clifton Fire have become extremely concerned about the burden of responding to MCFA calls.

□ Rick Weber, a previous board member for LEFPD in 2008 and 2009, created a Retention and Recruitment Committee (authorized by the Lands End Board) to address growing difficulties in recruiting and retaining qualified volunteers. In approximately 2009, as Secretary/Treasurer, Rick attended a two-day conference in Pueblo focused specifically on volunteer retention and recruitment. Despite these efforts, the situation has not improved in the 17 years since—it has steadily worsened.

□ In May 2018, LEFPD passed a ballot measure to increase the mill levy. The goal was to enable 24/7 on-call coverage. However, the district still cannot fulfill that promise due to a lack of trained personnel.

□ Most residents in our district are unaware that our volunteer firefighters are not trained or permitted to enter burning buildings to extinguish fires or save lives. They must wait for Grand Junction or Clifton firefighters to arrive. This creates a significant liability for both Mesa County and the residents served. We believe most volunteers “would” enter a burning structure to save a life if allowed, but strict rules prevent it.

□ Some departments struggle to recruit because of poor equipment. That is not the case here. The districts currently have two nearly new ambulances, a new tanker truck, and excellent firefighting equipment—all obtained through grants in recent years.

Suggestions for Solutions:

□ Clifton Fire Chief has stated he would take over Central Orchard Mesa immediately (they already respond to most calls there).

□ Clifton has also indicated willingness to take over Lands End Fire once the new fire station on 32 Road is built. (This has not been formally confirmed, but county land is reportedly available for this purpose.)

□ There is over \$1,000,000 currently available in MCFA funds. These funds should be used in the best possible way for citizens—not to purchase fire trucks that

cannot be adequately staffed due to a lack of trained volunteers.

☐ While volunteers are needed, only “qualified” volunteers should be accepted.

Claiming to have “20 volunteers” when most are either untrained, physically incapable of the job, or do not live in the Whitewater/Orchard Mesa area is misleading to citizens and results in unacceptable response times unless personnel are already at the station.

☐ Grand Junction Fire is currently responding to calls in the area. This is only a temporary fix and not the best long-term solution for residents, as response times increase when manpower is not pre-planned.

☐ With over \$1,000,000 available, one strong option is to upgrade the existing Lands End fire station (adding living quarters) and have Clifton take over operations from there. Another option is to use the funds—possibly with Mesa County assistance—to build a basic, functional new station with living quarters on 32 Road.

Conclusion:

This problem has been kicked down the road for years. If the current approach continues, the two nearly new ambulances, the brand-new 4,000-gallon water tender, and the available funds will be exhausted just trying to prop up a failing system.

If Mesa County’s goal is simply to apply a temporary band-aid to the volunteer shortage, EMS standards, and limited structural fire capability, then Chief Balke’s current plan may suffice. However, if the desire is to truly solve these issues rather than delay them further, we strongly believe now is the time to act. We should not assume the 40-year decline in volunteerism has suddenly stabilized or reversed—there is no evidence to support that.

It is the opinion of Rick Weber and Rich Phillips that the best long-term outcome is for Grand Junction Fire & Clifton Fire to take over the Whitewater/Orchard Mesa district

area. This would utilize the existing station on Hwy 50 (remodeled with sleeping/living quarters), along with current funds and new equipment. Given the growth already occurring in the Whitewater area—and the likelihood of significantly more growth all the way to the Delta County line—this represents a practical and sustainable solution.

□ MCFA's first responsibility is to offer the citizens of both Orchard Mesa and Lands

End/ Whitewater area's the best, most readily trained and certified, people and services; to perform the tasks for which taxes are being paid. We believe for all

the reasons stated above now is the time to make these positive approaches to

do just that. These actions start with MCFA reaching out to Mesa County

officials, Grand Junction Fire, Clifton Fire, and other interested parties to advance

serious discussions that will hopefully culminate in a sound direction.

