

# 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 **November 10, 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: 10.13.2025**
- 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: Two Ambulances**  
Assistant Chief Daniel LaTour  
  
**Board Action: Resolution 25-07 Surplus Property**  
Assistant Chief Daniel LaTour  
  
**Board Action: 2026 Fire Board Meeting Schedule**  
Fire Chief Ryan Crawford  
  
**Board Discussion: Legal Forecast**  
Fire Commissioner David Bailey
- 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 – November 10, 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:** Mr. Steven Menchel stated his appreciation of the Fire Commissioners' dedication and services provided by SWFD members. Mr. Menchel also provided awareness of a hydrant issue in his neighborhood that has been reported to his utility company.

Commissioner Gilbert announced that a quorum was present.

On a motion duly made by Commissioner Christenson and seconded by Commissioner Flynt, the Board unanimously approved the minutes of the October 13, 2025, Board of Fire Commissioners' regular meeting.

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

**Attorney's Report:** Attorney Youell presented a brief of her services for the month of October 2025.

On a motion duly made by Commissioner Bailey and seconded by Commissioner Farmer, the Board unanimously approved Attorney Youell's October 2025 billing statement for payment.

**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 October.

The 2025 Beach Safety Season concluded on October 31, 2025, with the removal of all lifeguard towers. The Beach Safety Division has reduced staff to a roving patrol model from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily through March 1, 2026.

SWFD Beach Safety Lieutenants Turner and Brown represented the District earning first and second place respectively in the inaugural Emerald Coast Waterman Challenge; a 13-mile surf, paddle, swim, and run event.

Phase 2 - Firefighter physicals are complete. This completion concludes SWFD's annual comprehensive wellness / physical process.

In October, Chief Crawford and District Chief Adams attended the Florida Firefighter Safety and Health Conference. The conference focused on the fire service's transition to non-PFAS turnout gear, fire station design, and ongoing research in areas including occupational cancer, sleep study, nutrition, and overall fitness in the fire service.

Chief Crawford toured Ten-8 Fire Equipment's Bradenton, Florida facility to evaluate their liquid carbon dioxide turnout gear advanced cleaning system. This technology offers deeper cleaning with less material degradation than traditional water extractors; therefore, improving safety and extending gear life. SWFD plans to move in this direction with annual turnout gear cleaning processes.

On October 28, 2025, SWFD held a Pinning Ceremony formally swearing in five firefighters and one telecommunicator. Additionally, twelve new employees joined SWFD in October: eight firefighters, three full-time lifeguards, and one telecommunicator.

SWFD hosted a 40-hour USLA Personal Rescue Watercraft Certification Course (PRWC) with participation from agencies including Orange Beach, Gulf Shores, and Panama City Beach. Glenn Kuenher, SWFD District Chief and USLA Southeast Region Academy Director instructed the course.

In recognition of Fire Prevention Week, SWFD's Life Safety Division and suppression crews conducted a total of fourteen public education presentations at local schools and daycares reaching more than 1,200 students. This total was in addition to more than 300 residents attending the kick-off at SWFD's Annual Pancake Breakfast.

On October 20, 2025, SWFD on-duty crews rotated through Pilcher Park for remembrance and reflection of the 21st anniversary of the tragic AirHeart 1 crash. These moments ensure that SWFD's newest members understand the legacy of the men who gave their lives in service to others.

As part of SWFD's surplus equipment process, staff negotiated the transfer of a 2015 ambulance to Gulf Coast State College (GCSC). In exchange, SWFD received a \$34,000 tuition credit for SWFD sponsored EMT and paramedic college courses. The ambulance will serve as a training unit for GCSC's EMS programs.

SWFD members participated in a Walton County Emergency Management UAV/Drone Workgroup alongside local and state partners from Emergency Management, South Walton Mosquito Control, and Florida Fish & Wildlife. The group's goal is to share technologies and best practices as well as coordinate regional drone operations for a level of awareness of the specific capabilities of local drone resources.

SWFD executed an agreement with EXOS and will launch a new employee performance, rehabilitation, and occupational therapy program in December 2025. Physical Therapist Mason Stitt will begin on-site services the week of December 15, 2025. Renovations are underway to convert the second-floor meeting space in the administration building into specialized work areas for this program.

