



Fire District 1 **Steering Council Meeting**

7750 N. Wyandotte Way
Park City, KS 67147
316-660-3473

July 18, 2023

Fire District 1 Attendees: Fire Chief Doug Williams, Fire Marshal Brad Crisp, Deputy Chief Kevin Nelson, Deputy Chief Ray Hensley, Assistant County Counselor Kevin Stamper, Assistant County Manager Russell Leeds, and Janelle Davey Clerk

Fire District 1 Steering Council Attendees: Jim Benage /Bel Aire, Russ Lowen/Goddard, Susie Sutton/Haysville, Mike Strelow/Maize, Katie Bowen/Park City, Jeff Witherspoon/Bentley, Andy Hall/Spirit AeroSystems, Carl Amerine/Derby, Katy Jackman Tyndell/At Large Member from Unincorporated Areas

Special Guests: Peter Meitzner Chairman of Board of County Commissioner, Nicole Gibbs Director of Strategic Communications, and Karen Bailey Chief Deputy Clerk

I. Call to Order - Fire Chief Doug Williams called meeting to order at 1800

Fire Chief Williams begin with introductions of those from the Fire District 1 – Deputy Chief of Administration Kevin Nelson, County Counselor Kevin Stamper, Administrative Aide/Clerk Janelle Davey, Deputy Chief of Operations Ray Hensley, and Fire Marshal Brad Crisp. Also with us tonight is Assistant County Manager of Public Safety Rusty Leeds, the Chairman of the County Commission Pete Meitzner, Nicole Gibbs from Strategic Communications, and Karen Bailey from the County Clerk's Office.

Chief Williams addressing the Steering Council: We will let you introduce yourself because we're all in that stage of not knowing each other at this point. So started down here.

Carl Amerine – I'm one of the rural appointees I guess further from the rural area. I live down on 87th Street in Derby just outside of Derby. Half a mile. Well, I live halfway between Webb and Rock Road on a 87th Street. So if you're familiar with Derby, where the neighborhood Walmart is on Rock Road, just east of that, been there since 2015. I'm thankful to have this opportunity to serve the community and in whatever way I can.

Andy Hall – I'm with Spirit AeroSystems, I'm the Global Fire Protection Manager. I've been at Spirit about six years and I was excited when Tom appointed me to be here.

Katie Jackman Tyndale - Hi, everyone. I'm Katie Jackman Tyndale and I believe I'm one of the at large members for the unincorporated area. I wear many hats but I suppose I'm here as a member

of the executive committee for oil producers Inc. of Kansas. We have a handful of oil and gas leases which we operate in the unincorporated area of Sedgwick County, so thank you and glad to be here.

Jeff Weatherspoon - My name is Jeff Weatherspoon. I am retired. For 25 years I ran Consumer Credit Counseling Service in Wichita, it is a nonprofit that help people with financial issues. A lifelong resident of Wichita until recently, my wife and I just built a house in Bentley, Kansas. Thank you for the opportunity to serve on this committee.

Katie Bowen - I'm Katie Bowen, and I'm here with Park City. The mayor, I live in the neighborhood with the mayor and the fire chief. So I think that's kind of how I got picked to help do this. And I'm excited to see what it's all about.

Mike Strelow - I'm Mike Strelow. I live in Maize, Kansas and I have a couple businesses. I'm a developer, general contractor, and I don't know what I did to earn this position, but I'm here. So I'm excited to be a part and I'll do what I can to help.

Susie Sutton - I'm Suzy Sutton, I'm the representative for Haysville. I've lived in Haysville for about three years. When I moved there, I started to get involved with the city government and changes they were making, and overall just seeing how things went. And so I think they said, "Hey, we need somebody and you want to apply?" I must have been the only one who applied. So I live and work in Haysville.

Russ Lowen – My name is Russ Lowen, I am representing Goddard. I live in Wichita, but I have investment properties and businesses in Goddard or outside of there. All of our non-sleeping hours are there. We are pretty involved in the community, schools, city government, and so on. And I guess that's the price of attending all the city council meeting there. You want to go do something for us? But I'm truly happy to be here.

Jim Benage - I'm Jim Benage. I'm the Mayor of Bel Aire and I kind of drew the short straw as well. Look for other people that may have taken this on and nobody stepped up. So I said, Well, I'll do it. I am semi-retired, which I think is more of a joke than reality because I think it worked more now than I did when I had a real job.

Fire Chief introduces Chairman Peter Meitzner to speak.

Thanks Chief. Excuse my dress. This was kind of a last minute, I'm Pete Meitzner. Nice to see you all. I think I know you Andy little bit. The rest, obviously, I know Jim very well. So I'm on the County Commissions, five commissioners, we rotate the chair every year. So I'm the chair this year. And I'm really glad, I just wanted to come and say a couple of things, about three (3) things, actually. But we, we work through this to have a steering committee, evaluating how the county works. The Fire District is incredibly important. So we thought we ought to have a panel because none of the county commissioners lived in the fire district. But we're making a lot of decisions. So we just thought it was important to have a Steering Council, there's a lot of things coming up in the fire district. And, thought that it'd be really good. I just loved listening to your resumes real

quick. And it's a great cross section, and it covers the county and it covers, we wanted to make sure that that there were major industries were nominated as well. So that's where we've got, you've got a good staff here. These people know, they know fire business. So you will be making decisions that advise us as a commission. So your decisions are probably not, they're not final, we still have we still have a responsibility to approve it or not. But I would say if any of you had been on committees before, Jim probably knows this well, or steering committees, things like that. Please feel free to make your own decisions, your own input, your own recommendations, and you may have one that's unanimous, you may have one decision, that's five to four, or whatever. It doesn't matter. Don't think, if I could advise with chief, try to avoid, well what is the commission going to do? Just do what's right, do what you think as you all are evaluating. Sounds like that some have a finance background, some other things, you all got some big challenges ahead. And you just feel free, I'm glad in a way, I'm really glad that I'm the only commissioner here. Rusty and I, we talked about this earlier, so why don't I come as a chair and just re-emphasize that it's your steering committee to make recommendations. And the county commission may accept it. They may not. But it's helpful to know that we've had people that have looked into all these items very seriously. So with that, you can ask me any questions, but we just wanted to welcome you. Thank you on behalf of us, it's been a journey of a year to get this put together. It was intentional, that it didn't happen just overnight. It was intentional, to be the right thing, and fingers are crossed that it is the right thing. So with that, I just thank you, welcome. Again, if a commissioner shows up, we have a lot of like the planning commission. All y'all have planning commissions. Commissioners or council members traditionally do not show up at a planning or zoning case, because they are the final vote. So when a commissioner or a council member shows up, it can tend to make it either of you say, "Well, I kind of know her or him and I'm gonna weigh you know", whatever. But however, you can reach out right. During, you can reach out to a commissioner if you want to and say hey, we're talking about this. What do you think, but, but that's up to you. That's not so you should avoid commissioners trying to come in and say, "Hey, this is what we ought to do". It's your deal. Okay? So I hope you feel empowered. I'm glad, I'm getting a lot of positive head nods...Did I say the right thing Rusty? Mister Attorney, right? Okay, so if you've got any questions, be glad to but other than that, I'll let you get your meeting started. Thanks again. All right. Again, excuse the dress was kind of last minute, "hey why don't you come by and [indistinguishable]..."

Fire Chief - Okay, then the next thing we have on our agenda is the swearing in of the council members and Karen is here from the clerk's office to do that.