□ Please note, we, being Rich Phillips and Rick Weber, who have produced the attached notes to the above-named document as comments to think on, "Are Not

Against Anyone or Any Agency" but are completely For the Best Way to Serve

the Citizens of our District areas. This should be the goal of all concerned.

Respectfully Submitted, Rick Weber and Rich Phillips, (Interested Citizens).

Along with the following comments in red from a letter that was proposed last month but not sent in;



Mesa County Fire Authority

Stronger Together

Date

Mesa County Attorney's Office
Attn: Todd Star, Mesa County Attorney
Department 5004
PO Box 20,000
Grand Junction, CO. 81502-5001

Mr. Star and County Commissioners,

This letter serves as the response from both the Land's End Fire Protection District and the Central Orchard Mesa Fire District via the Mesa County Fire Authority in response to your letter dated March 31, 2026, in regard to the concerns for EMS calls within the assigned ASA.

While we recognize that we as a volunteer organization have been unable to provide the Emergency Medical Services in accordance with the EMS Resolution, we assure you that we have been working to rebuild the organization and our capability to resume our responsibilities to meet the requirements set forth in the Mesa County EMS Resolution. This is easily stated, but not easy or practical in producing positive results with the current state of the challenges.

With all due respect for the MCFA Board for their time involved in coming up with solutions, Fire Chief Balke for his efforts in producing options to move forward, and the Volunteers themselves, Rick Weber and Rich Phillips, both residents of Whitewater with past professional firefighting experience along with working with volunteer Fire Districts, do not have much confidence in any of the options that will take the Lands End or Orchard Mesa Fire Districts to a level to meet these challenges.

Growth in our areas is happening currently, with more to come, we believe that the Emergency Services will need to also expand to meet this growth. We believe a new direction in moving away from the volunteer status to full time professional status will be better able to meet the growth that is on its way.

This Action Plan is developed by Mesa County Fire Authority, herein after referred to as MCFA, in alignment with the Mesa County EMS Resolution, herein after referred to as MCEMS Resolution ensuring coordinated, efficient, and medically supervised emergency medical services throughout Mesa County EMS, herein after referred to as MCEMS. We hope that both you and the County Commissioners recognize the commitment and efforts being made in good faith to reestablish our ability to provide the EMS capabilities. We realize that both commitment and efforts are a good thing, they will only produce good, long-lasting results, with a complete change in the direction that "volunteerism" has been, and seems to be continuing, that is in a downward trend. Looking back over the last five years at least, these statements by Rick and Rich appear to have been thoroughly proven, "history" is a good teacher.

Brief History

MCFA is comprised of the Central Orchard Mesa Fire District and the Lands' End Fire District to form one governing body. The two fire districts came together in attempts to provide service to both communities. Currently, the MCFA is a volunteer organization with stipends paid to personnel for call response and/or standby services. All the members of the MCFA work full-time jobs while some also attend college in addition to volunteering their time to serve their community.

Background on Challenges

MCFA recognizes the importance of maintaining the requirements to operate the ASA within our boundaries. Over the past year the organization has been going through a complete reorganization of all aspects and has made various changes to address immediate safety and training concerns for members and the community.

The MCFA Board had previously approved a stipend program for volunteers to aid in covering shifts while we work to rebuild our EMS capabilities. As these are minimal amounts, we are still challenged to find people willing to give up time from work and family. We appreciate the "truth" in this statement, but the reader should realize that without a major shift upward from the current paradigm of a major, and continuing downward trend in "volunteerism", these "challenges" will only become harder to overcome.

One of the challenges MCFA faces is the time it takes to train new volunteers to the EMT level and then go through the MCEMS protocol process. Our members are balancing working full-time jobs by attending lengthy training and attempting to meet the call requirements of the protocol process. Unfortunately, our members don't have the luxury of making this their primary focus as full-time and/or part-time providers do. We are not expecting sympathy as we know we will not get any, rather we are asking for some grace. Grace can be a good thing, if there is reason to believe that the past issues in providing services will be completely overcome, and in a very timely manner, that will last for a long time. Rick and Rich, do not believe, from history, that this can be the case. We need to stop "kicking the can down the road" and find true, long-term solutions, as we have laid out in another document.

