

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 **August 11, 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: 07.07.2025
- IV. Secretary/Treasurer's Report
- V. Attorney's Report
Title Insurance Claim Update
- VI. Chief's Report
- VII. Committee Reports
- VIII. Unfinished/Old Business
- IX. New Business
Board Action: Capital Purchase Request Pierce Velocity Heavy Duty Rescue Pumper
Assistant Chief Daniel LaTour
- X. Public Comment*
- XI. Adjournment
- XII. Quasi-Judicial Ordinance: First Reading
Ordinance 25-01 Florida Fire Prevention Code Amendment Adoption
Fire Marshal Sammy Sanchez
- XIII. Public Comment*
- XIV. 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.

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SOUTH WALTON FIRE DISTRICT BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS

Meeting Minutes – August 11, 2025

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

Commissioners Present: David Bailey, Brian Christenson, Brian Farmer, Charlotte Flynt, Mark Foley, Maurice Gilbert, Mike Stange (left at 5:08 pm)

Commissioners Absent: None

Call to Order: 4:05 p.m. (delayed due to road construction)

Public Comment: None

Commissioner Gilbert announced that a quorum was present.

On a motion duly made by Commissioner Flynt and seconded by Commissioner Bailey, the Board unanimously approved the minutes of August 11, 2025, Board of Fire Commissioners' regular meeting.

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

Attorney's Report: Attorney Youell reported that there has been no change regarding the Notice of Title Defect for SWFD's Geronimo Street property since the last Fire Board meeting.

On a motion duly made by Commissioner Bailey and seconded by Commissioner Farmer, the Board unanimously approved Attorney Youell's July 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 July.

For the eighteenth year, SWFD firefighters participated in a Back-to-School Safe Driving Campaign to welcome students and share important roadway safety reminders.

Nine Beach Safety Division members competed in the U.S. Lifesaving Association's Southeast Regional Championships earning a second-place finish overall.

On July 26, 2025, SWFD hosted the 5th Annual Emerald Coast Junior Lifeguard Competition between SWFD Beach Safety Juniors and Destin Beach Safety Juniors.

Chief Crawford reported that SWFD and SWPFFA have concluded negotiations on a Retirement Article, reaching a tentative agreement. A resolution will be presented to the Fire Board after SWPFFA membership cast their votes.

Chief Crawford met with County Administrator Kellenberger to discuss several key issues including several inter-local agreements for services SWFD provides in partnership with Walton County.

Chief Crawford and Division Chief Coker met with leadership at Ascension Sacred Heart Emerald Coast to review SWFD's EMS transfer agreement with the hospital.

Chief Crawford acknowledged three semesters of arduous work by Firefighters Chase Patrick, Izec Isabella, and Noah Collins. Congratulations to all three for graduating from their paramedic programs.

Firefighter Nate Stow was selected as Firefighter of the Second Quarter. FF Stow continues to have a strong, positive impact on the District. FF Stow serves as Chair of the EMS Committee, helps develop protocols, trains SWFD teams, and mentors new paramedics. He approaches his work with a positive attitude and a passion for the job. Congratulations to Firefighter Stow.

In partnership with Walton County Emergency Management, SWFD hosted the HERricane leadership camp July 29–August 1, 2025. The program provides young women a platform to build confidence, develop leadership skills, and explore a wide range of public safety and emergency management careers. Chief Crawford recognized PIO McClintock for her role in coordinating SWFD's role in this event.

SWFD conducted Battalion Chief promotional assessments with five strong internal candidates. Chief Crawford announced that Lt. Chris Powell has been promoted to the position of Battalion Chief.

A pinning ceremony is scheduled for August 20, 2025, at 10 a.m. for BC Chris Powell, LTs Drew Masat and Travis Spencer, SGTs Jason Wells and Patrick Pitts, Telecommunicators Kathleen Nolan, James Miles, and Amanda Silvey.

Steady progress continues at the new Miramar Beach Station. SWFD is planning an open house in mid-September. A notice will be forthcoming once a date has been confirmed.

SWFD's Mack Bayou Station parking lot will be sealed on August 25-27, 2025. This project will extend the life of the asphalt and improve the station's appearance.

On July 11-15, 2025, Chief Crawford attended the Florida Fire Chiefs Executive Development Conference and the Southeastern Association of Fire Chiefs Conference. Chief Crawford was honored to present at the Florida Joint Council meeting where former SWFD Firefighter Dan Corcoran was officially recognized by the State of Florida as a line of duty death attributed to occupational cancer. Later this Fall, Firefighter Corcoran's name will be added to the Florida State Fallen Firefighter Memorials in Ocala and Tallahassee.

