

**WYOMING FIRE CHIEFS' ASSOCIATION  
MEETING MINUTES**  
**Torrington Fire Department, Torrington, Wyoming**  
**June 11, 2025**

Call to order by President Fox at 3:00PM

Motions - All motions made and seconded were unanimously passed.

**Meeting Minutes** - The Meeting Minutes of the previous meeting held April 5, 2025, at the Fire Academy in Riverton were approved as emailed to the membership. Motion by Lanny Applegate, seconded by Chris Kocher.

**Treasurer's Report** - Gene Diedrich submitted a written report on the Statement of Cash Position for the period April 1, 2025 - May 31, 2025. There was a beginning balance of \$56,357 deposits of \$26,659, disbursements of \$21,633 leaving an ending balance of \$61,393 with a cash restriction of \$23,692 for the Safer Grants, Consortium Section and the L.A.S.T. checking account, leaving an unrestricted balance of \$37,701. Motion to approve made by Dennis Estes and seconded by John Kopper.

**Association Bills** - There were no association bills presented. Gene reported that everything was squared away with the Rural Fire Association with regards to the legislative session.

**PRESENTATION**

Representatives from the American Red Cross gave a presentation to the body about the resources of the American Red Cross when responding in the event of a fire, storm or other disasters. The emergency response number is 1-833-583-3111. Red Cross will be making an effort to get around the state and conduct outreach. The Red Cross has free smoke detectors available for departments and are able to assist in a variety of needs. Nick Hudson mentioned that the Red Cross has been supportive of the 307 CRR program.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Missouri Valley Division, IAFC** - Chief Harnish is attending the Missouri Valley Conference and will send out information following the conference.

**Special District Association** - No report given at the meeting.

**Wyoming Council on Fire Prevention and Electrical Safety** - Chief Dan Johnson reported that there were no new updates since the last meeting.

**IAFC VCOS** - Chief Caughey submitted a written report on the activities of the VCOS Section of the IAFC. Symposium in the Sun registration is open and fills up fast. VCOS has upcoming webinars and a new Critical Thinking Academy. Information can be found on the VCOS website. Any questions can be directed to Chief Caughey.

**National Volunteer Fire Council** - Chief Eric Quinney reported out on the NVFC. He discussed the ongoing efforts to monitor the progress of the new proposed OSHA standard and the work of the NVFC to express concern over the closure of the National Fire Academy and reductions in staff at the federal level that is affecting NIOSH Investigations and the Firefighter Cancer Registry. The Fall Meeting will be September 21-24 in Rapid City, South Dakota.

**National Fire Protection Association** - Nick Hudson reported out on the NFPA. The NFPA Expo will be held June 15-20 in Las Vegas, Nevada. The theme is "Charge Into Fire Safety" with a lithium-ion battery focus. The website is revamped for fire prevention information and the standard added for the lithium-ion battery.

**Wyoming Firefighter Memorial** - An update for the Firefighter Memorial was given by Chief Johnson. The memorial will be on Saturday August 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025 and will be held in conjunction with the Hall of Fame ceremony. Representative Steve Harshman will be the keynote speaker.

**WYO-LINK UPDATE** - Chris Kocher reported out that the PSCC met May 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>. Strategic planning took place for Next Generation 911, additional tower sites identified in Yellowstone National Park, Baggs and Thermopolis. Discussions are ongoing for 911 surcharges.

**Legislative Committee** - Lanny Applegate reported that the next session will be a 20 day Budget Session. They are monitoring interim topics that involve wildfire funding and also issues revolving around tax funded organizations not being allowed to lobby. If you have any bills or topics that need to be monitored please contact Lanny or Shad Cooper.

**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 Side-by-Side trailer is available for demonstrations and can be reserved via an application on the Fire Marshal Website, departments using the trailer will be asked to replace consumables.

**Plan A, Plan B and Volunteer Pension Plans** - Director David Swindell was in attendance and gave an overview of all of the pension plans. A discussion was held about plans for training to be held for HR and Payroll people regarding retirement issues. For detailed information about the presentation, please refer to the attachment of these minutes.

**Wyoming Fire Academy** - Ian Kraft reported that YTD there have been 62 classes with 796 students served. There have been 24 fire investigation YTD. There is an open position in the SW Corner of the State for a Trainer/Investigator. They are finishing up the Spring Academy with 11 recruits graduation. Work is on-going for new Haz Mat Operations Standards.