MCFA has also attempted to recruit providers in Mesa County that are already on MCEMS protocol with the common response from multiple providers that they feel MCFA has a target on them and fear if they were to affiliate with MCFA they too would end up with a target on themselves. This creates the need to recruit, hire and train new members and leads to the extended time to get sufficient personnel online to run the ASA. We believe this statement speaks for itself, and is not a statement of true confidence that it will succeed, it's just a continuance of past tried and failed programs.

We do recognize the additional burden this has placed on our neighboring agencies using mutual aid. We have entered a contract with the Grand Junction Fire Department for services and are more than willing to do the same with the Clifton Fire Protection District. We see this as a stop-gap condition, that in effect uses existing capitol funds that can be much more utilized in a true long term and final successful solution, as laid out in another document.



Actions Taken

To date we have recruited eleven new members since the change in administration. **This is almost a complete turnover of membership.** The prospect of being able to reinstate the ambulance service is one of the key factors to our current recruitment of new membership. These new members, in addition to some of the remaining members, have allowed us to start making progress with staffing capabilities. The status of our EMS personnel is as follows. **It is our contention, that yet again, a "complete turnover of membership" is "history repeating itself". We need to learn that as long as the long-term decline in "volunteerism paradigm" continues, and there is no evidence that it will, (and there is plenty of historical evidence that it won't), that new thinking must be applied here, and at this crucial juncture in time.**

Please note, that both Rich and Rick are past Firefighters themselves, and surely appreciate and respect those that are volunteering, our comments are not meant to disparage these fine people, but to just recognize the true state of volunteer provided services across the country. Things change.

- Four currently in the protocol process
- Two entering the protocol process
- Two in school for EMT. Anticipated graduation May 2026
- Four scheduled for the August 2026 EMT Program through CMU
- Two pursuing enrollments in Paramedic Programs

Additional attempts to improve staffing include having two Paramedics from Palisade Fire Department starting to perform day-time standby and in-house training at MCFA stations. **It is our understanding that Palisade Fire is losing three of it's current Paramedics. This should be verified and taken into account.**

Palisade Fire Department has an agreement in place to ensure that all medical supplies are maintained at MCFA and to assist in ensuring proper supplies are maintained and rotated as they near expiration. This has led to small but relevant savings to MCFA.

Current Actions being taken

The Mesa County Fire Authority currently has a contract in place with the City of Grand Junction Fire Department to provide emergency medical services and transport for the Lands' End Fire Protection District. We are entering into a contract with the Town of Palisade Fire Department to provide primary emergency medical services and transport to the Central Orchard Mesa Fire Protection District. The Palisade Fire Department currently operates the Ambulance Service Area for the East Orchard Mesa community, and this would simply extend the coverage area. We believe these are stop gap remedies that we have shown are not a true long-lasting solution.

With the Palisade Fire Department holding the State of Colorado Licensing for the ambulances owned by Mesa County Fire Authority, we will be able to utilize those



ambulances with Palisade Fire Department staff to aid in the service delivery to the Central Orchard Mesa community until we are able to hire P-art-time staff and have them trained on our apparatus and equipment. Again, this is the crux of the problem.

Given the severity of the need and the commitment on behalf of the MCFA Board of Directors, we have approved reallocating funding to support the hiring of permanent part-time personnel to in addition to our current volunteer members in attempts to ensure adequate staffing levels are in place. As stated elsewhere, these funds could be better utilized as an incentive to offer true, long lasting professional services, and not deplete the current fund assets on temporary solutions.

Part-time shifts will be split into 12-hour working daytime and nighttime shifts. This will provide two personnel staffing 24/7/365. The need for future sleeping quarters is being evaluated and options considered.

