

MESA COUNTY FIRE AUTHORITY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

July 28, 2026

At 7:16PM 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, Linda Weber, Julie Whiting, Megan Whiting, Colene Rowland, Cheryl Lumbardy, Chris Rowland, Bonnie Kosantie, Paul Dimarchi, and Mike Hawn. Administrative Assistant Stacy Cox, Brian Cherveney (Chief of CFPD), and Chief Balke along volunteers of Mesa County Fire Authority where also attended.

Everyone in attendance 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 June 2026 Board Meeting, they all took time to review them. There were two corrections. Chad Wallace made a motion to accept the minutes with the corrections. David Upchurch seconded the motion. All were in favor, none opposed. Motion carried. The corrections were made before the June Minutes were signed.

Wayne DeGesualdo asked if everyone had a chance to read the minutes of the July 7, 2026, Special Board Meeting, they all took time to review them. There was two corrections. Eric Talley made a motion to accept the minutes with the corrections. Murray Thiessen seconded the motion. All were in favor, none opposed. Motion carried. The corrections were made before the July Special Board Minutes were signed.

OLD BUSINESS

Update

Chad Wallace and Eric Talley meet Brian Cherveney, Brian Woods and David Combs with Clifton Fire. Overview of meeting: Primary committee plan is gathering information, collected strategy, and projected timeline that was discussed and laid out along with confirmation of operational needs, what we need to what they can supply. To put it very simply, it was like an overview of both departments; and basically, lining out the need for the consultation firm to assess everything, financials, bylaws, all paperwork that they will need to really look at to make sure that everything is compatible even to start moving forward with this process. The following is a summary of the minutes of the meeting and motions that were suggested for MCFA board members to review and vote on.

The following information was presented in writing:

MCFA Regional Fire & EMS Service Agreement Committee

Committee Progress Report & Meeting Summary

Meeting No. 1 – Project Organization & Operational Review

Date: July 27, 2026

Time: 4:20 p.m.

Location: Clifton Fire Protection District

Committee Members Present

Clifton Fire Protection District

- Brian Woods
- Chief Brian Cherveney
- David Combs

Mesa County Fire Authority

- Eric Talley
- Chad Wallace

Meeting Purpose

The committee met to organize the project, review the proposed 90-day work plan, examine the operational basis for evaluating a Regional Fire & EMS Service Agreement, establish project coordination and information collection procedures, and determine whether sufficient operational information exists to continue evaluation of the proposed agreement.

The committee recognizes that its responsibility is to objectively evaluate operational, financial, and governance considerations associated with a potential Regional Fire & EMS Service Agreement and to develop recommendations for consideration by the participating governing boards. No conclusions have been reached regarding whether a final agreement should or should not be recommended.

Project Organization

The committee reviewed the proposed 90-day project timeline, meeting schedule, project responsibilities, communication process, anticipated legal review, consultant involvement, and expected project deliverables.

Members discussed the importance of maintaining a structured, transparent, and data-driven process that first evaluates the desired level of emergency service before considering financial allocations, governance recommendations, or agreement language.

Operational Review

Chief Brian Cherveney presented the **Regional Fire & EMS Service Analysis** utilizing a PowerPoint presentation and supporting materials distributed to committee members.

The presentation included:

Current Fire and EMS service boundaries and response responsibilities.

Existing and planned station locations.

Historical incident activity and regional response trends.

Current staffing models and operational capabilities.

Response-time analysis and GIS mapping.

Current utilization of mutual aid and automatic aid resources.

Operational challenges associated with the existing service delivery model.

Preliminary observations regarding long-term service sustainability.

Committee discussion focused on understanding current regional service delivery and whether sufficient operational information existed to continue evaluating a Regional Fire & EMS Service Agreement.

Members observed that historical response trends demonstrate an increasing level of regional cooperation among neighboring agencies to meet emergency service demands. The committee agreed these trends to support continued evaluation of long-term service delivery options while recognizing the important role each participating agency currently provides within the regional response system.

The committee also discussed how future station deployment, including the proposed Clifton Fire Protection District station at 32 Road and D Road, may influence future response times, service coverage, and operational capabilities.