**2019 and 2021 SAFER Grant Reports** - Gene Diedrich submitted a report on the current status of both SAFER Grants. The WFCA currently has 1 active SAFER Grant offered through FEMA. The 2021 Grant is for \$795K, have spent \$206K which leaves a remaining balance of \$589K and expires November 19, 2026. Update on the 2019 grant - the final closeout report was submitted on February 19, 2025. Final approval on that closeout was received on June 4, 2025.

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.

## SECTION REPORTS

Wyoming Firefighter's Certification Committee - Ian Kraft reported on behalf of the certification committee. He indicated the committee has a vacancy for the industrial section. He also mentioned that changes are being made to Haz Mat Ops to include new methodologies and also reported that specs for Technical Rescue continues.

Wyoming Association of Fire Marshals - Nick Hudson reported that the annual conference was a great success.. The association is small but mighty with about 40 code enforcement officials across the state participating. The WAFM provides great leadership opportunities and the next conference will be held April 7-9, 2026 in Casper. Information will be sent out at the beginning of the year.

Industrial Fire Chiefs - No Report Given

Consortium Section - No Report Given.

## STATE FIRE ASSOCIATION REPORTS

Wyoming State Fireman's Association - Cody Scott was on hand to welcome everyone to Torrington and went over the schedule of events for the next few days for the State Convention. 6 Departments are represented with 10 total teams for the Drill Competition. Next year's convention will be held in Wheatland.

Wyoming State Rural Firemen's Association - The Rural Fire Conference will be held December 3-5<sup>th</sup> at the same location, Best Western in Casper and invited the WFCA to again hold a joint meeting together on December 4<sup>th</sup> starting at 8:00AM. June 22 the JAC is scheduled to meet to talk about EFSA Rules and Wildfire funding.

L.A.S.T Team Update - Chief Dan Johnson reported that the LAST Team Checking Account has a balance of \$20,120 and the 2 CD's have a balance of approximately \$22K and \$14K. The Engine project is on track in Casper and YTD there have been 5 Missions.

307 CRR - No Report Given.

Wyoming Firefighter Cancer Support Network - No Report Given.

## STATE AGENCY REPORTS

Wyoming State Forestry - The groundbreaking for the new Helibase in Casper will be in August. Emergency rules are being developed for the EFSA with regards to prepositioning. The overall rules for the EFSA will be changed and out for public comment. 2 Seats' have been added and a staffing update was given.

Wyoming State Fire Marshal's Office - Monica reported on behalf of Director Mathews. She reported on NEIRS and the training that will be offered around the state. She discussed status review of AHJ's and talked about a grant to provide code enforcement. Training will be available to obtain AHJ status by the end of 2027.

Wyoming Office of Homeland Security - No Report Given

Office of Emergency Medical Services - No Report Given

### CONTINUING BUSINESS

SAFER Grant Application - Chief Dan Johnson gave an update on the process of applying for a SAFER Grant for the recruit academy. Work is ongoing for the application process.

Fire Service Website - Pricing was discussed from the Missouri Valley Division. The topic was tabled for further investigation by Chief Wamsley.

PSCC Appointment - President Fox appointed Chris Kocher as the Fire Service Representative to the PSCC to replace outgoing member Josh VanVlack.

### NEW BUSINESS

Executive Secretary-Treasurer Appointment - President Fox appointed Eric Quinney to serve as the new Executive Secretary- Treasurer to replace Gene Diedtrich. Eric and Gene will work together to ensure a smooth transition.

By-Laws - A discussion was held about edits that need to be made the By-Laws. Edits were sent out to the Body for review. Some of the changes included increasing the bond amount, identifying the fiscal year and separating the budget and audit committees, and striking the Board of Directors language. Work will continue on these edits and more discussion will be held at the January Meeting in Riverton. Watch your email for more information in regards to the By-Laws.

With no other business being brought before the body. A motion was made by Chris Kocher to adjourn the meeting. Second, by Dennis Estes. All present voted in favor. The Meeting was adjourned by President Fox at 5:00 PM

## FUTURE MEETING DATES

- December 4, 2025, in conjunction with the Rural Fire Association Meeting, starting at 8:00 AM at the Best Western in Casper.
- January 9, 2026, starting at 12:30 PM at the Fire Academy in Riverton, Legislative Meeting will be held prior with time TBD.
- April 11, 2026, 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 17, 2026, starting at 3:00 PM at the Wheatland Fire Department held in conjunction with the Annual Convention of the State Firefighters Association.