Chief Crawford attended the National Fire Chiefs Forum at National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Headquarters in Boston, Massachusetts. Crawford reported that it was an incredible opportunity to hear from NFPA staff regarding numerous fire service professional resources that they provide and to seek direct feedback on codes and standards issues the fire service is facing.

For the 25th consecutive year, the Fire District is a host site for the Caring & Sharing Angel Tree program.

On November 20-21, 2025, several SWFD members and Honor Guard will travel to Ocala for the Florida Fallen Firefighters Memorial and Prayer Breakfast at the State Fire College.

SWFD will accompany the family of Firefighter Dan Corcoran, whose name is scheduled to be added to the Florida Fallen Firefighter Memorial.

An AirHeart 1 Memorial Acceptance and Dedication Ceremony is scheduled to be held at Pilcher Park on November 13, 2025, at 2:00 p.m. This ceremony includes members of the Board of County Commissioners, who partnered with SWFD on this project. Chief Crawford encouraged SWFD's Fire Board to attend.

SWFD's Annual Employee Holiday Party will take place December 6, 2025. This event provides an opportunity for employees and their guests to celebrate the season together.

A Quarterly Pension Board Meeting is scheduled for December 1, 2025, at 2:30 p.m. in SWFD's Administrative Conference Room.

Chief Crawford reminded the board that the selection of 2026 Fire Board Officers and Committee Appointments will take place at the regular meeting in December.

The SWFD Administrative Offices will be closed November 11, 2025, in observation of Veterans Day and on November 27 -28, 2025, for the Thanksgiving holiday.

**Unfinished/Old Business:** None

**New Business:**

Assistant Chief LaTour presented a Board Action whereas Staff requested approval to proceed with entering into an Equipment Proposal agreement for the purchase of two Braun Chief XL ambulances; closing price not to exceed \$910,034. Two percent (\$17,844) was added to the proposal amount for potential increases in chassis price and for any needed design changes identified during the anticipated 2 ½ year projected delivery time.

On a motion duly made by Commissioner Flynt and seconded by Commissioner Bailey, the Board unanimously agreed to enter into the equipment proposal agreement with Ten-8 Equipment for the purchase of two Braun Chief XL ambulances as presented.

Assistant Chief LaTour presented a Board Action whereas Staff recommended the approval of Resolution 2025-07 Surplus Equipment. The resolution listed the property below as obsolete and/or had outlived its usefulness to the Fire District.

1. 2009 GMC Sierra 2500
2. 2008 Chevrolet Colorado
3. 2016 Yamaha VX1100D-P
4. 2 2017 Yamaha VX1050C-U
5. 2022 Honda Rancher TRX420FM1N
6. 2009 Bullex Fire Extinguisher Trainer
7. 2008 Wells Cargo EW2025 Trailer
8. 2005 Elite Trailer Enclosed
9. 7 Genesis Extrication Power Units (2008 through 2019)
10. 4 Genesis Extrication Spreaders (2008 through 2019)
11. 4 Genesis Extrication Cutters (2008 through 2019)
12. 8 Genesis Extrication Rams (2008 through 2019)
13. 2 Genesis Extrication Combination Tools (2008 through 2019)
14. 3 Power-Pro XT Stretchers
15. 2017 Stair-Pro
16. 6 LifePak-15 Cardiac Monitors
17. 6 2008 M7100 Radios
18. 2 2019 GETAC Laptops

19.3 2018 Dell Latitude Laptop

20.2 Synology Diskless Storage Rack

On a motion duly made by Commissioner Flynt and seconded by Commissioner Christenson, the Board unanimously approved Resolution 2025-07 Surplus Equipment as presented.

Chief Crawford presented a Board Action whereas Staff requested Board approval of the 2026 Board Meeting Schedule provided in the board packet.

On a motion duly made by Commissioner Bailey and seconded by Commissioner Flynt, the Board unanimously approved the 2026 Fire Board Meeting Schedule as presented.

Fire Commissioner Bailey initiated a lengthy discussion on the District's legal forecast, considering the complexity of emerging legal issues SWFD will face in the coming years (general governmental procedure, contract management, right of way & easement acquisition, land use, and legislative affairs), as well as proposed state legislation which may dramatically reduce ad-valorem tax revenues to fund District operations.

The board directed staff to compile a summary of preferred qualifications and a list of attorneys or law firms with the preferred expertise to accommodate the District's future legal needs for presentation to the Board.

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

**Adjourned:** The meeting adjourned at 4:59 p.m.