Members agreed that establishing the desired level of emergency service should remain the foundation for subsequent financial analysis and agreement development.

Committee Work Plan

The committee reviewed the proposed four-meeting project structure, anticipated milestones, consultant support, legal review, and expected project deliverables.

Members supported maintaining the proposed project schedule while recognizing that the majority of technical work—including operational analysis, financial evaluation, consultant activities, and preparation of draft agreement language—will occur between committee meetings.

Project Coordination, Information Collection and Consultant Support

The committee confirmed that Clifton Fire Protection District will serve as the coordinating agency for the project. Chief Brian Cherveney will coordinate project communications, scheduling, consultant services, legal coordination, and overall project management on behalf of the committee.

To facilitate efficient information gathering, Chief Cherveney will coordinate directly with MCFA Administrative Coordinator Stacy Cox regarding project information requests. Requested information will include, at a minimum:

Governance and organizational documents.

Current agreements and bylaws.

A minimum of the previous two years of financial information for MCFA, Central Orchard Mesa Fire Protection District, and Lands End Fire Protection District.

Existing operational studies and planning documents.

High-level inventories of district assets, including land, buildings, stations, apparatus, equipment, and other significant capital assets.

The committee also agreed that Chief Cherveney may coordinate directly with legal counsel for participating agencies, including MCFA attorney Evan Ela, whenever necessary to facilitate project development or obtain requested information.

Chief Cherveney advised the committee that Clifton Fire Protection District has identified Mission CIT as the preferred consultant to perform the Cost of Service Analysis. Mission CIT previously completed the District's Fire & EMS Master Plan, possesses experience in regional Fire and EMS planning, is familiar with the project objectives, and has indicated the ability to complete the work within the committee's anticipated timeline.

Committee members expressed support for this approach, and no objections were raised regarding the recommended consultant. Consistent with the committee's project organization, Clifton Fire Protection District will coordinate consultant engagement, contract administration, project deliverables, and communications with consultants on behalf of the committee.

The committee also discussed a recommended cost-sharing principle whereby consultant and legal expenses would be shared equally among **Clifton Fire Protection District, Central Orchard Mesa Fire Protection District, and Lands End Fire Protection District**, with each district responsible for one-third of approved project costs. The committee agreed this represents an equitable recommendation and **recommends that the governing boards of Clifton Fire Protection District and Mesa County Fire Authority consider approval of the proposed cost-sharing principle in accordance with their respective financial approval processes.**

The committee further agreed that all significant district assets—including land, buildings, stations, apparatus, equipment, and other major capital assets—should be evaluated as part of the project to support development of the Cost of Service Analysis and the proposed Regional Fire & EMS Service Agreement.

Committee Direction

Following review of the operational presentation and committee discussion, members agreed that sufficient operational information exists to justify continued evaluation of the proposed Regional Fire & EMS Service Agreement.

The committee agreed to proceed with:

Development of the Regional Fire & EMS Service Plan.

Development of the Cost of Service Analysis.

Preparation of the draft Regional Fire & EMS Service Agreement.

Collection of requested information from participating agencies.

Coordination of consultant services through Clifton Fire Protection District.

Recommendation of the proposed consultant/legal cost-sharing principle to the participating governing boards.

The committee acknowledged that this direction authorizes continuation of the evaluation process only and does not constitute approval of a Regional Fire & EMS Service Agreement, organizational changes, staffing changes, transfer of assets, or future financial commitments beyond those specifically authorized by the participating governing boards.

Action Items

Clifton Fire Protection District

- Coordinate all project communications and project management.
- Coordinate information requests through MCFA Administrative Coordinator Stacy.
- Coordinate with legal counsel, including MCFA attorney Evan Ela, as necessary.
- Proceed with engagement of Mission CIT to develop the Cost of Service Analysis upon confirmation of the project cost-sharing authorization by the participating governing boards.
- Continued development of the Regional Fire & EMS Service Plan.
- Coordinate GIS mapping, operational analysis, consultant activities, and legal review.
- Schedule Committee Meeting No. 2 following receipt of requested information and consultant coordination.