## Plan: Fire B Pension Plan

### Actuarial Status

- Assets: \$253,364,933 (Actuarial); \$259,867,087 (Market)
- Liabilities: \$252,072,844
- Funding ratios: 100.51% (Actuarial); 103.09% (Market)
- Projection: 105.3% (2030, 5 yrs); 107.9% (2035, 10 yrs); 113.7% (2045, 20 years)

### CY2024 Financial Flows

- Beginning of Year Net Position: \$233,845,019
  - Contributions: **\$11,088,182**
    - Employee: \$4,576,138
    - Employer: \$6,510,392
    - Other: \$1,652
  - Investment Income: **\$24,164,038** (average return 10.54%)
- Total Additions: **\$35,252,220**
  - Benefits Paid: **\$8,914,889**
  - Refunds Issued: **\$64,859**
  - Administrative Expense: \$233,411 (8.9 bps)
  - Depreciation: \$16,993
- Total Deductions: **\$9,230,152**
- End of Year Net Position: \$259,867,087

### Population and Demographics:

#### Reconciliation of Participant Data

	Active Participants	Vested Former Participants	Retired Participants	Disableds	Beneficiaries	Participants Due Refunds	Total
Number as of January 1, 2024	429	58	170	16	16	43	732
New participants	46	-	-	-	-	1	47
Vested terminations	(9)	9	-	-	-	-	-
Retirements	(11)	(3)	14	-	-	-	-
Disability	-	(1)	-	1	-	-	-
Deceased with beneficiary	(1)	-	-	(1)	2	-	-
Deceased without beneficiary	-	-	(1)	(1)	-	-	(2)
Due refunds	(7)	-	-	-	-	7	-
Lump sum payoffs	(1)	-	-	-	-	(1)	(2)
Rehires/return to active	1	-	-	-	-	(1)	-
Certain period expired	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Reclassifications	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Data corrections	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Number as of January 1, 2025	447	63	183	15	18	49	775

## Plan: Volunteer Firefighter, EMT & SAR Pension Plan

### Actuarial Status

- Assets: \$122,934,819 (Actuarial); \$126,114,924 (Market)
- Liabilities: \$127,742,301
- Funding ratios: 96.24% (Actuarial); 98.73% (Market)
- Projection: 108.6% (2030, 5 yrs); 111.1% (2035, 10 yrs); 120.2% (2045, 20 years)

### CY2024 Financial Flows

- Beginning of Year Net Position: \$117,524,714
  - Contributions: **\$4,662,006**
    - Employee: \$574,423
    - Employer: \$0
    - Other: \$4,087,583 (State fire insurance premium tax share)
  - Investment Income: **\$11,921,508** (average return 10.54%)
- Total Additions: **\$16,583,514**
  - Benefits Paid: **\$7,797,724**
  - Refunds Issued: **\$49,450**
  - Administrative Expense: \$137,590 (10.9 bps)
  - Depreciation: \$8,540
- Total Deductions: **\$7,993,304**
- End of Year Net Position: \$126,114,924

### Population and Demographics:

#### Reconciliation of Participant Data

	Active Participants	Vested Participants	Former Participants	Retired Participants	Beneficiaries	Participants Due Refunds	Total
Number as of January 1, 2024	2,350	557		1,444	294	1,945	6,590
New participants	235	-		-	-	14	249
Vested terminations	(79)	79		-	-	-	-
Retirements	(59)	(16)		75	-	-	-
Disability	-	-		-	-	-	-
Deceased with beneficiary	(3)	(2)		(13)	18	-	-
Deceased without beneficiary	(1)	(2)		(23)	(13)	(4)	(43)
Due refunds	(88)	-		-	-	88	-
Lump sum payoffs	(9)	(8)		-	(1)	(41)	(59)
Rehires/return to active	28	(10)		-	-	(18)	-
Certain period expired	-	-		-	-	-	-
Reclassifications	-	-		-	-	-	-
Data corrections	-	-		-	-	-	-
Number as of January 1, 2025	2,374	598		1,483	298	1,984	6,737

