

Riverside Fire Authority

Governance Board Meeting August 12, 2026 Minutes

In attendance:

Board Members – Joe Dolezal, Mike Tomasheck, Buddy Lowrey, Mike Rossow, Richard Lennox

Administration – Chief Anderson, Chief Ternan, Stephanie Storey, Misty Henning

Visitors – None

Chair Dolezal called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Motion was made, seconded and passed to approve the agenda.

Public Input – None

Motion was made, seconded, and passed to approve the consent agenda as presented.

The Following voucher/warrants/electronic payments were approved for payment:

<i>August 5, 2026,</i>	<i>Ck 9922-9931</i>	<i>\$6,281.95</i>
<i>August 12, 2026,</i>	<i>Ck 9932-9965</i>	<i>\$53,779.78</i>

Unfinished Business

None

New Business

Intergovernmental Agreement with League of Oregon Cities

As the authority continues to work through the procurement process for the station alerting system upgrades, staff identified a group purchasing contract available through the National Purchasing Partners (NPPGov) cooperative purchasing organization.

NPPGov serves the conduit through which its members may access publicly solicited contracts established by a lead contracting agency. Participation in contracts negotiated by the lead agency requires an intergovernmental agreement.

Group purchasing is an authorized procurement method under Washington State law, provided that the lead agency is a public agency. In this instance, the League of Oregon Cities serves as the lead agency for the publicly solicited contracts available through NPPGov, thereby satisfying the public agency requirements under Washington State law.

Commissioner Tomasheck made a motion to approve the intergovernmental agreement with the League of Oregon Cities. Commissioner Rossow seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Riverside Fire Authority

Governance Board Meeting August 12, 2026 Minutes

Mobilization Policy Update

The Wildland Mobilization Policy currently limits deployment outside the Central Region when Lewis County implements a total burn restriction. Staff noted that recent local restrictions were implemented in response to a statewide emergency order and may not consistently reflect local fire risk conditions. To provide a more objective and consistent trigger, the proposed update replaces the burn restriction criterion with the Washington State DNR Fire Danger Rating for the local FDRA, using "Very High" or "Extreme" as the threshold for limiting mobilizations.

The draft also clarifies provisions related to salaried employee participation in mobilizations, consistent with existing compensation and reimbursement practices and comparable agency policies. Recent administrative updates by the Fire Chief included requirements for backfill verification prior to mobilization approval, guidance on post-deployment rest and recovery assessment, and instructions for time reporting, all consistent with Board-approved policy intent. The remaining proposed amendments address risk tolerance and salaried employee participation and are therefore submitted to the Board for review and approval.

Commissioner Rossow made a motion to approve the proposed updates for Mobilization Policy #312. Commissioner Lowrey seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Letter of Agreement with IAFF Local #451 – Funeral Leave

Chief Anderson discussed a discrepancy between the current Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) and the Authority's scheduling system regarding Funeral and Bereavement Leave. The CBA identifies Funeral Leave as a leave type under Article 16.1 but does not reference Bereavement Leave. Administrative employee contracts, however, identify Bereavement Leave as a leave type. The Authority's scheduling system currently lists only Bereavement Leave as a selectable leave type. The Board was advised that Funeral Leave and Bereavement Leave have different definitions and applications, creating confusion for both personnel and administration regarding the appropriate use and application of the leave. Through the labor-management process, a Letter of Agreement has been drafted to resolve the discrepancy and provide clarification regarding the appropriate application of Funeral and Bereavement Leave. Commissioner Lowrey made a motion to approve the Letter of Agreement 2026-001 between the RFA and IAFF Local #451 as presented. Commissioner Rossow seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

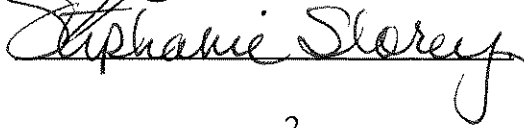
Resolution #2026-08, Budget Amendment

Finance Officer, Misty Henning, reviewed budget amendments that need to be addressed to date for the 2026 budget. Discussion followed. Commissioner Rossow made a motion to adopt Resolution #2026-08, Budget Amendments as presented. Commissioner Lowrey seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Good of the Order

Adjourned 6:05 p.m.

Minutes submitted by:  Chair Dolezal

 Board Secretary