II. Swearing in of Council Members – Karen Bailey Chief Deputy Clerk

Hi, everybody. First, let me say thank you for taking this "high" paying job that you have for the fire district. You're worth a lot more than they're giving you, I'll tell you. I did put all the oaths in order because I've been peeking around seeing your names. So I'm going to give this to you, I will give the oaths. All I need for you to do is to agree by saying I do, or I swear, or I affirm, whichever one of those three makes you the happiest. I am not marrying anyone, that's someone else's job. And then I'm going to come by and collect these white pieces of paper because you're pre-oaths are on the inside. I only brought one (1) pen, one (1) pen. So I will ask that you stand to take the oath of office. This is a statutory item. Raise your right hand. And you don't have to repeat, you

just have to give me those words at the end, the two (2) words that you choose. I do solemnly swear that I will support the Constitution of the United States, and the Constitution of the State of Kansas, and faithfully discharge the duties of my office of Sedgwick County Fire District Number One Steering Council, so help me God. [The group acknowledged with, I Do.] Perfect. If you will sign. I only need the white paper back. I'll steal your paperclip so I can put them all together. Just sign where it's says right above your name.

Chairman Meitzner – I wanted to make sure that we all said I do.

III. KOMA Questions –

Chief Williams - Okay, the next thing we have on the agenda is to bring up the Kansas Open Meetings Act or any Kansas Open Records Act. This council does fall under all of those Kansas requirements. And as I say Kevin [Stamper] is here to answer any questions you have with that KOMA, we have the attorney here. We can send out, did you sent that out, Kevin [Stamper]? So is there any questions that anybody has on that? [Nothing was said, only heads nodded No.]

IV. Council Comments – Introductions

Chief Williams - We already kind of went through the introductions. So we kind of skipped to that.

V. SCFD General Information Presentation

So we have a short presentation. One of the things that we have, before we get into structure, bylaws, and meetings, we want to just give an overview. One of the things we have found out in the last couple of years, that has become real prevalent to us, is that a lot of people really don't understand how we operate or what we do. They just know that we have fire trucks and we show up. A lot of people, most people really don't have a good background of what we do and how we are staffed. So we're going to give you kind of a high angle, quick 10 minute briefing of what the district is and how we operate. Obviously, you will become much more versed in that over the next months. But we just want to get started –

This is station 32, which is where our administrative offices are. The Fire District, we're an all hazards response and fire protection. We provide EMS first response. We have hazardous materials teams. We do community relations, code enforcement, and community risk reduction. We do a lot of plans review for industries and then other emergency responses like rescues, general service calls that can be assistant citizen calls, or there's a myriad of different types of calls that we respond to. Our district is composed of nine (9) fire stations that were staffed 24 hours a day, seven (7) days a week, 365 days a year. We have all career firefighters, who are credentialed through the medical director as EMTs, advanced EMTs, or paramedics. The fire district includes 618 square miles and approximately 75,000 residents. We have 145 of what we call FTE's, which you'll hear a lot, full time equivalent employees [who are] in the operations, administration, fire prevention, and vehicle maintenance. In 2023, our operating budget is \$23,074,150 with nearly all of that revenue coming from property tax. We operate in what we call a static deployment model, which is a little bit different than EMS operates or some others.

What we call static deployment model is we cover area, we don't move vehicles around based on call volume. EMS does that but we don't. EMS will move the vehicle from here, to here, to here, to here, just because the computer says, the next call is more likely to be over here. In the fire department, we don't do that, we staff our entire area. We don't move a vehicle out here to Maize just because we think that Maize is gonna be where the next call is. We don't do that, we static deploy out of our nine (9) stations, so that we always have coverage to our whole district.

Station 31 is an Andale, they have nine (9) personnel assigned there. Our firefighters work 24/48 scheduled, they work 24 on and 48 off in a revolving three (3) day rotation. So when we say we have nine (9) personnel, it's a three (3) man shift that's at that station all the time. And out of station 31. They operate an engine and a brush truck, it is a pumper tanker engine.

Station 32, which is this one here in Park City, we have 18 assigned here. It's a five (5) man shift of firefighters plus we have a shift supervisor that responses out of here, which is one (1) of other three (3). This station has a technical rescue team, the State Task Force Five, our rescue team is part of State Task Force Five, which includes Hutch, Winfield, Great Bend, and Newton. We're all part of Task Force Five as an asset so we can respond out to assist them and they can respond to assist us depending on the needs. This station has what we call a Quint, which is the ladder truck. We have a Tender, a Heavy Rescue, and then we have a shift supervisor what we call Battalion Chief. That's what comes out of this station.

Carl Amerine - Question for you Chief.

Chief Williams – Yes, Sir.

Carl Amerine - When you're part of a state task force, I'm not too familiar. Does that mean the state pays for something as well or is this obligation you have to do, that comes out of your budget?

Chief Williams - The State Task Force was created, most of these were created after 911. I mean, in the 2005 range after some of that. What was created was the state, and it's not really the state, its more Homeland Security money. It's managed by the state, but it is federal Homeland Security money that is funneled down through the state. They buy us equipment and when they buy us [as well as] Hutch and Newton, we all get the equipment and then our obligation when we get that free equipment is to provide a regional response.

Carl Amerine – Okay.

Chief Williams - And we'll get into that here and say it again. Because when you get Station 33 in Maize, they have three (3) - five (5) person shifts, and they are the Hazardous Materials Response Team, which is Kansas State Fire Marshal Regional Response Team. They have an Engine, Squad, Tender, and then the Hazmat Truck. This Hazmat Truck, when it was purchased, it's probably 10 years old now. Is that right? Anyway, this truck was a \$500,000 truck was purchased by the Homeland Security funding. And you probably can't see the small letters in the white on it, but that's all the counties that it's supposed to respond to under that agreement, that we took when

we when we took that vehicle. We are certified through the State Fire Marshal's Office, there's seven (7) teams in the state of Kansas and we're the South Central Region 19 County that were certified to the State Fire Marshal. One of the little differences, the task force and rescue is more of a volunteer [force] but now with this one [Hazardous Material] actually, when we get deployed, our firefighters become state employees and they go on state payroll, state workers comp, and so it's a little bit more in depth with Hazmat and Rescue.

Station 34 is in Haysville, it's staffed similar to Station 32 here in Park City, they have three (3) five (5) people's shifts, and they had the other shifts supervisor down there. Haysville we run in North and South supervisions what we do because we are such a large geographical area we have to maintain the two supervisors to try to get one on scene quicker. So the other supervisor comes out of station #34. So they have the Quint truck which is ladder truck on the upper right [picture] and then they have their rescue squad, water tender, brush truck, and then the battalion chief.

Station 35 is in Goddard, they have another Quint ladder truck. You can't really see it because of the way that was built but it's a ladder truck like the other two [referring to the picture]. They have a Squad, Tender, Brush, and then they have a boat that stays at #35. Both of our rescue boats are out in the west part of the county because that's typically where we have most of our water incidents between Lake Afton and some of the different sand pits around the western part of the county. We have our most of our water assets, there's some here too [Station #32], we did not mention that with Heavy Rescue. The rescue boats are here too but then they're also out west where we have a lot more water problems.

Station 36 is down there by Spirit [AeroSystems], this is kind of a triangle down there between Wichita, Derby, and Spirit. It's got an Engine, Squad, Tender, and Brush. Same thing, five (5) personnel on all three (3) shifts.