Participating Agencies

- Submit requested governance, operational, financial, and organizational information.
- Provide a minimum of two years of financial information.
- Provide requested asset inventories.
- Review project materials prior to Committee Meeting No. 2.
- Present the committee's recommended cost-sharing principle to the appropriate governing boards for consideration.

Materials Distributed

- Committee Meeting No. 1 Agenda
- Regional Fire & EMS Service Analysis Presentation
- Fire Chief Preparation Checklist
- Attachment A – Proposed 90-Day Project Timeline
- Attachment B – Information Request & Project Coordination Guide

Project Status

Project Component	Status
Committee Organization	✓ Complete
Operational Review	✓ Complete
Project Timeline	✓ Initiated
Information Collection	✓ Initiated
Asset Evaluation	✓ Initiated
Consultant Coordination	✓ CFD Assigned
Preferred Cost of Service Consultant	✓ Mission CIT Identified
Cost-Sharing Recommendation	Board Consideration
Cost of Service Analysis	Pending Engagement
Regional Fire & EMS Service Plan	In Progress
Draft Regional Fire & EMS Service Agreement	Not Started
Committee Meeting No. 2	Pending Information Collection

Next Meeting

Committee Meeting No. 2 is expected to include:

- Review of information received from participating agencies.
- Presentation of the Regional Fire & EMS Service Plan.
- Presentation of the Cost of Service Analysis methodology and project schedule.
- Consultant progress update.
- Review of the proposed financial sustainability framework.
- Review of the draft agreement framework.

The date of Committee Meeting No. 2 will be established by Chief Brian Cherveney following receipt of the requested information, coordination with consultants, and completion of project materials necessary for committee review.

Committee Reporting Statement

These Committee Progress Reports are intended to provide a transparent and consistent update to the governing boards of the participating agencies throughout development of the proposed Regional Fire & EMS Service Agreement. Committee recommendations are advisory and are intended to support informed decision-making by the participating governing boards. Any Regional Fire & EMS Service Agreement, funding commitments, or related policy actions remain subject to formal approval by the respective governing boards.

SUGGESTED MCFA BOARD ACTIONS AND MOTIONS

Mission CIT Cost Analysis Assessment | July 28, 2026

PROJECT SUMMARY

- **Purpose:** Mission CIT will evaluate CPPD's current fire and EMS costs, the additional and long-term costs of serving Central Orchard Mesa and Lands End, and whether the proposed partnership is cost-effective.
- **Schedule:** The work is scheduled to begin in July 2026 and be completed by the end of August 2026.
- **Total Fee:** \$12,500, with \$6,250 due at signing and \$6,250 due upon acceptance of the completed assessment.
- **Committee Cost-Sharing Recommendation:** One-third each to CPPD, Central Orchard Mesa, and Lands End—approximately \$4,166.67 per district. The combined Central Orchard Mesa and Lands End allocation would not exceed \$8,333.34.

Motion 1 – Continue the Evaluation Process

"I move that the Mesa County Fire Authority Board receive the July 27, 2026 Committee Progress Report and authorize MCFA representatives to continue participating in the evaluation of a potential Regional Fire & EMS Service Agreement, including development of the service plan, cost analysis, and draft agreement. This action authorizes continued evaluation only and does not approve a final agreement, staffing changes, transfer of assets, governance changes, or ongoing financial commitments."

Motion 2 – Approve Mission CIT Assessment and Cost Allocation

"I move to approve participation in the Mission CIT Cost Analysis Assessment under the Statement of Work dated July 28, 2026, at a total project fee not to exceed \$12,500, and to approve the committee's recommended one-third allocation among Clifton Fire Protection District, Central Orchard Mesa Fire Protection District, and Lands End Fire Protection District. The combined allocation for Central Orchard Mesa and Lands End shall not exceed \$8,333.34, subject to applicable district financial approval requirements, legal review, and correction of the agreement's effective-date reference before execution. Clifton Fire Protection District will coordinate contract administration."

Motion 3 – Authorize Information Sharing and Coordination

"I move to authorize MCFA staff and legal counsel to provide the committee and Mission CT with the governance, operational, financial, organizational, and asset information reasonably required to complete the evaluation, subject to applicable legal and confidentiality requirements."

