

SOUTH WALTON FIRE DISTRICT

911 North County Highway 393, Santa Rosa Beach, Florida 32459

"Prompt, Competent, Caring Response in Time of Need"



The Board of Fire Commissioners of the South Walton Fire District will hold a regular meeting on **July 7, 2025, at 4:00 p.m.** on the third floor of the South Walton Fire District Logistics Building.

The agenda will include, but not be limited to the following:

- I. Call to Order
- II. Public Comment*
- III. Approval of Minutes
Regular Board Meeting: 06.09.2025
- IV. Secretary/Treasurer's Report
- V. Attorney's Report
Trademark Update
Title Insurance Claim Update
- VI. Chief's Report
- VII. Committee Reports
- VIII. Unfinished/Old Business
- IX. New Business
Board Action Item: Proposed Millage Rate and First Public Hearing Date for 2025
Fiscal Officer Carole Martin
Board Action Item: Modification of Braun Chief XL Ambulance Orders
Assistant Chief Daniel LaTour
- X. Public Comment*
- XI. Adjournment

***Note:** Persons who wish to be placed on the agenda must contact the Administrative Assistant within five days of any meeting and provide the name of the person who will be speaking and the subject to be addressed. If a person decides to appeal any decision made by the Board of Fire Commissioners of the South Walton Fire District concerning any matter considered at such meeting or hearing, he or she will need a record of the proceedings and that, for such purpose, may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

SOUTH WALTON FIRE DISTRICT BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS

Meeting Minutes – July 7, 2025

*****PENDING APPROVAL*****

Commissioners Present: David Bailey, Brian Christenson, Brian Farmer, Charlotte Flynt, Mark Foley, Maurice Gilbert, Mike Stange

Commissioners Absent: None

Call to Order: 4:00 p.m.

Public Comment: None

Commissioner Gilbert announced that a quorum was present.

On a motion duly made by Commissioner Christenson and seconded by Commissioner Bailey, the Board unanimously approved the minutes of June 9, 2025, Board of Fire Commissioners' regular meeting.

Secretary/Treasurer's Report: Commissioner Bailey read the May 2025 cash report into the record.

Attorney's Report: Attorney Youell reported no change in the Trademark status. Attorney Youell stated that there has been no change regarding the Notice of Title Defect for SWFD's Geronimo Street property since the last Fire Board meeting. Commissioner Foley requested no trademark update be presented until registration is complete. Commissioner Flynt requested staff to provide a trademark expense to date.

On a motion duly made by Commissioner Bailey and seconded by Commissioner Christenson, the Board unanimously approved Attorney Youell's June 2025 billing statement.

Fire Chief's Report:

Chief Crawford reviewed the Emergency Response Activity Report which included Beach Safety Responses. Chief Crawford also presented an overview of SWFD's major incidents since the regular meeting in June.

Chief Crawford reported that Lieutenant Eric Lang retired after a thirty-year career with SWFD. Firefighter Coy Suprise retired with twenty-one years of dedicated service. Battalion Chief Mike Thomas retired after twenty-four years of service; twenty of which were as Chief Officer. Firefighter Chris Schneider retired with eighteen years of service. SWFD extends sincere appreciation to each of them and wishes them the best in retirement.

SWFD's Beach Safety Division launched the second session of the 2025 Junior Lifeguard Program. This initiative continues to serve as a statewide model and supports long-term recruitment efforts for future beach safety careers.

In partnership with Walton County Emergency Management, SWFD will host the HERricane leadership camp July 29–August 1, 2025. The camp introduces young women

to public safety and emergency management careers through hands-on training, mentorship, and leadership development.

Staff continue to work on the FY26 budget, balancing increased service demands with long-term financial sustainability and capital reserve goals. An updated budget calendar was included in the board packet.

Fire Chief Crawford, Fiscal Officer Martin, and Assistant Chief LaTour attended the Florida Association of Special Districts Annual Conference where they engaged in legislative and regulatory sessions while networking with special district peers statewide.

Staff are finalizing a proposal to replace Squad 3, a 2017 Heavy-Duty Rescue Pumper, in alignment with our 10-year frontline replacement cycle. Pending board approval, this purchase would ensure a 2027 delivery. The current unit will then be repurposed as a reserve through 2037.

The assessment center for Battalion Chief promotions is underway. Panel interviews for five qualified Lieutenants are scheduled for the end of July.

Station 5 construction remains on schedule with an anticipated completion date of August 15, 2025. An open house is tentatively being planned for September 2025 pending construction completion.

On July 11-15, 2025, Chief Crawford will attend the Florida Fire Chief's Association Executive Development Conference where he will be sworn in as 1st Vice President of the Association. Chief Crawford will also attend the Southeastern Association of Fire Chiefs Conference in Franklin, Tennessee on July 15-17, 2025.

Chief Crawford reported Firefighter John Dowd earned a Silver Medal in Jiu Jitsu competition at the World Police & Fire Games in Birmingham, Alabama and Probationary Firefighter David Shepherd competed in the pole vault at the same event breaking the world record. These Olympic-style games draw approximately 10,000 first responders from around 70 countries. SWFD is proud of their representation of SWFD.

Several letters from citizens recognizing positive interactions with SWFD members were included in the board packet.

Committee Reports: None

Unfinished/Old Business: None

New Business: Fiscal Officer Martin presented a Board Action Request whereas Staff recommended that a millage rate of 1.0000 be set by the Board for inclusion in the required Truth in Millage (TRIM) notice. Staff also recommended the First Public Hearing be held September 9, 2025, at 5:01 pm and the Final Public Hearing be held September 15, 2025, at 5:01 pm.

On a motion duly made by Commissioner Flynt and seconded by Commissioner Christenson, the Board unanimously set a millage rate of 1.0000, the First Public Hearing to be held September 9, 2025, at 5:01 pm, and the Final Public Hearing to be held September 15, 2025, at 5:01 pm.

Assistant Chief LaTour presented a Board Action Request whereas Staff recommended Fire Board approval to accept the updated Equipment Proposals presented for purchasing

three Braun Chief XL ambulances and to authorize staff up to an additional \$8,349 (2% of the \$417,457 cost of the ambulance) for the single ambulance purchase estimated for delivery in April 2027 to cover future potential design changes. If approved, staff will request funds to be budgeted in the fiscal year 2025/2026 capital budget for the two (2) ambulances and in fiscal year 2026/2027 for the one (1) additional ambulance.

On a motion duly made by Commissioner Bailey and seconded by Commissioner Christenson, the Board approved for Staff to accept the updated Equipment Proposals and authorized up to an additional \$8,349 to cover future potential design changes.

Public Comment: Members of the public were invited to comment. There was no public comment.

Adjourned: The meeting adjourned at 4:36 p.m.