

**RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS FOR THE
COLORADO RIVER FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
SEPTEMBER 08, 2026
STATION 41
1850 RAILROAD AVE., RIFLE, CO 81650**

Chairperson Lambert called the regularly scheduled meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

Board Members Present:

Dick Miller, Secretary
Alan Lambert, President/Chairperson
Adria Milton-Baker, Treasurer
Paige Haderlie, Director (Via Video Conference)
Addy Bristol, Vice President

Others Present:

Leif Sackett, Fire Chief
Dino Ross, Legal Counsel (Via Video Conference)
Scott Van Slyke, EMS/Operations Division Chief
John Gredig, IT Director
Orrin Moon, Prevention Division Chief
PJ Tillman, Administrative Director (Via Video Conference)
Kevin Alvey, Battalion Chief (Via Video Conference)
Bill Smith, Lieutenant (Via Video Conference)
Eric Davis, Facilities Manager (Via Video Conference)
Jonathan Baker, Lieutenant (Via Video Conference)
Adam Olson, Lieutenant (Via Video Conference)
Colin Mason, Firefighter/Paramedic (Via Video Conference)
Kevin Carlson, Acting Battalion Chief

ADDITIONS/DELETIONS/CHANGES TO THE AGENDA:

None

CONSENT AGENDA:

- a. Minutes of July 8, 2026, Special Board Meeting
- b. Minutes of August 11, 2026, Regular Board Meeting
- c. August 2026 Financial Reports
- d. August 2026 Accounts Payable Reports
- e. August 2026 Lexipol Policy Review

Vice President Bristol moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Treasurer Milton- Baker seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

None.

BADGE PRESENTATION:

Chief Sackett formally recognized Lieutenant Matt Mikowski, Engineer Robert Fields, Firefighter Paramedic Joseph Billings, and Firefighter Paramedic Dasha Stowe with badge presentations and administration of their respective oaths of office.

LEGAL COUNSEL UPDATE:

Attorney Ross reported that work has continued with Chief Staff regarding the Lexipol policies approved under the consent agenda. No other significant legal matters were reported.

FIRE CHIEF REPORT:

Chief Sackett reviewed upcoming 2027 budget items, EMS rates, and financial software options. Preliminary 2027 property valuations were slightly higher than anticipated. The Board was also informed that Battalion Chief Carroll accepted a Division Chief of Training position with Aspen Fire Department, effective September 11, and was congratulated on her new opportunity.

NEW BUSINESS/ACTION ITEMS:

a. Fire Chief/Administration: 2027 Budget Planning & Preparation

Following discussion, a motion was made by Secretary Miller, and seconded by Treasurer Milton-Baker, to appoint Administrative Director Tillman as the 2027 Budget Officer. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Vice President Bristol, and seconded by Secretary Miller, to approve 2027 Budget Calendar as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

b. Fire Chief/Administration: Review and Discuss Current EMS Rates and Projections

Chief VanSlyke reviewed EMS transport costs, revenue, payer mix, and current rates. He presented potential rate increases of 20%, 30%, and 40%, with a 30% increase discussed as a potential option. He will bring a proposed rate increase and potential annual

adjustments tied to the Medicare ambulance inflation factor to the Board for consideration and approval at an upcoming meeting.

c. Administration/IT: Review of Various Vendors for Financial Software

IT Director Gredig presented options for replacing QuickBooks to improve budgeting and financial processes. The Board requested a more detailed presentation at the next meeting, including costs, number of users, and quantified staff time savings, before considering approval.

OLD BUSINESS/DISCUSSION ITEMS/FOLLOW-UP ITEMS:

a. Station 61 Renovation Update

Chief Sackett provided an update on the Station 61 renovation. The full permitting process has been completed, and the building slab and major concrete work are complete. Steel erection is scheduled to begin in September and October. The project remains on budget, with some inspection delays being addressed.

QUARTERLY GRANT TRACKER UPDATE:

None.

WILDLAND/SUPPORT SERVICES UPDATES:

Chief Sackett reported on behalf of Wildland & Support Services Division Chief Pigati that there has been significant wildland activity and deployments. Members advanced their qualifications, including Task Force Leader, Engine Boss, and Crew Boss. The Wildland Fire Module returned from the Gold Mountain Fire, and the fleet team continued returning apparatus to service.

EMS/OPERATIONS UPDATES:

EMS/Operations Division Chief Van Slyke reported continued call volume and commended crews for their dedication to the community. Battalion Chief Carroll's departure and contributions over the past 10 years were recognized. Battalion Chief Carlson and Engineer Lister will assume additional academy planning and instructional responsibilities, with recruit graduation scheduled for November 20, 2026.

PREVENTION UPDATES:

Prevention Division Chief Moon reported progress on school safety improvements, including a new fire alarm and planned sprinkler upgrades. Fire restrictions were reduced

to Stage 1. He also reported participation in community events and is preparing for the District's upcoming open house.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY/DATA UPDATES:

IT Director Gredig reported he has been busy updating program access and streamlining user logins across systems, including Lexipol and Vector Solutions. New academy members were also set up with required system access.

ADMINISTRATION/FINANCE UPDATES:

Chief Sackett reported that Administration Director Tillman was deployed to the Grasshopper Austin Narrows Complex Fire in Nevada. Administration Director Tillman and Administrative Support Assistant Valencia assisted with academy onboarding, including entering new recruits into required systems and reviewing benefits information. Administrative Support Assistant Valencia also continued updating apparatus records and license plates with Garfield County.

LOCAL 4951:

Local 4951's representative, Lieutenant Bill Smith, reported that the GIS project is awaiting analysis assignment, with additional data being compiled. The wage study is awaiting additional information from Eagle River Fire Protection District and Aspen Fire Department. The MDA Fill the Boot event was not held over Labor Day weekend, and efforts are underway to fill the MDA coordinator position. Local 4951 also acknowledged Chief Carroll's departure and her service in the office of secretary for the Local.

DEPARTMENT GOOD NEWS:

Chief Sackett shared a photo of a citizen that came into the station with Engineer Robert Fields and recognized him for the compassionate care he provided during the citizen's motorcycle accident response.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:

Secretary Miller shared that he recently celebrated their 90th birthday and expressed his intention to remain active for years to come.

Vice President Bristol expressed concerns regarding the use of AI in patient care reports and emphasized the importance of human oversight and maintaining the skill of writing patient care narratives.

Treasurer Milton-Baker expressed agreement with Vice President Bristol's concerns regarding the use of AI and thanked personnel for their continued dedication, time, and service to the community.

Director Haderlie apologized for being unable to attend in person and thanked the Board and staff for the opportunity to participate.

President Lambert encouraged the community to attend the September 19 open house and highlighted the opportunity to tour the station, see operations, and enjoy food and activities.

ADJOURNMENT:

With no other business coming before the Board, Chairperson Lambert adjourned the meeting at 7:46 p.m.

APPROVAL:

The foregoing Minutes, which have been approved by the affirmative majority vote of the Board of Directors of the Colorado River Fire Protection District, are a true and accurate record of the meeting held on the date stated above.

Date: 10-13-2026

Adria Milton-Baker

Date: 10-13-2026

Haderlie