Contract review note: Section 8 of the Mission CT agreement refers to an effective date of September 2024, which is inconsistent with the July 2026 SOW and July–August 2026 project schedule. That reference should be corrected before signature.

Suggested motion language may be amended by the Board or legal counsel.

The general public asked if this consultant firm was one that is familiar with Special Districts. It was confirmed by multiple people they are a good consultant firm that works with special districts and understands their needs and requirements.

Wayne DeGesualdo read motion one:

"I move that the Mesa County Fire Authority Board receive the July 27, 2026 Committee Progress Report and authorize MCFA representatives to continue participating in the evaluation of a potential Regional Fire & EMS Service Agreement, including development of the service plan, cost analysis, and draft agreement. This action authorizes continued evaluation only and does not approve a final agreement, staffing changes, transfer of assets, governance changes, or ongoing financial commitments." Wayne DeGesualdo made a motion to accept motion one as read. David Upchurch seconded the motion. All were in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

Wayne DeGesualdo read motion two:

"I move to approve participation in the Mission CIT Cost Analysis Assessment under the Statement of Work dated July 28, 2026, at a total project fee not to exceed \$12,500, and to approve the committee's recommended one-third allocation among Clifton Fire Protection District, Central Orchard Mesa Fire Protection District, and Lands End Fire Protection District. The combined allocation for Central Orchard Mesa and Lands End shall not exceed \$8,333.34, subject to applicable district financial approval requirements, legal review, and correction of the agreement's effective-date reference before execution. Clifton Fire Protection District will coordinate contract administration." Chad Wallace made a motion to accept motion one as read. David Upchurch seconded the motion. All were in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

Wayne DeGesualdo read motion three:

"I move to authorize MCFA staff and legal counsel to provide the committee and Mission CT with the governance, operational, financial, organizational, and asset information reasonably required to complete the evaluation, subject to applicable legal and confidentiality requirements."

David Upchurch made a motion to accept motion three as read. Murray Thiessen seconded the motion. All were in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

Asked how often the committee meets and was told their goal is once a month.

NEW BUSINESS

Treasurers Report

Murray Thiessen presented the treasurer's report. We are at 60% through the year and income from tax revenue is at 65.21% from Lands Ends and 70.13% from Central Orchard Mesa but COM Income shows 141.68% due to the repayment of the lone of \$161,661.50 for the tender. Income is 66.26% for the year between the sale of vehicles, tax revenue and bank interest, but with the loan repayment we are at 94.96% on total revenue collected. Total expenses for the year are sitting at 30.58% for the year. In 308 it shows water for station 52-advised that should

be station 53- will correct. Murray explained that our insurance for the most part comes at the end of the year and we will see those bills end of November or December. The public asked what 801 is. Stacy Cox explained that is our stipend for our volunteers. MCFA pays a stipend on each call volunteers respond to, training they attend, and shift they take at the station. Someone asked about 701- advised that electrical work for the new extractor and lights for both stations. Eric Talley made a motion to approve the treasurer's report with the correction to 308. Chad Wallace seconded the motion. All in favor, no opposed, motion carried.

Chief's Report



Mesa County Fire Authority

Fire Chief's Report

July 28, 2026

Prepared By: Charles K. Balke, Fire Chief

Comments from the Fire Chief

I continue to work with the staff on improvements within the organization. There has been a lot of confusion and uncertainty surrounding the Board's decision to pursue an agreement with Clifton Fire for administrative/operational and financial oversight for our organization. Despite this many of the members remain committed to trying to provide services to the community and several have made additional sacrifices to their full-time jobs to be more available to respond to calls.