Station 37 is in Bel Air and it [is] the same with five (5) per shift. But they have the Engine, Squad, Tender, and they have Mobile Air. The bottom left [referring to the picture] is our mobile air truck which carries portable air compressors and a lot of scene type of material that we need on structure fires. So this truck actually responds to almost all of our structure fires because they bring the breathing [compressors] to refill our breathing air cylinders and all our on-scene stuff. They carry our rehab equipment. And as I said, a lot of ventilation and a lot of structure fire type of equipment.

Station 38 is out there at right across from Crestview on 143rd Street. That is a three (3) persons per shift and nine (9) person station and they run an Engine company out of there and a Brush truck.

Station 39 is out at Garden Plain, and it is out on 263rd Street and between Pawnee and MacArthur. It is another three (3) man station and that's out there with a large water capacity Engine and Brush truck.

That is all nine (9) stations.

Chief Williams - Here's our budget that we deal with, it's got our 2023 adopted budget in the purple [referring to the picture] and the green [is] the projected 2024 budget. And as I mentioned earlier, and if you look in the kind of gray/purple, whatever color you want to call that, we have a \$23,074,000 budget this year. Next year it pops up a little bit because there's some contingency funds for fire station pay off and some different things in next year's budget that are special. So that jumps up a little bit. In our personnel, you'll see most fire departments, we're not any different. Most fire departments, a significant amount of our budget is personnel. I mean, it's just same way schools are, in any government agency where high cost personnel. So you know, I always tell people when they talk, we don't cover it far until you start talking personnel. Because it's 85% of our budget, approximately 80 - 85%. But the next year that contingency fund, we'll get Lindsay [Poe Rousseau] here who is our Chief Financial Officer. She can dig into that if you have more questions on our budget, she's really good at that.

We did a presentation to Maize, about three (3) months ago. The Mayor and the City Administrator asked for presentation, so we went and specifically talked about Maize. You can mirror this, the reason we haven't done it further is because you can mirror this to whichever [area such as] Bel Aire, Goddard, or Haysville. There are some variations but you can mirror very similar. What we did, for the city of Maize, we took their assessed value which is \$73 million and you put our 17.9 mill levy to it for 2022 and the property taxes that the fire district takes for the city limits of Maize was \$1.3 million. What we showed them was that the actual costs that we have invested in their community, and when we take the cost of just the \$93,000 is our annual heating, air, gas, electric, toilet paper, maintenance on the facility, mowing, and all that stuff. You know, when we built that building in 2007, it was a \$1.2 million building. One of the things to understand, when I mentioned earlier that we have 15 Personnel assigned there to cover the three (3) shifts 24/7. For us to have 15, we actually have to have 17 people hired to cover vacations and sick leave. That's what our estimate comes to, is it takes 17 to cover 15. So when we talk about how much it costs us in personnel for Maize, it's \$1.7 million in personnel. Now we're talking salary, we're talking retirement, we're talking insurance, total cost of an employee, it's not just their salary, but it is total what they cost us. Then apparatus out there is \$2.3 million. One of our discussions with Maize is that we take in \$1.3 million per year from your community, but we have \$1.7 million in personnel that are working there. So that doesn't count the station costs, the capital outlay, and the building of the fire trucks. So I think people don't understand the amount of investment that we have in each community and that's what we tried to show Maize, is what we do have invested there and what we're taking. That's what we kind of purvey, which is different for a community like Derby, or one of the communities, if they were going to take off and try to start their own fire department. As a group, they grossly benefit by the group, you know, everybody in the group paying in because the rural area, like some of you represent a rural area, and you pay taxes here and just as well as the city residents. So the combined allows us to make it cheaper than trying to go out on your own is the point we were trying to have with Maize.

Mike Strelow - How did that go?

Chief Williams – Very well. Because I don't think overall, most people understand how much money we have invested in personnel to manage 24 hour shift.

Mike Strelow - Well, and I didn't mention this earlier, but I sit on the planning commission at Maize as well. And with our previous and current growth and our projected growth. There's a lot of discussion about finding ways to reduce the mill levy and this was one of them. So that's why that was brought to your attention to discuss.

Chief Williams - Part of the thing that we showed in Maize, and the reason we bring this up, is one thing that's grossly different about us is we are like a school district in that we are very property tax driven and it's very easy to tell you what you cost. I mean, you we know that it costs each one of you 17.9 mills, to whatever your evaluation is, it is very simple. It's not that easy when you take Wichita and Derby. Because they can steal money out of other pots, as a municipality has a lot more resources. So the only way we can compare our cost to say Wichita's cost is through mill levy comparison. And that's what we've done with Wichita and with Derby and with all the other cities in the county is we put it back to the mill levy cost. One of the things like with Wichita fire, we know that at 2022, that they were 15.75 mills to run their fire department and that includes their CIP costs and the retirement plan. But one of the things that people don't understand is they've added 42 positions since then and they've also, under union contract, pay raises approximately 30% over three (3) years. So their payroll is going to go up what we estimate to be \$4 million. So if you take them and you add their cost of, and they also they're just getting right at 31 more people, so if you add the 73 positions plus the union contract, pay raise that they're getting, they're going to add probably five (5) mills to their budget. So they easily could be three (3) mills higher price than what the Fire District is. But they would they tend to hide those costs because they can, they can get money out of other pots. They could pay for their fire trucks out of a CIP fund, where we have to pay for ours out of a mill levy fund, but you know, they tend to break those costs out of their fire budget, where ours doesn't. I'm sorry, if I'm confusing you. But like a lot of cities, [they] will have an insurance pool that pays for all of the liability insurance for the fire department and workers comp for the fire people, and it doesn't show up into the fire budget line item. It comes down into insurance pool, and the same for improvement. They had the capital improvement pots that pay for the fire trucks, pay for the fire stations, and all that. And that doesn't show in their fire department line item where with us, everything we do shows because we're standalone agency.

Next, now when we go look at Derby. Derby is the same way when we did the mill levy equivalent on Derby, they're 22.61 mills. And one of the things they have is they have a sales tax, that it's either a quarter or a half percent sales tax that Derby has down there that pays into some of their fire department personnel and some of their fire department costs. But right now, Derby is 22.61 mills and 22 is our estimate. They have \$3 million worth of equipment on order that doesn't show in these costs and that's an Aerial Ladder Truck Engine also they've now ordered a Brush truck I believe, quarter million dollar Brush truck. So you know their costs are going up and they're trying to hire more people and I know they've done a pay study and they're going raise their pay. So, you know, that's what we were trying to convey to Maize, these other towns like Derby, like Wichita are actually more expensive than us but they dig out pots that don't show in that line item in their city budget.

Here is our different areas [referring to the picture on screen]. Each one of the shaded areas is different fire station response district. The white areas we don't cover, we don't cover the three (3) townships in the west part of the county that is Cheney, Ninnescah Township which is around Clearwater, obviously City of Wichita or City of Derby. In our responses in 2020 to 2022 they are going up. There are about 2,500 responses higher, we're going up 15 - 18% per year for whatever reason, but there's more and more increased need for service. This is continuing to go up. Most of it is medical.

Carl Amerine - Chief what major roads, like road accidents, like right out here in Park City. You guys if there's a road accident, you guys are covering that? Just have those are in the main area that you guys cover is your other high, I know there's a lot of accidents out here, but is there an area where you guys have like a lot of traffic accidents you respond to?