SWFD Communications Division had strong representation at the APCO International Conference in Baltimore where they gained valuable insight into innovative technology, training, and best practices. Division Chief Stone and PIO McClintock will both be presenting at Fire Rescue International in Orlando.

On August 24 – 27, 2025, Human Resource Manager LaBarreare is scheduled to attend the Florida Human Resources Conference in Orlando.

On August 25, 2025, the State Law Enforcement Radio System (SLERS) will undergo its first major upgrade in twenty years by transitioning to the new P25 system. This system should provide better reception, increased capacity, and improved interoperability. There will be a brief three-hour outage during the switchover where SWFD will operate on its secondary VHF system.

Many SWFD members will be participating in the 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb at Edgewater Beach Resort in Panama City Beach. The event will be held on Saturday, Sept 6, 2025, with the climb commencing at 9 am following opening ceremonies. On Thursday, September 11, 2025, SWFD members will participate in a 3.43-mile run/walk along Hwy 331. SWFD continues to honor the legacy of those lost and reminding the community of the 343 firefighters who were killed twenty-four years ago.

SWFD's liability and property insurance carrier, VFIS, completed a site visit and risk control audit last month which resulted in no post audit recommendations reflecting positively on the strength of the District's risk control practices. A letter from VFIS reflecting the same was included in the board packet.

Chief Crawford reported as part of the drainage improvement project that N. County Highway 393 has been restricted to northbound traffic only from Greg Orr Marina to the CR 393/Chat Holley intersection. This project will include a new multi-use path on the west side of Highway 393. Southbound access to Highway 98 from Station 3 will be blocked, impacting on emergency response capacity. As an alternative route to access Highway 98, S. Church Street will see increased traffic during construction. A traffic signal at S. Church Street/Highway 98 is planned but will not be operational for several months. In the interim, only right turns (westbound) from S. Church Street onto Highway 98 will be allowed. Drivers needing to travel east (including emergency response) will be required to make a U-turn further west on Highway 98. SWFD raised concerns with Walton County regarding the impacts to emergency response and will be actively participating in their bi-weekly planning meetings to address issues in real time.

A temporary staffing plan is in development, to place a Brush Truck with two firefighters (one being a paramedic) at our Beach Safety facility during construction hours. Limited southbound emergency use of Highway 393 may be possible as the project progresses during certain phases or overnight pending conditions. This construction is projected to be completed by July 1, 2026, and will certainly have a negative effect on response times to addressing south of Station 3 here in Santa Rosa Beach. Commissioner Bailey requested a letter addressing SWFD's concerns with this project be sent to Walton County.

Chief Crawford reminded the Board of several important dates:

- August 25, 2025, at 2:30 p.m. Quarterly Pension Board meeting
- August 27, 2025, ISO site survey
- August 28, 2025, at 2 p.m. Public Budget Workshop
- September 3, 2025, SWFD hosts West Florida Region of the National Emergency Numbers Association (NENA) comprised of all our Region's County 911 Coordinators.
- September 9, 2025, at 4 p.m. Fire Board meeting
- September 9, 2025, at 5:01 pm First Public Hearing for FY26 Budget
- September 15, 2025, at 5:01 pm Final Public Hearing for FY26 Budget

SWFD's Administrative Offices will be closed September 1, 2025, in observation of Labor Day.

A letter recognizing positive interactions with an SWFD member was included in the board packet.

Committee Reports: None

Unfinished/Old Business: None

New Business: Assistant Chief LaTour presented a Board Action Request whereas Staff recommended Board approval to proceed with entering into the Equipment Proposal agreement presented for the purchase of the Pierce Velocity Heavy Duty Rescue Pumper for a price not to exceed \$1,397,242. This price is the quoted amount in the proposal plus 2% (\$27,397) to account for potential increases in the PPI, increases in chassis price, and for any additional design changes identified during the anticipated three (3) year manufacture and delivery time.

On a motion duly made by Commissioner Christenson and seconded by Commissioner Foley, the Board approved to proceed with entering into the Equipment Proposal agreement presented for the purchase of the Pierce Velocity Heavy Duty Rescue Pumper for a price not to exceed \$1,397,242.

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

Adjourned: The meeting adjourned at 5:08 p.m.

Quasi-Judicial Ordinance: Fire Marshal Sanchez read Ordinance 2025-01 Florida Fire Prevention Code Amendment Adoption

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

Adjourned: The meeting adjourned at 5:11 p.m.