Administrative Update

- The Land's End Hillclimb schedule for August has been cancelled. They were unable to secure their permit from the Forest Service. They stated they will try to reschedule for October of 2026.
- Working on creating a fleet fuel account at the Golden Gate in Whitewater. This will allow for closer location for refueling apparatus and support local business.
- Had a meeting with Chaparral West Inc. concerning potential changes to the ground truthing in relation to the Wildfire Resiliency code for the development off of 141 as it enters future phases.
- Working to coordinate travel/lodging to Illinois to pick up the new/used fire engine. This has been difficult due to confusion about when Clifton Fire Protection District would be taking over and when the Town of Palisade's responsibility would end. We have a tentative date of flying out August 7th and returning by August 9th. Waiting on confirmation from their agency that they have someone available to provide in-service training at that time.
- Working on a transition document to provide to Clifton Fire Protection District for when they take over

Personnel Update

- We have received three applications from State certified EMT's, two of which are certified firefighters.
- Aubri Wood from Palisade Fire Department is taking over as EMS Coordinator and has already proven to be very effective and active with communication/coordination with the Medical Director and MC EMS Coordinator.

Training Update

- Eight of the twelve members from the academy participated in the Live Fire and Firefighter I final practical testing. The remaining four were unavailable to test either due to injury, working or other personal obligations. An additional test date will be scheduled for these individuals. All members that completed the academy are qualified for offensive firefighting operations and are waiting for their certification. The current academy members will proceed to the Hazardous Materials course which is scheduled to start mid-August, which will be a 72-hour hybrid course. This will be followed by a formal Basic Wildland Firefighter course.
- Monthly EMS training consisted of heat related emergencies.

Apparatus/Equipment/Facility Update

- Engine 52 has been removed from service due to the estimate \$26,844.55 received supporting its replacement. I do not recommend investing funds into this apparatus due to the cost and the pending arrival of the new/used fire engine.

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- We are trying to schedule a full mechanical assessment beyond the DOT inspection for Engine 51. Unfortunately, the only facility that works on CAT motors has not communicated a time in which we can get the unit in. We are currently pursuing other alternatives.
- The pump on Tender 51 is going to need some maintenance to replace the packing and fix small mechanical issues. This will not keep us from being able to use the apparatus.
- Station 53's bay continues to have lighting issues. We had Bemis Electric Co. do an assessment and provide a quote to fix the issue. Part of the issue is the current style of lighting is no longer accepted by the State forcing a conversion. One option is to replace what is burned out now for \$1,612.00 or to replace all the fixture now for a cost of \$3,020.00. Quotes and comments attached.
- A quote in the amount of \$850.00 is attached to perform outstanding electrical issues at Station 51 consisting of fixing 4 cord drops, installing strain relief on each, fix and strap existing conduits, and adding a fifth cord for ambulance charger.
- Brush 54 is operational after personnel performed in-house repairs and maintenance.

- Attached are two quotes for two levels of repair. The first is primarily to fill in the cracks at an estimated cost of \$3,318.60. The second quote from the same vendor is for the replacement of both the upper half and lower half of the pad at a combined cost of \$35,900.00. We have requested a second vendor quote that has not come back. Looking for Board Direction on which route, if any to take.

- CFS Inspections

Miscellaneous

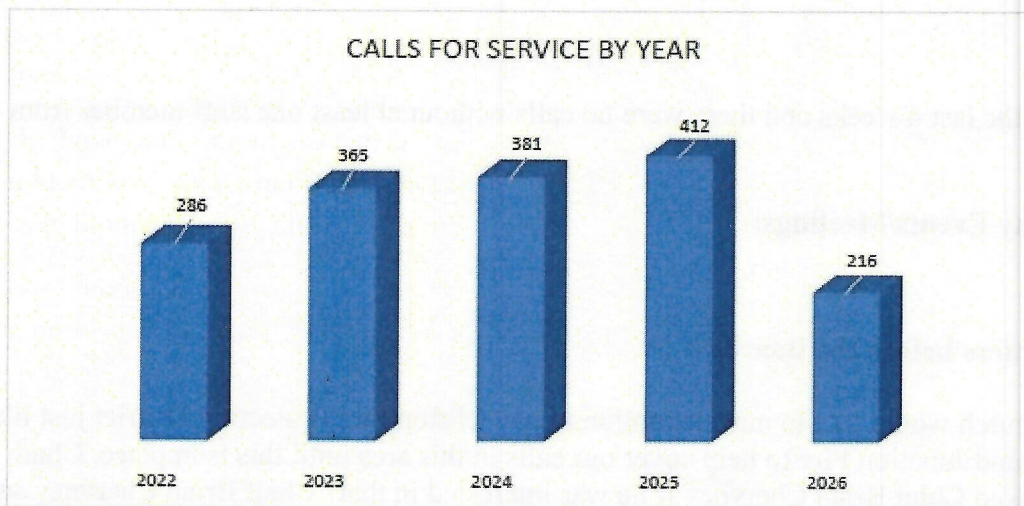
- I have submitted to be part of a SAFER Grant for Volunteer Recruitment and Retention. Based on how the organization progresses will have a direct impact on our participation authorization if approved.