Chief Williams - We have a lot I think overall there's a lot of accidents, but the ones that make the news are generally 135, some on the Turnpike, obviously 254 east of Bel Aire is, I call that probably our worst right now, that you take 254 and Greenwich, Webb, or Rock, those intersections are notorious for fatality accidents. We get some out East on Kellogg, but they're and out on West 54 and on 96. I mean, they're all over the place. Well, we run a lot of minor ones that don't make the news too.

Katy Jackman Tyndell - Can I ask real quick... before 2020 was it, I mean, what were the numbers? Do you know the numbers before, I'm just wondering if the pandemic had anything to do with it. I mean, it change everything else. So I don't know.

Chief Williams - Actually the pandemic, correct me if I'm wrong, but the pandemic year we were actually slower. Because just I think people just weren't traveling. They want to get out and doing things and are numbers were actually lower.

Katy Jackman Tyndell - What I was wondering was 2019 closer to like the 2022?

Chief Williams - Yeah.

Andy Hall – Chief, in regards to your increased number of calls, are you seeing and it looks like a substantial amount of calls over the years. What did your manpower study look like in equipment studies? I'm sure you guys have run those. Is that something that you think you're keeping up with them? Are you at a point where you're seeing capital improvements? Over the next couple of years, increase manpower station, stuff like that with your call volume?

Chief Williams - Right now, we generally believe that we're set up pretty good to handle some increased call volume, there's some areas that could change that for us. But we really, the new stations that we've built since 2007, have done a lot better about repositioning us into the communities and historically, back in the 60's and 70's, they tended to just put you on map. You know, I mean, it was just all over, stations were ruled, they were just based on "X" miles apart. It really wasn't a good thought process. During that period of time, it was more about road miles.

Where in the early 2000's, we started focusing on more on our geographic and our demographic, and putting our stations where the numbers are and that's why you see, in most cases, our stations have been brought into the middle of the communities where our call volume is. That's helped us immensely but you know, we've beefed up some of our numbers in some of our stations. Generally, we believe that right now we can handle a substantial call increased probably the one station, that if the call volume went up a lot, we would probably have to add people would be Haysville. Because call volume and Station #34's is heavier than the other stations for different reasons. But most of the stations can handle a significant response increase right now and still be okay.

Andy Hall - One thing I noticed that you said, Derby had KPNF retirement. So y'all are on it?

Chief Williams – Yeah, we were on KPNF retirement.

Susie Sutton - City of Wichita does not, correct?

Chief Williams - They have their own pension system.

Mike Strelow - Do the surrounding towns have conversations with you on their growth patterns? So as they start to plan and review on developments, then do they start to involve you guys to determine whether they need to expand or add another facility?

Chief Williams - One of the things that we have with our community risk reduction or Fire Prevention Bureau is we do all the plans reviews for all the commercial buildings. So our plans review team are out in all those buildings and when they're being planned. They go through when you as a business owner, when you apply with MABCD or code department for your building permit, you pay a fee and any commercial building our plans review guys review it for fire code, all of the fire code and exits and all those types of things. So we see all of it. I mean, this stuff that's going on in Park City, for example. Amazon is an example, our Fire Prevention code review guys were brought in early on, they had to sign a nondisclosure or they promised they couldn't, all the super-secret. Even Spirit [AeroSystems], our folks go in there and they have to sign the privacy and the non-disclosure stuff. Because we know, so we're looking at everything commercial that is being done. Now residential, we're not quite as... Brad?

Chief Brad Crisp - Yeah, with the exception of we also participate on the planning of subdivision committees at the county wide level. So even though a project may only be applicable to Wichita, when there is one that's applicable to Goddard, or Maize, or whatever. We're at the table having those conversations about water distribution, or access via paved or asphalt roadways and what those things look like, as the line of influence moves in contracts and expands. We're at the table to have those discussions with the planners and the developers and everybody else that's there.

Carl Amerine - I know in the rural area, like where I live, we don't have any, you know, we're really close to Derby, we have no fire hydrants because we're in the county, right? Is there a lot of, basically what I'm wondering is, in the areas that are rural that aren't served by a hydrant? Do you guys do a study to make sure you have enough tankers to support a structural fire or something?

Chief Williams - Well, one of the things with our ISO ratings, we have what they call a waterfall rating, which is ISO tests us to see if we're capable of maintaining adequate fire flows into the rural areas with our tankers. So we get tested, we just went through that here last fall.

Carl Amerine - So if you guys have like an agreement, like can you use a Derby hydrant too? Okay, so you have, you can take water from them and sit in the driveway and take back to the station.

Chief Williams – Yes.

Susie Sutton - I guess piggyback off of his question, so like, I know the one development isn't that much like an Haysville, they're adding I think it's like 200 or something duplexes, but then they talked about adding another like 300 on the other side of town, so you would know about that? So then that in the planning, so you'd know, we need to add another two (2) or three (3) FTE's [full time equivalent employees]. So that's kind of like what he was asking. Or if they said, Oh, look, we're going to add this huge development not just commercial properties.

Chief Brad Crisp – Correct. Yeah, we're involved in the conversation whenever any kind of residential development is done even if it's single family dwellings or apartment complexes or duplexes. We're involved in those planning stages especially for egress and ingress, hydro distribution, water distribution, or we're involved in all of those discussions from the very beginning.

Andy Hall – In staying what the city's, Brad, like what he was saying about Maize, I guarantee that Maize is looking to grow and other places, you guys see that capital expansion as they continue?

Carl Amerine - Do you guys, like when mass casualty type of stuff, you know, like people want to put in like Amazon right? And there's it's like a something that might happen there with tour employees or something bad might happen. Do you guys plan for it? Or do you call on those mass casualty plans do you rely on supporting agencies to come help you or do you like the staff for mass casualties or...

Chief Williams - We don't staff for mass casualties. The only real staffing adjustments we make is if we see something that's out of the ordinary whether its weather related. I mean, you know if we see that it's going to be 105 for three (3) or four (4) days when it's dry and we suspect we're going to have problems we try to staff up. Same thing when it's extremely cold we might staff up just a lot of that. Some more because of the beating it puts on people when the weather extremes, if it's one of those tornado, well we know there's going to be that bad weather it's guaranteed of hitting we try to staff up.

Carl Amerine - But like Hartman was to have like a big concert, would you guys plan on having additional staff in case something happened or nothing like that?

Chief Williams – No.

Carl Amerine – Or a festival or something like that?

Chief Williams – The reason I’m laughing is we have an event this weekend actually. Yeah, we're haggling over the event at Lake Afton this weekend. Okay, so yeah, we are staffing up extra for that. It is a challenge.

Carl Amerine - Do they get like festival people do they focus on...

Chief Williams – Some do, this one's supposed to in retro. But generally the concerts, the events at say Intrust, there's a contract with EMS and we assist EMS at times with staffing. First aid, first response people at Intrust, Hartman is not quite that big, but yeah, we do staff up for some of that but generally we rely on ourselves. You talked about other agencies, you know if we have an event at Hartman or you know, we're going to have Wichita fire will assist us, possibly Newton, Valley Center fire I mean, we're going to pull in our aid agreements from a lot of surrounding departments if we have to and in the same token, you know, we get drug into their events also.

Jim Benage - So folks, I have 7:00 city council meeting I need to head out for, I think you kind of knew that. I want to cut out but I was looking at the people what days they said they could meet Wednesday's and Thursday's look like the more popular days. Those work for me. Tuesday never works for me. I always have city council meetings. Three (3) Tuesday's a month so consider that when do you want meet. Keep that in mind. I don't want to be selfish. It's what I have to do. But it's good discussion for a while already. So thank you.

