

**WYOMING FIRE CHIEFS' ASSOCIATION**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**Best Western Hotel, Casper, Wyoming**  
**December 5, 2024**

Call to order by President Quinney at 8:00AM.

Motions - All motions made and seconded were unanimously passed.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting - The Meeting Minutes of the previous meeting held June 12, 2024, at the Afton Fire Department were approved as emailed to the membership. Motion by Brent Godfrey, seconded by Chris Kocher.

**Treasurer's Report** - Gene Diedtrich submitted a written report on the Statement of Cash Position for the period June 1, 2024, through October 31, 2024. There was a beginning balance of \$38,624 deposits of \$118,259, disbursements of \$61,973 leaving an ending balance of \$61,973 with a cash restriction of \$24,610 for the Safer Grants and the L.A.S.T. checking account, leaving an unrestricted balance of \$37,360. Motion to approve made by James Current and seconded by Mark Haines.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Missouri Valley Division, IAFC** - Chief Gary Harnish introduced Chief Michael Koopman, the president of the Missouri Valley Division. Chief Koopman reported on the activities of the Missouri Valley Division. He highlighted the National Cancer Firefighter Registry, the Chief Officer Leadership Training, scholarships that are available to attend the MVD Conference and the ongoing efforts of the Thermal Fuse Coupling Project. The 2025 MVD Conference will be held in St Charles, MO.

**IAFC VCOS** - Chief Caughey reported on the activities of the VCOS Section of the IAFC. The section supports volunteer and combination departments. He highlighted the work to strengthen the relationship with the National Volunteer Fire Council, the free training webinars that are offered, the upcoming rollout of the new national incident records management system and the re-writing of the Red Ribbon Report that deals with Recruitment and Retention. He reported that 750 attended the Symposium in the Sun this year and reminded departments that the AFG and Safer Grants were open. He indicated that many departments in Wyoming are not applying for the grant. He stated that any department needing help with the grant process to contact him and the VCOS section is able to help.

**Special District Association** - Craig Haslam reported that the Special District Association is now a part of the National Special District Coalition and were successful in lobbying for the ability for Special Districts to have direct access to federal funding opportunities that wasn't previously available. He encourage folks to join the association and thanked those who were supportive of the effort thus far.

**Wyoming Council on Fire Prevention and Electrical Safety** - Chief Dan Johnson reported that the Council meets twice a year and has 5 members. They have not had any appeals as of late and at the last meeting on November 6<sup>th</sup> they discussed Single Stair Legislation, the adoption of the 2024 Code Series and Term Limits of 6 years for Council Members.

**L.A.S.T Team Update** - Chief Dan Johnson reported that the LAST Team received a private donation from a family affected by the Elk Fire for \$2,000. The tag that was donated by Game and Fish Commissioner Ladwig resulted in a net revenue of \$27,000. The Team wrote a check to Access Yes to thank the G&F Commissioners for the donation of the tags. He also reported on the ongoing effort of the Engine Project in Casper, the status of PSOB Claims and that they have completed 7 missions' year to date.

**Wyoming Firefighter Memorial** - An update for the Firefighter Memorial will be given at the January Meeting.

**National Fire Protection Association** - Nick Hudson reported out on the NFPA. He discussed consolidation of the NFPA Standards and reported that the Standards can be accessed for free through the website. He mentioned that there were lots of free training offered regarding electric vehicles and the work continues on a new standard for lithium/ion batteries.

**WFCA Residential Sprinkler Committee** - Nick Hudson reported that the Committee meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays of each month via Zoom and all are welcome to join. The purpose of the committee is to promote residential fire safety. Justin Smith reported that there are a lot of training for home builders and developers about residential sprinklers and installation.

**Wyoming Association of Fire Marshals** - Nick Hudson reported the annual conference will be in Casper, April 9-11<sup>th</sup>. The association is small but mighty with about 40 code enforcement officials across the state participating. The purpose is community risk reduction.

**307 CRR** - Nick Hudson reported on behalf of Director Mathews for 307 CRR. He discussed the thermal fuse project, the statewide initiative for food truck inspections and the carbon monoxide initiative. He reported on the recent incident in Riverton where a faulty water heater resulted in 3 fatalities.