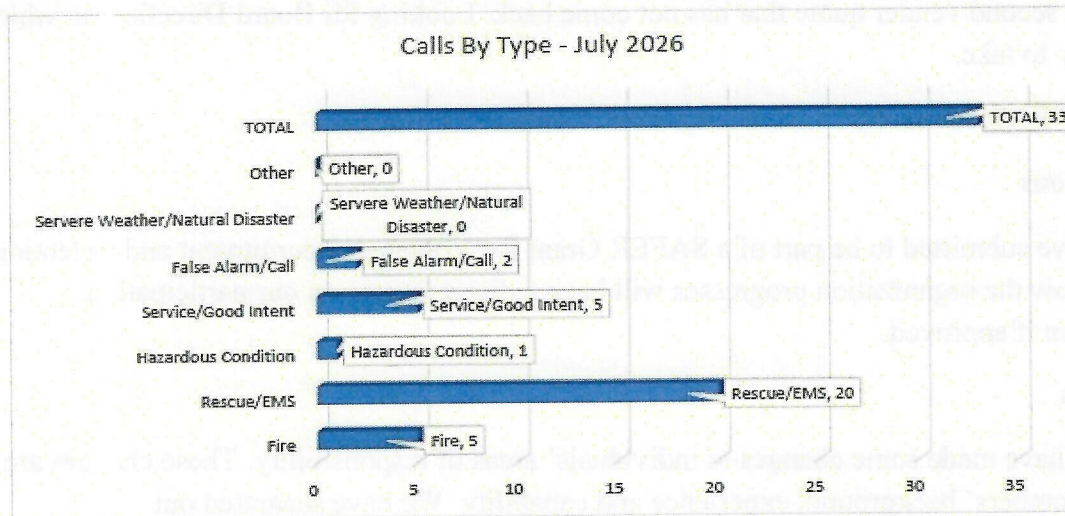
Operations

- We have made some changes to individuals' areas of responsibility. These changes are based on members' background, experience and capability. We have separated out apparatus/equipment maintenance,

- For the month of July there were 33 incidents. This is a decrease of 5 calls compared to the same time last year. For the same period in 2026 there have been 216 incidents, a decrease of 15 calls for the same time last year.

Reports





Chief Balke presented different estimates and quotes on items that needed to be fixed on and around the station from electrical to concrete work. It was asked if MCFA had put this out to bid and the answer was no. It was asked that these items be put out to bid for transparency and to make sure we are getting the best work at the right price. Chief said he would put them out for bid.

Calls

36 calls in the last 4 weeks and there were no calls without at least one staff member from MCFA.

Community Events/Meetings:

None

Other Matters before the Board:

Dave Upchurch would like to make a motion to pay Clifton Fire Protection District just like we do with Grand Junction Fire to help cover our calls in this area until this is in place. Chad Wallace asked Chief Brian Chervney if he was interested in that? Chief Brian Chervney said he would rather things stay as are at this time and maybe revisit this in the future. Chad Wallace said he would like to table this motion to a future date.

Public Comment:

None

Adjournment of meeting

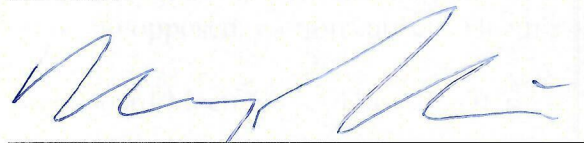
Eric Talley made a motion to adjourn the meeting. David Upchurch seconded the motion. All in favor, no opposed, motion carried. Meeting adjourned.

Next Board Meeting is August 25, 2026.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stacy Cox
Administrative Assistant
Mesa County Fire Authority


ATTEST


ATTEST