Chief Williams - Questions? Okay, that was our general, I think that's the end. I say that you are going to, obviously you're going to become a lot more in depth of how we operate, what we do, and how we are financed and all that in the very near future. That is our general presentation. We do have a firefighters union that is, they're not recognized under PERA (Public Employees Relation Association). But they're active and they work with us and they talk with us on a regular basis. I know President Ingalls is sitting in the back of the room, so I thought I would introduce him if he wants to stand up.

Union President Casey Ingalls - Thank you all for being here. Appreciate it.

VI. Council discussion on structure, bylaws, meeting schedules

Chief Williams - The next discussion we have is over, we sent some bylaws out, to talk about and I don't know the best way to get into the bylaws.

Chief Kevin Nelson - Yeah, I just sent out the CFD 2 (Consolidated Fire District #2 Johnson County) bylaws to you as an example. Obviously, their charter is a little different. They are a true, they set budgets, and they basically act as a fire board. So you guys are not an advisory board but an advisory role to our fire board. So it's not exactly the same, but the topics that you guys can advise on is very broad. Pay, policies, station staffing all that stuff, no hiring - firing employee decisions.

Carl Amerine - Is it something that someone on the staff could help? Maybe draft some bylaws or something for us? So we just review and make edits? Or do we need to ask for a volunteer from the...

Kevin Stamper – We can go ahead and do that in the counselor's office. We didn't do it specifically for this meeting, because we want to take pulse of everybody who is here, determine what sorts of subjects they want included those based on the example that was provided. We didn't want to make any presumptions for you.

Andy Hall - I think the one you sent out from Johnson County Consolidated District looks pretty good. I would just refer back to you as the command staff. What do you expect us to take a look at? I mean, that's kind of how I looked at it and Steering Council today. Its fair, that's one of the things is, what do you expect from us, you know, on those bylaws, what are some topics that Rusty might want to see on there, what she wants to see, maybe present that back? And then at least give us a starting point? I don't know...

Katy Jackman Tyndell - I agree with that. I think we would defer to the counselor on how much legalese needs to be in there. I mean, this is pretty formal, like you said he was there for it. Yeah, it is. But I mean, when you get down to the meat of it, I think it's really page 10, the policies and roles of the board that we're after. And so yeah, if you guys want to come up with something a starting point, I think...

Susie Sutton - And then where are, our decision making limitations are lining out that we are advising or rules there?

Katy Jackman Tyndell - Well, I suppose we need some determination of... for making decisions, right? I mean, in terms of what policies we are going to move forward to with the Commission, how we're going to come to those decisions. So those seem to be, to me the most important the substance of our work, and the decision making process to include in that document.

Carl Amerine - So I think right now, there's obviously decisions that you all make at the command step, as you were saying, Andy, he has taken the command staff, and there's really no reason why this organization should change that, obviously. Right? But I know there's some things that you take to a higher echelon for approval. And I guess, I know, Commissioner Meitzner left, but I think that would be their intention when they came up with this steering council was that they would at least be a clearing house with people who are residents of the fire district to have a clearing house to say before they kind of went to the went to the fire board. I don't, again, I guess that's why I kind of look at is if it's hard for me to know what your guys' day to day operation on how you guys organized, what decisions you make in your level. That shouldn't change. But what goes to the commission. Apart from that, I guess we kind of are put in an advisory role in between there yet.

Andy Hall - I'd say just take a run at it Chief and have your group, take a look at it. Like Katie said, let us let us look at it. Put a pencil to it. I think it will be good.

Chief Williams - Yeah, well, one of the things that I know wasn't discussed, but one of the things that created this was, you know, a year ago, none of the five (5) Commissioners lived in the Fire District. None of the five of them pay fire district taxes. And that was kind of what spurred this on was that, you know, it's kind of that taxation without representation. That, they weren't affected by their decisions, good or bad. So I know that was some of what spurred on this. They wanted an advisory board. I mean, now right, Ryan Baty is Commissioner who does live in the fire district, and but the other four (4) do not. So that was kind of what spurred it on is that everything that we do in here with the Steering Council affects you and your community and whether it's your taxes or whether it's the response that we provide to you. It's all, you are all affected by the decisions we make. So...

Carl Amerine - Because I remember watching those commission meetings a year ago, like you were talking about, and I think it sounds like, strategically, in some future session of the board, some of the commissioners are feeling like a mill levy, might need to be increased, right? And or something right? Because I've heard them talk about, you guys, there was a lot of money that was paid off last year to give people raises and all that kind of stuff. Right? Which was due, but I think it came from contingency, right? Like, it wasn't like you increased your...

Chief Williams - No, we pay for that out of reserve funds.

Carl Amerine - The reserve fund that, I guess I use the wrong term, but the reserve fund, right. But I think the mill levy remained the same, correct?

Chief Williams - Correct.

Carl Amerine - And I think that's what I heard from the commission when I was watching the meeting, was that some of the Commissioners were like, you know, they don't live in the fire district yet. They're supposed to not only recommend but approve a mill levy increase, yet they don't live there. Right?

Chief Williams - Well, I think that's, I think you make generally accurate statement. But one of the things historically, is raising the mill levy has not been a subject of conversation. I mean, it's just generally when we talk, most Commissioners want to reduce the mill levy. So I don't think that, but we still have to make that balance between doing what we need to do and in maintaining a responsible mill levy also. But, I do think, as a general rule, most of the Commissioners want to reduce the mill levy. And if they can't, without being detrimental to our service.

Susie Sutton – But can you continue with the wages that they are or with that increase by using the reserve funds?

Chief Williams - One of the things that, what they did last year was strategic. We owed \$33.1 million in fire station debt to build some of these fire stations in Station 34 in Haysville, Station 36 down south east, were the primary ones. But we have \$3.1 million in debt, when we had \$10 million in the bank and reserve funds. So we were paying \$450 to \$500,000 a year in debt payment. So the decision was made to pay off, use our reserve funds, pay off our debt, and then

use that \$450 to \$500,000 that we were making a Fire Station payment, use that to go towards salaries. So it wasn't stealing to pay Paul it was clearing, some funding up to where we had more funds to work with was really what it was doing.

Mike Strelow - How long did it take to build that \$10 million? And I think we'd also probably need to see things like, what are your projections on upcoming equipment and cost of living increases and things like that. I think we have to see those things to help make better decisions.

Chief Williams - Yeah. And that's very, and we'll get Lindsay [Poe Rousseau] here because she's real good at projections. She's better than us, the County's Chief Financial Officer. She's, very good with the projections better than we are. But we have capital outlay right now, one of the things that this hit us in the last three (3) years, is right now we were ordering fire trucks, anywhere from two (2) to four (4) years out. So I mean, right now we have \$13 or \$14 million, of fire trucks on order, that are just on order. They'll be delivered over the next four (4) years. Well, you're right, that has to be figured in projections, and we have to pay for those. So, I mean, it is very important that, you're right, we're going to have to have all that laid on the table when we get there and you'll have to see all of that, as well as the budget. They can put in cost of personnel and project that out over the pay raises, with their step plans and what not they're in so all that can be shown and what that looks like over a five (5), six (6) to seven (7) year projection.

Susie Sutton - Are those timelines still good? I know with a lot of other large vehicles, those have been pushed out. Like years added.

Chief Williams - Well, that's what that is. Historically, we bought fire trucks this year, and we got them next year. But now instead of a 10 to 13 month delivery time for trucks we are three (3) or four (4) years.