This reallocation of funding is intended to recruit individuals that are looking for employment beyond the volunteer level and are qualified to provide medical services to our community at least to the BLS level. This will reduce the overall reliance on mutual aid outside of the ALS requirements. As discussed above.

We intend to financially support members as they pursue their Paramedic certification and work towards getting on Mesa County Protocol. Lands' End FD has had these programs for a long time with little long-term results for the District. The volunteers find it too demanding, which is understandable, or leave for better opportunities with their new license certifications.

Operational Phases

Phase 1: Recruitment, Hiring of Fulltime/Parttime Staff, In-service Training (30-60 days)

Phase 2: Request for Reinstatement of Ambulance License (60-90 days)

These appear to us to be hard to accomplish, and the true issue is if they will stay on for a long-term fix, it's our opinion that it cannot.

Staffing Model

Immediate short-term staffing models consists of a minimum of two medical providers assigned to a 12-hour in station shifts.

- Minimum staffing will consist of one BLS provider and one EMR (or equivalent) responder until we have sufficient personnel to ensure two BLS providers.
- Preferred staff will consist of one ALS provider and one BLS provider



Mesa County Fire Authority

Long-term staffing model would consist of a 3 Shift Rotation (24/48 schedule) deployed from staffed station supplemented by a volunteer force.

Minimum Daily Staffing:

- Two cross trained Fire/EMS personnel per shift
- Supplemented with a volunteer force operating out of two stations.

We believe these are assumptions that will be hard to meet, and in the process of trying, the problem will be moved down the road with current assets being depleted, equipment having more wear and tear, and the higher possibility of missing the current opportunity to a full-time professional Fire/EMS District will have passed, making the switch harder by waiting. We believe time is of the essence to act now.

Financial Sustainability

MCFA will implement a cost-recovery model consistent with industry standard EMS financial practices, including billing, reimbursement, and supplemental funding. MCFA will also consider and pursue alternative funding revenues available to Title 32 Special Districts to include but not limited to.

- Sales Tax
- Fire Billing within statute for vehicle accidents involving hazardous materials and/or rescue operations
- Consideration for Mill Levy Increase

We may be wrong on this, but believe MCFA engages in the first two bullet point practices now?

As for asking for a Mill Levy increase, to do the same things we were supposed to do for the last major Mill Levy increase, we believe is a No Go. But If we can go to our areas citizenry and tell them we are changing over to a professional Fire-Fighting and EMS agency (being, Grand Junction or Clifton?), where the services will be guaranteed by the proven length of these agencies, the citizens May see the benefit and vote in a Mill Levy increase for better services.

Community Engagement

MCFA has made it clear during our public meetings that we have struggled to get members approved on MCEMS protocol and what attempts we are implementing to alleviate the issues. MCFA will continue to maintain transparency and collaboration with community stakeholders and partner agencies.

We aren't seeing the magic bullet that will accomplish the above statements objectives. Dr. Burkett has made his position on this pretty clear, and achieving his standards does not seem plausible at this point.

Deployment Model

MCFA operates from two stations. One is located at 3253 B 1/2 Rd, Grand Junction and the other is located at 34980 Pronghorn Dr, Whitewater. Utilizing dynamic posting, units may be repositioned based on call volume, time of day and system demand.

Coverage Goals:

- Cooperation with mutual aid agreements
- Compliance with system status management expectations

We are of the current understanding that Clifton Fire / EMS has opined that if they see a way clear to take over both Orchard Mesa Fire District, and Lands End Fire District, through separate agreements, or through MCFA, on one agreement, their intention would be to move the currently approved new Fire Station on 32 Road further south towards Orchard Mesa, serving both entities. We believe this is a better deployment model from a proven agency. (There could also be a joint operation involving GJ Fire/EMS too, to be determined).

Licensing & Certification

All three MCFA ambulances are currently licensed through the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) under the Palisade Fire Department. Upon recruitment and hiring these units will be staffed with appropriately certified personnel and be relicensed under MCFA.