## Plan: Fire A Pension Plan (closed to new participants)

### Actuarial Status

- Assets: \$128,392,192 (Actuarial); \$130,975,296 (Market)
- Liabilities: \$138,639,191
- Funding ratios: 92.61% (Actuarial); 94.47% (Market)
- Projection: 104.7% (2030, 5 yrs); 108.7% (2035, 10 yrs); 143.0% (2045, 20 years)

### CY2024 Financial Flows

- Beginning of Year Net Position: \$130,436,678
  - Contributions: **\$0**
    - Employee: \$0
    - Employer: \$0
    - Other: \$2,716,389 (State fire insurance premium tax share)
  - Investment Income: **\$12,981,460** (average return 10.54%)
- Total Additions: **\$15,697,849**
  - Benefits Paid: **\$15,120,635**
  - Refunds Issued: **\$0**
  - Administrative Expense: \$35,426 (2.7 bps)
  - Depreciation: \$3,170
- Total Deductions: **\$15,159,231**
- End of Year Net Position: \$130,975,296

### Population and Demographics:

#### Reconciliation of Participant Data

	Active Participants	Vested Participants	Former Participants	Retired Participants	Disableds	Beneficiaries	Participants Due Refunds	Participants Total
Number as of January 1, 2024	-	-	-	162	10	76	1	249
New participants	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Vested terminations	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Retirements	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Disability	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Deceased with beneficiary	-	-	-	(2)	-	2	-	-
Deceased without beneficiary	-	-	-	(2)	-	(6)	-	(8)
Due refunds	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lump sum payoffs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rehires/return to active	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Certain period expired	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Reclassifications	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Data corrections	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Number as of January 1, 2025	-	-	-	158	10	72	1	241

## Plan: Air Guard Firefighter Pension Plan

### **Actuarial Status**

- Assets: \$11,191,413 (Actuarial); \$11,469,825 (Market)
- Liabilities: \$13,336,529
- Funding ratios: 83.92% (Actuarial); 86.00% (Market)
- Projection: 92.8% (2030, 5 yrs); 100.0% (2035, 10 yrs); 114.8% (2045, 20 years)

### **CY2024 Financial Flows**

- Beginning of Year Net Position: \$10,543,115
  - Contributions: **\$642,402**
    - Employee: \$449,973
    - Employer: \$192,421
    - Other: \$0
  - Investment Income: **\$1,083,065** (average return 10.54%)
- Total Additions: **\$1,725,467**
  - Benefits Paid: **\$735,039**
  - Refunds Issued: **\$44,599**
  - Administrative Expense: \$18,353 (16 bps)
  - Depreciation: \$766
- Total Deductions: **\$798,757**
- End of Year Net Position: \$11,469,825
- **Population and Demographics:**

### **Reconciliation of Participant Data**

	Active Participants	Vested Participants	Former Participants	Retired Participants	Disableds	Beneficiaries	Participants Due Refunds	Participants Total
Number as of January 1, 2024	36	6	17	3	-	-	15	77
New participants	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	10
Vested terminations	(4)	4	-	-	-	-	-	-
Retirements	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Disability	-	(1)	-	1	-	-	-	-
Deceased with beneficiary	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Deceased without beneficiary	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Due refunds	(1)	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Lump sum payoffs	(1)	-	-	-	-	-	(2)	(3)
Rehires/return to active	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Certain period expired	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Reclassifications	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Data corrections	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Number as of January 1, 2025	40	9	17	4	-	-	14	84

Wyoming Fire Chiefs' Association  
Torrington Fire Dept.  
June 11, 2025

<u>Your Name</u>	<u>Your Department</u>
Cody Scott	Torrington Fire
Luis Correa	Torrington Fire
Dennis Estes	Torrington Fire
John Koppen	Cheyenne Fire Rescue
Ian Kraft	WY SFMO
Dan Johnson	City of Laramie
Chris Kacher	Worland Fire District
Monica Colby	WY SFMO
Dennis McDonald	Afton Fire
Lanny Applegate	Lander Fire (Retired)
KEVIN BROWN	WHEATLAND FIRE
Nick Hudson	WY SFMO (Lander VFD)
David Swindell	Wyoming Retirement System
Jerod Delay	Wyoming State Forestry Division
Gene Wuestehoff	Newcastle
JR FOX	Campbell County Fire
Freel Baldwin	Kemmerer Fire
Eric Quinney	UINTA COUNTY FIRE