Susie Sutton - So are the finances, the main focus concern, or there are other concerns that need to be addressed?

Chief Williams - I think that's critical because everything we do goes back finances, whether it's pay or whether it's fire trucks, hiring or... and everything we do goes back to that.

Jeff Witherspoon - Are there any plans to build any more stations?

Chief Williams - Not right now.

Jeff Witherspoon - Not right now. Even though the County is growing as much as it is?

Chief Williams - Not right now. We're still keeping our eye on it. But the Fire District itself isn't growing, the growth is within the same boundaries generally. You know, like Maize is growing, Park City is growing. I mean, we know that, we see that.

Andy Hall - You probably have room at some of your stations to add crews and add a truck.

Chief Williams – We do

Susie Sutton – I was going to ask you, most of the stations can accommodate more?

Chief Williams – Yes.

Carl Amerine - I don't want to sound selfish here, but I do know where I live in the southeast corner of the district. There's, you know, between the closest fire station and me, there's the City of Derby. Which I know you guys got lights, but it takes a while to get through Derby. But there is no... And I know there's housing developments coming in our area, but I think most of them are being annexed to Derby. From what I understand.

Chief Williams - Some can be.

Carl Amerine – But there is a lot of housing that's coming in.

Susie Sutton - Okay, question about that. If, if he was to have a house fire? Would the City of Derby really not respond?

Chief Williams - We have aid agreements with Derby and Wichita. That's something we'll dig more into, we didn't want to bring that out tonight. But we have those aid agreements with us, with Wichita, and with Derby. Just with us and Wichita, and I'm shooting from the hip because I don't exactly remember the number, but I think there's 3,500 calls a year that us and Wichita run simultaneous. So I mean, in Derby it's probably in the few hundreds that we interact with each other actively us in Derby and them out in the district. So I mean, there is a tremendous amount of interoperability between Derby fire and us, and us and Wichita fire.

Katy Jackman Tyndell - Is there a way to make that more efficient right now?

Chief Williams - I think there's ways we could do better. We're trying to do better. But once again, we're also dealing with different governmental agencies that generally sometimes get in the way of being better.

Katy Jackman Tyndell – Maybe we can help with that.

Susie Sutton - Because they've got the two stations and for you guys have to go through Derby to get there, just doesn't make sense.

Chief Williams – Right. Derby, they have an aid agreement where they respond out and help. Derby responds, mostly south and east and a little bit of west. What a lot of people don't understand like with us and Derby, we have Station #36, which is a five (5) person station that sits a half a mile from Derby City limits. They respond to every structure fire in Derby, all five (5) of them. So Derby...

Carl Amerine - I didn't know that.

Chief Williams - So Derby has got a third five (5) man station that they don't pay for.

Susie Sutton - I knew they responded to some.

Chief Williams - So but the flip side of that is, they respond out into areas like yours and help us. That is same way as Wichita. We'd have to pull the numbers, but it's like I said, it's a 3000 or 4000 calls a year that we interact with Wichita.

Susie Sutton - I knew they all would partner and help. But I... would they really like let his house burn to the ground until you guys could get there?

Chief Williams – No.

Carl Amerine - Yeah, I guess that was the only question I had, I was just wondering, was there ever... has there been studies or considerations for placing a station in the southeast portion of the district? Or it sounds like No, it's not, right?

Chief Williams – Not right now, due to the call volume. And we are relying on the aid agreement to the back and forth. I mean, those aid agreements save everybody a lot of money in Derby. Without Station #36 there to meet their NFPA, what we call the NFPA 1710 warning response requirement, they would have to have a third (3rd) station which would cost them \$1.8 million in personnel. So you know, we benefit from each other grossly.

Katy Jackman Tyndell - Do you know off the top of your head, how often those are in there? I mean, is it just in place? You don't have to renew them?

Chief Williams - We tinker with the one with Wichita probably the most, but the others are pretty set.

Mike Strelow - Is there a need for any sort of policy change with, I mean, the world is so different now from when I grew up on how staff deals with the public, how they address people, how they interact with people, are there things that we need to look at and consider, in that regard?

Chief Williams - We try to train our people in that. I mean, we spend a lot of effort into public relations mode. We're not perfect, but we definitely try. You know, we tend to live in this environment and one of the things that we live with is everything and every mistake we make is news. You know, if your school teachers are the same way as us or police officers. If you have one fireman that goes and does something bad, then its firefighter Joe did this, and it's on the news. Whereas, if you just worked as a plumber, it probably wouldn't have made the news. But, you know, if we have a bad event with any of our people that becomes big time news. And one of the things that I do believe in is there's a statistic, and it used to be 10 to one (1), that it takes 10 good events to make up for one (1) bad news story. So...

Susie Sutton - I think it's about 20 nowadays.

Chief Williams – Yeah, because of Facebook. But we definitely try to focus on, good interactions between our people, and not only on responses but whether they're in a grocery store, at a public event, or public relations, or school event. We really strive to have those good interactions.

Carl Amerine - Does the Fire District try to, for someone in the city, I'm in the rural guy, right. But for some of the cities that we support, do we try to make it like it's the hometown Fire Department, like we go to the schools, we do parades, all that kind of stuff?

Chief Williams - We do parades, we do allow ones to go football games, or it's the local way... We do that. One of the things that that we picked up from Johnson County actually, is we're starting to put the town names on our fire trucks, we just started that. So, I don't have that picture of that truck. But the first one that is brand new that we bought, that we just got three (3) months ago, has serving Goddard all down the side of it. So we're focusing on everything we ordered now is going to be more community driven. So I say we historically haven't thought of it that way. But especially with Maize, last year, when they started questioning some of what we were doing in our costs and their benefits. We started recognizing that we need to be a lot more transparent and talk to the communities a lot more.

Susie Sutton - Now I know the format has been... Let's see, I've been married 35 years. So for over 35 years, firemen working 24 hour shifts and then off 24 or 48, depending on the station... has that ever been looked at to see if that's the best format? Just because it's always been that way, because my father-in-law did that. Before I was married.

Chief Williams - We did, throughout the years, we've looked at some different schedules. There's some different models in between...

Susie Sutton - I don't need an answer right now. That's just when...

Chief Williams - There's different models, some departments are going to 48/96 which is becoming more popular, especially with people that commute. I mean, there's some areas that firemen can't afford to live, you know, like California and Las Vegas. They can't afford to live locally. So they commute. So if you go to 48/96, you cut in half your commute. There's a different style of 24/48. There's a 24 on, 24 off, three (3) rotations and then you get four (4) days off. There's a different model.

Susie Sutton - That's what he did.

Chief Williams - But historically, our personnel have, it's one of those, they're used to what they do and change (laughs) you know... but those guys in the back we'll probably comment on that better than me. If our staff personnel or if we needed to recruit, we look at notes on different... overall we haven't seen a reason. [He looks to the back of the room and asks] Have you guys seen a reason?

Union members - No Sir.

Susie Sutton – I just didn't know...Police who work, a lot of people work 12 hour shifts. They work nights, we work days... type thing.

Jeff Witherspoon - Are you having a hard time getting personnel? I know a lot of businesses are. Are you fighting the same issues?

Chief Williams – Yes.

Jeff Witherspoon - Interesting.

Chief Williams - We are, which is a fairly new phenomenon for us. I mean, we've only been seeing it for the last two... couple of years. We used to, we've had hundreds of people applying for 10 jobs. Now we have 20 people applying for 10 jobs. A lot of them aren't qualified. But it's not just us. Wichita's hiring, Newton's hiring, and Hutchinson's hiring. I mean, everybody's hiring and we're all robbing the same pool.