These three ambulances, including our Fire / Rescue apparatus would also lend itself well in the staffing of the new station, and / or staffing some equipment at the Lands End station, as the agencies saw fit.

In conclusion, I hope this information demonstrates the commitment being made to resolve the inadequacies of the EMS delivery to both the Land's End and Central Orchard Mesa Communities and respectfully request that we continue to be allowed to proceed with this plan of action and demonstrate our ability to fulfill the requirements and provide service to our own residents.

Respectfully Submitted,

Name
Title

Please note, we, being Rich Phillips and Rick Weber, who have produced the attached notes to the above-named document as comments to think on, "Are Not Against Anyone or Any Agency" but are completely For the Best Way to Serve the Citizens of our District areas. This should be the goal of all concerned.

Respectfully Submitted, Rick Weber and Rich Phillips, (Interested Citizens)

Rick Weber said to be clear we are just citizens and we are just offering our opinions and advised.

Meet with Matt Lewis and Cody Davis.

Rich Phillips said that there are two parts to the department. One is the Doctor Business (EMS) and Fire business being ran by MCFA. Doctor business in overseen by Burket and his medical license. Sherif Lewis has the final responsibility to respond to ambulance service in Mesa Count so spoke with him,

Grand Junction put all private ambulance services out of business so they had to help provide coverage in Mesa County but that has now changed,

After reviewing the information, it appears that 80% of the years calls are EMS and 20% are Fire.

Volunteers are being asked to come up to paid standards in the same time frame and not giving any breathing room.

For two years I have threatened to go the community commissioners, and I will hold my peace for 60-90 days. 90 days draw a line.

Seems there are couple of ways to move forward. One is give 80% of income to GJFD/CFD if they ran 80% of our calls for EMS by precent of calls ran by each agency and keep 20% of income to run the fire department.

Egos and Kingdoms are being built which is why Clifton wants to take over COM is for the revenue to help with their new station. While I believe station 53 is the best location for a station in the two districts. Maybe they put a satellite station here- weather it is GJFD or CFD that mans it.

Grand Junction is going to be coming this way as has infrastructure to HWY 141 and that is where more revenue and growth is going to be happening and Grand Junction has no where else to go other than this way and they are going to come after the income it can provide.

The purpose of MCFA starting was to move towards incorporating the rural areas together such as EOM, Gateway, and Glade Park

MCFA has history with Mesa County EMS is what Chad heard and would like copies of the EMS emails and communications. Wayne said he would provide what he has. Also said that Lands End Fire has a contract for GJFD to provide service out here. Advised unaware of any contract with LEFPD only MCFA and that was not a long-term solution or contract.,

F. Rupp suggested that LEFPD/Whitewater look at title 31 and incorporate so that they cant be taken over by GJ and that way they still have a say in their community. Only need 150 to sign a petition.

They thanked everyone for taking the time and willingness ot hear what they had to say,

Community Events/Meetings:

Safety Fair June 14th 11AM to 3PM

Other Matters before the Board:

Stacy Cox advised that Alpine must have at least one transaction a year other than interest in order to keep the account from going dormant. She deposit a dollar donation into the account. Blackflow must be tested and results turned into Clifton water district by end of June. Two gas cards have been compromised and closed- Amb 51 and Squad 52. Exempt from audit was approved.

Wayne advised it is our goal, the boards goal, to provide the best service to our citizens and what is happening is not a surprised all the paid studies over the years have pointed to one county wide response to best serve Mesa County as a whole.

Town of Palisade/Rural Palisade would like to have a meeting or workstudy group with MCFA also.

Wayne advised he is happy to open up discussion and see wat it would is offered.

Public Comment:

None

Adjournment of meeting

David Upchurch made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Chad Wallace seconded the motion. All in favor, no opposed, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:00

Next Board Meeting is June 23, 2026 at 7:00.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stacy Cox
Administrative Assistant
Mesa County Fire Authority


ATTEST


ATTEST