**WYO-LINK UPDATE** - Chief Quinney thanked Chief Mark Harshman for his 23 years of service on the PSCC. Chief Harshman thanked the Fire Service for allowing him to serve. Chief Van Vlack reported on Wyo-Link. He reported that hardware upgrades are ongoing, excess equipment is available and interested departments should contact him. He talked about Critical Connect offered through First Net, which is the ability to use Wyo-Link on a cell phone through a push to talk application. He discussed some legislation that is upcoming that deals with 911 outage reporting and the update of the Telecommunication Act that is due to sunset. Wyo-Link was funded with approximately 8.6 million each year for the biennium.

**Wyoming Volunteer Fire, EMT and Search and Rescue Pension** - Lanny Applegate reported on the most recent status of the pension plan. The fund has approximately 117 million with approximately 2400 current members and 1464 retirees. He reported on who the Board Members were and the need to use the Plan as a recruitment and retention tool.

**Wyoming Fire Academy** - Ian Kraft reported on the recent completion of the Fire Academy Upgrades. He discussed the new prop - Fire Vent and the work to develop a use policy and work on coming up with a transportation method for the prop. He talked about the new Haz Mat Awareness Class available online and the need to increase class size so that each training offered is valuable for the instructors and students.

**Wyoming Firefighter's Certification Committee** - Brian Borgelli reported on behalf of the Certification Committee. He discussed the upcoming survey regarding Tech-Rescue needs across the state, the work on updating bylaws and that the committee's agendas and meeting minutes are available on Fire Marshal's website.

**National Volunteer Fire Council** - Chief Eric Quinney reported out on the NVFC. He discussed the cost of membership being raised from \$21 to \$24 a year in January 2025. The NVFC has 37,000 members and the NVFC is highly engaged in keeping track of the new Proposed OSHA Rules. The public hearing process just ended and Chief Quinney was able to testify during the process. The post hearing public comment period is now open to January 17<sup>th</sup> and he encouraged departments to submit comments on the effect of the proposed standards on their department.

**2019 and 2021 SAFER Grant Reports** - Gene Diedtrich submitted a report on the current status of both SAFER Grants and encouraged Chiefs to submit for qualified training reimbursements and new hire physicals. The 2019

Grant had approximately 210K left in it and expired in November 2024. The 2021 Grant has 669K and will expire in November 2026.

Highlights of SAFER GRANT coverage.

Training Reimbursement

Includes the Training Cost, Daily meals and lodging incurred within the Wyoming Current Per-Diem rates.

College Books/Tuition

Acceptance will be for a 1- 4-year period, depending on the life of the grant, allows 8 semesters of tuition at a qualified college or online teaching college. Allows up to \$1,650 tuition and \$350 for relevant books per semester, passing grade of a C or better per semester to qualify for payment.

One Time Physical

For new members of a department, a department member must be in good standing. Needs to be a NFPA 1582 compliant physical, reimburses up to \$880 per physical.

**Wyoming Firefighter Cancer Support Network** - Chief Shad Cooper gave a report on behalf of Paul Juergens and the Network. He reported that 5 classes have been taught, 1 case was supported and that a recent fundraiser netted \$1800. He discussed the cancer screen legislation that was recently passed and the process that firefighters need to follow to be covered. This process is outlined on the Wyoming Department of Work Force services website.

With no other business being brought before the body. A motion was made by Jason Caughey to adjourn the meeting. Second, by Lanny Applegate. All present voted in favor. The Chief's portion of the Meeting was adjourned by Chief Quinney at 9:05AM.

## **FUTURE MEETING DATES**

- January 3, 2025, starting at 12:30 PM at the Wyoming Fire Academy in Riverton held in conjunction with the Midwinter Fire School put on by the Riverton Volunteer Fire Department January 3 - 5, 2025.
- April 5, 2025, annual meeting of the WFCA, with elections starting at 9:00 AM at the Riverton Volunteer Fire Department Station #1 meeting room. A delicious lunch will be served after the meeting by the good cooks of the RVFD.
- June 11, 2025, starting at 3:00 PM at the Torrington Fire Department held in conjunction with the Annual Convention of the State Firefighters Association.

#### **FUTURE MEETING DATES**

- **June 12, 2024, starting at 3:00 PM at the Afton Volunteer Fire Department held in conjunction with the 91<sup>st</sup> annual meeting and drill team competition of the Wyoming State Firemen’s Association, which runs June 13-15, 2024.**
- **December 5, 2024, starting at 8:00 AM at the Best Western (formerly called Park Plaza) in Casper held in conjunction with annual meeting of the Wyoming State Rural Fire Association.**
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