Carl Amerine – Is your training school? I'm sure the probes, right the probationed officer, the probies I guess, whatever. They're in house, but is the actual school, is it in house? Or do they go to a regional school that you send the Academy?

Chief Williams - No, we do a 12 week, we just started Monday, actually.

Carl Amerine – Here? Or someplace else?

Chief Williams - We do it at Station 37, it has a classroom. It's in Bel Aire. So we started five (5) Monday. They will be there for 12 weeks. Then they will finish and be out on the floor.

Carl Amerine – The fourth of...?

Chief Williams - I'm sorry... Out in stations.

Carl Amerine - Oh, okay. I thought you said the 4th...

Chief Williams – Fire lingo, I apologize.

Carl Amerine - Question I had, maybe this might be the counselor or not, but like for meeting agenda and all that kind of stuff. I know, it's an open meeting. So can we have, for a suggestion, to have meeting item to hear from, I guess you could say, hear from the public, but hear specifically from the union rep? Or is that something we could do or just plan for? Just hear from or give them an opportunity, I mean, they don't have to speak but if they want to, we just hear from them?

Chief Williams - Sure. And one of the things we need to do when we figure out your structure and bylaws is, you need to pick a chairperson, and the assistant chairperson or co-chair, whatever you

want to call it. That's coming to where I won't be the coordinator of the meeting. It'll be one of you.

Andy Hall - Is that tonight?

Chief Williams - Well, I think we'd need to get by-laws before we really set that.

Carl Amerine - Yeah, that might be a question of what roll, we need to take meeting minutes, do we need to have? [Chief Williams pointed at Janelle Davey] Oh, okay, so we don't need a secretary then.

Chief Williams - She's the clerk and she's recording.

Carl Amerine - Okay. So the roles are just like you said, we need a chair and a vice chair, really?

Andy Hall – What nights are you thinking meetings Chief?

Chief Williams – It's up to you.

Katy Jackman Tyndell – And how frequent?

Andy Hall - Well, I heard the mayor say he couldn't do Tuesdays...Tuesdays are tough for me.

Katy Jackman Tyndell – Wednesdays or Thursdays?

Chief Kevin Nelson - Most of the responses, Thursdays seem to be fairly popular. But I know, at least, was it you Mr. Lowen, you have a planning meeting or something on third Thursday or something like that? No? Okay so if that works, whatever works for you guys, we'll be here whenever.

Katy Jackman Tyndell - Well, perhaps it would be wise to meet monthly until we have a better game plan and the bylaws, chairperson and vice chair, and all that. Have our footing, I guess is what I'm trying to say. So third Thursday of the month?

Chief Williams – So you want the third Thursday?

Andy Hall – That works. Does that work for your staff?

Chief Williams – We will make it work. Do we need to do an official vote?

Katy Jackman Tyndell - Does that work for everybody?

Carl Amerine - It'll be the 17th would be the next one.

Katy Jackman Tyndell - The 17th of August.

Carl Amerine - Same time, same location.

Chief Williams – What time do you want to do?

Katy Jackman Tyndell - I think 6:00 works.

Susie Sutton – 6:30 would actually be better. I can push it but I'll try to be here. I might be a minute late. I'll try not.

Chief Williams – Does that mean 6:00 or...?

Susie Sutton – 6:00 we'll go with 6:00.

Chief Williams - Is there any information that you want? We have the aid agreements that you've asked me some about. Budgetary stuff. If there anything that you want for the next meeting, you can call or email us and actually we'll get you our business cards.

Carl Amerine - I think the only question I had was, I believe the budget for 2024 is being voted on the 23rd... I believe, August I think, right? And I guess, and I don't want to interject myself into something that shouldn't be... that we're too new to be an interjected. But if you guys at your level chief, if you think that there is a topic that we should be looking at, and at least advise the Commission on or the Fire Board, I mean, before the 23rd... we should probably have that discussion on the 17th. Because I read the budget book, I told, Chief Nelson that. I read it, I looked at it, I don't know but from my perspective, it looks like you've dotted your I's and crossed your T's. But I know it's written to be, you know, the best look forward. But if you tell us, hey, I really need you to zero in on this and let the Fire Board know, this is important. I guess, maybe at the next meeting, you can kind of do your foot stomp, like, pay attention to this, we need to, we need you to vote on something that you really support this and same thing for the Union, if maybe the Union has input as well.

Chief Williams - Okay. The two topics that are coming up tomorrow, actually. We have two (2) fire trucks. We have heavy rescue truck and a pumper. On tomorrow's meeting, which is about a \$3,000, excuse me, \$3 million combined purchases that's on the agenda tomorrow. But they won't be delivered for three (3) years. So they're a long ways out. But the other thing that we're talking about right now is, we're dealing with pay again. I mean, we're in a lot of pay discussions, and we'll have some more meetings tomorrow, and that'll come back up before the adoption of the budget later in August.

Carl Amerine - Because I did listen to the last Fire Board meeting. Was it a Fire Board? I don't... one of the Commissioners were talking about how they're, I guess, been working with staff about coming up with a pay plan. You know, we don't like to use the word fix, but a change to improve the pay plan, right? I guess that would be the topic would be is... is that something that we should at least talk about? And provide maybe our either support or not support by this, by the 23rd at this level? Or, or not? Or is it not going to be ready for primetime? You know, I don't know.

Chief Williams - It'll be ready for primetime by then because if it's adopted in the final budget, it'll be adopted in the final budget. So they will have to be vetted pretty good by then. But we're having meetings tomorrow to talk about it so I'll know more. After tomorrow, there's a couple of different pay plans out there that were looking at. So we'll know a lot more by the next meeting. So we can give you more input on that.

Katy Jackman Tyndell - Just a quick question. This is probably related to comment. But you know, if there is an urgent decision that needs to be made, or you need our advice on something... I saw some language in there about virtual meetings. But how we're supposed to have in-person meetings? I mean, are they allowed in an emergency, are we allowed to have...

Kevin Stamper – We can convene a special meeting of some sort whether that be virtual or in-person, in-person is always preferred. Because it gives the opportunity for public, media, or whoever to be here. It's harder to access virtual meetings. You can open it up but it's more difficult to do. So maybe the best procedure for something like that would be we can push informational emails to you all and ask you not to click “Reply All” or whatever. There's question to reply to Chief or Kevin or whatever. And we could, perhaps go ahead and facilitate that way.

Katy Jackman Tyndell - Correspond by email.

Chief Williams - Okay. We will get you all our information so that you can feel free to reach out to any of our staff as you so choose. Does anyone have anything else?

Carl Amerine – Do we have to vote to adjourn?

Kevin Stamper – Not tonight. Not until we have adopted bylaws yet.

Russ Lowen - I'm going to imagine this will be forthcoming information down the line. I'm a budget person... ones and zeros. They add up to what they add up. One thing that's been very helpful to me is a source and use. When it comes to budgets and financing, we get wrapped up in our lingo, mill levies, and where money comes from. You had a great example of how, Wichita... this pot, this pot, this pot, this pot, at my level, I break it down. Where's it coming from? Where's it going? Regardless of what we label it. Is our finance person going to be able to speak to that? Or do they deal in? Or is it still really down in the weeds and everything's really broken down?

Chief Williams - I think in our business. One thing that we are, as I mentioned earlier, we're very simple because ours comes 90% of our money comes from property tax, it is very, very simple. I mean, it's the mill levy, this is what you get. And this is where you spend. So I think it'll be pretty easy for you to understand and but like, say, we'll get her [Lindsay Poe Rousseau] here, and she can do a more deep dive and answer questions that I don't explain well. So, especially she's a lot better at projections, because she uses some projection figures, that the accountants and that type of use with our projected pay and percentage pay raises and percentage increases in and healthcare and some things that they work with, we don't deal with every day. So she'll be able to answer those questions.

Rusty Leeds – May I speak to that?

Chief Williams – Yeah.

Rusty Leeds - Lindsay, the CFO, she's been with the County for a number of years, and she's been the Chief Financial Officer for a number of years. She'll present information that you want to present in a way that's easy to understand, generally speaking, she'll go into the fund balance, the Fire District is a taxing entity unto itself. It's has a special fund. When he talks about reserves, that's really a fund balance. Cities like Wichita, the County, we have a fund balance that we maintain, generally, you might have a 20% percent fund balance. 20% of your annual spending you want to have that in reserve so that if something happens, you can cover two (2) to three (3) months' worth. So, she can tell you about the reserve, she can tell you about what the forecasted growth is, for the next five (5) to seven (7) years. Usually we do a five (5) year forecast. She can talk to you about forecasting. They've got a vehicle replacement plan. And whenever he talks about these vehicles that are in work, they have been forecast, he wouldn't be allowed to place that order and potentially encumbered those dollars unless we believe that the Fire District was healthy and they had the funding to purchase them and pay for those vehicles. So it's not something that a debt lingering that we, when the vehicles come, that we may not be able to pay for them. Their paid for before they come or we have funding to cover all of that. So she can go into all of the minute details. She can do it in a way that is easy to understand that she, she's fabulous the way she manages that.

Russ Lowen – Perfect.

Rusty Leeds - Would it be helpful as we draft by-laws, would it be helpful to maybe make a list of administratively how things will be managed? Like taking notes or agendas and where minutes are going to be posted for public review. It's kind of a laundry list of some of the processes so that you kind of have maybe a one page list of how things are going to be working and if you don't like it, tell us, and we'll change it. We'll shoot that to you for the next meeting.

[General Comments] - That will be great. That'd be awesome.

Carl Amerine - Because I think the chair is probably terrified to come up with the agenda, right, because of the meeting, open meeting act. That they can email each member individually saying, Hey, this is the agenda, do you have anything to add or...

Rusty Leeds - They can do that, or delegate it to the chief but you all should probably set the agenda. You want to see on a regular basis you know, budget update every meeting or, you know, you might want quarterly, some that kind of personnel updates. You have to think about what you want on Agenda.

Andy Hall – Thanks Chief.

Chief Williams – I personally want to thank all of you for coming. We know we know you're taking your time away from what's important to you. So your time is important to us and feel free to call

us, I'll give you I'll leave you my card that has my email and cell phone line. Obviously, all of you had contact with Kevin [Nelson]. But feel free to call or email anytime. We're certainly open to those conversations. You know, if you want to have a meeting in person or come in and visit, that's fine. I mean, we're open, we want to provide as much information as possible. That's our goal.

Carl Amerine - I guess, I just want one more thing to add. I guess is, what I'm hoping happens is clear, on the 17th of August, when we have our next meeting, if there is going to be a change, or I forget what you guys call it, but like, where the pay thing can be addressed, or something like that, basically what's going to go in the 23rd of August, like what the board's going to vote on. If we can at least get that presentation on the 17th, we can review it, and then at least put our blessing on it, that way on the 23rd, the Commission can see that... here's the baseline that we approved, and if any commissioner decides to modify that they do that at their own pleasure, which they can do, obviously, right? But at least we've reviewed whatever baseline you want to present to us. We've said as this body, yeah, we think this looks good.

Chief Williams - We can... Can we get you in and online now on the proposed budget [asking Kevin Nelson]?

Chief Nelson – Yeah.

Carl Amerine - Yeah, but I think you're going to change it. I guess my point is, I think there's going to be changes, right? With what's online.

Chief Williams - One of the things that is in governmental budgeting that is kind of a different beast than others, is when they propose a budget, publish it, and advertise it... they can reduce it, but they cannot increase it. So that \$27 million, bottom figure of ours, they can't increase it one penny unless they go back and readopted and republish it, and have more open meetings. So really, what goes on the 27th is they're not going to increase that budget. I mean, historically, that doesn't occur. I mean, because they would have to go through the whole process. They have to advertise it, in the paper for two (2) or three (3) different times, and have open meetings. There's a whole process they go through once they publish it. So there's a general, when they publish it, it doesn't get increased, now they can reduce it. So it's really, that figure is pretty set. One of the things that you're going to find out is there's contingency money in our budget, and whatever is done with pay will be done out of the contingency fund. They won't change the bottom dollar, it is going to be done out of contingencies.

Carl Amerine - Yeah, I guess the one thing I would ask would be, because I've watched the budget adoption from last year. I know, one (1) or two (2) Commissioners provided amendments at the last minute. And that got brought up last week or something, again, that what I would call hurt feelings, but there was there was like, this was last minute, let's not do this again. I guess my only input would be like, if you guys provide feedback to the staff who is doing this, and Commissioner or Commissioners, if they want, I think this council can sit there and listen to a presentation and make a vote on the 17th. If a Commissioner so chooses, or staff so chooses, to present something different than what's online, right? Because I think there is, like I said, I understand you can't

increase it because they approve that last two meetings go whatever. But I think there was a talk about moving money around to basically change the pay tables. Right?

Chief Williams - Yeah.

Carl Amerine - Which is what the comment was about, like, they don't want you to last minute again. Some of the Commissioners don't want to do last minute again.

Chief Williams - They want to see it before the meeting.

Carl Amerine - They want to see it before the meeting. I guess I would just recommend for us to be a functioning, not saying that we're going to be perfect the first time out, because it's going to be our second meeting. But I guess to at least get our foot out there.

Chief Williams - We should have it by the 17th because we're having that meeting tomorrow. And then there will probably some follow up meetings and the whole goal because of last year, the whole goal is to have this work. Everybody knows what it looks like before, before that budget hearing.

Carl Amerine – Perfect.

Chief Williams - I think that there's going to be a lot of meetings and a lot of discussion before the 17th. I don't think it will be surprised by then at all. Would you agree with that [looking at Rusty Leeds]?

Rusty Leeds - Yeah, I hope so.

Katy Jackman Tyndell - Just in terms of the bylaws or the draft bylaws. Are we planning on corresponding about that via email or/and adopting something prior to or is it something that we're going to get at the next meeting? And then we're coming back...

Kevin Stamper – We are going to try and work on that. My optimal solution B, go ahead and try and get a draft to Kevin [Nelson], let him distribute it. Make sure your thoughts are with him. We need to make some changes or whatever. Probably the preference would be to make changes by voting on it next meeting as opposed to having a complete set.

Chief Kevin Nelson - So basically send us the baseline and then after next meeting we either approve the baseline or provide the amendments and then approve the amended version next meeting. Next meeting is going to be a long one.

Carl Amerine - Okay. That's what I'm getting.

Chief Williams – We'll try to make it clean. We'll send it out and it's back and forth and try to get it so we don't have to beat it up too bad.

VII. Meeting Adjournment

Chief Williams – Well I guess we will adjourn then. Thank you all. If you want a tour of the administrative offices, we can give that a tour or a tour of the fun part of the fire station.

Meeting adjourned at 1930