



Fire District 1 **Steering Council Meeting**

7750 N. Wyandotte Way
Park City, KS 67147316-660-3473

June 04, 2026

Fire District 1 Attendees: Chief Doug Williams, Deputy Chief Kevin Nelson, and Clerk Janelle Davey

Fire District 1 Steering Council Expected Attendees: Kent Koehler/Bel Aire, Russ Lowen/Goddard, Susie Sutton/Haysville, **Vacant**/Maize, Katie Bowen/Park City, Jeff Witherspoon/Member at Large #2 SCAC, BJ Bryant/Member at Large #4 Aircraft Manufacturing, **Vacant**/Member at Large #1 Unincorporated Area, **Vacant**/Member at Large #3 Unincorporated Area

Overview of Discussions:

The Sedgwick County Fire District One Steering Council meeting was called to order with roll call and the Pledge of Allegiance. Vice Chairman Jeff Witherspoon asked for approval of previous meeting minutes which passed unanimously.

Kent Koehler suggested a consent agenda to streamline meetings.

Jeff Witherspoon and Kent Koehler were elected as chair and vice chair, respectively.

Chief Williams discussed the challenges of aid agreements with cities like Valley Center, Clearwater, and Cheney, emphasizing the need for mutual aid agreements over automatic ones.

The council debated compensation for firefighters. The discussion revolved around the feasibility of a mid-year pay raise, with Chief Williams agreeing to provide detailed budget numbers. The debate was about considering an 8% raise in January 2027 versus a percentage during mid-year 2026 then additional in January 2027 to keep pace with Wichita Fire. The importance of maintaining morale and retention through better benefits and physicals was highlighted.

The meeting concluded with a discussion on the strategic plan and employee feedback. The meeting discussed the participation rate in a vote, which increased from 75-80% to 95% by the six-month point.

The conversation also covered the challenges of transitioning from a 24-hour shift to a 40-hour week for training officers, the impact on training, and the potential benefits of a dedicated training officer.

The council considered the possibility of separating from Sedgwick County, with Commissioners Baty and Howell supportive. Legal and financial implications were noted, including the potential cost savings and the need for a trustee board.

The next meeting is scheduled for July 02, 2026

I. **Call to Order: Vice Chairman Jeff Witherspoon at 1759**

II. **Roll Call**

<u>Steering Council</u>	Roll Call
Jeff Witherspoon	Present
Katie Bowen	Present
BJ Bryant	Present
Russ Lowen	Present
Kent Koehler	Present
Susie Sutton	Present
<i>Vacant</i>	
<i>Vacant</i>	
<i>Vacant</i>	

III. Pledge of Allegiance

IV. **Approval of previous meeting minutes (April 02, 2026)**

Event:	Previous Meeting Minutes
Motion:	Kent Koehler
Second:	Katie Bowen
Jeff Witherspoon	Aye
Katie Bowen	Aye
BJ Bryant	Aye
Russ Lowen	Aye
Kent Koehler	Aye
Susie Sutton	Abstain
<i>Vacant</i>	
<i>Vacant</i>	
<i>Vacant</i>	

V. **Election of Officers**

Event:	Elect of Chairman – Jeff Witherspoon
Motion:	Russ Lowen

Second:	BJ Bryant
Jeff Witherspoon	Abstain
Katie Bowen	Aye
BJ Bryant	Aye
Russ Lowen	Aye
Kent Koehler	Aye
Susie Sutton	Aye
<i>Vacant</i>	
<i>Vacant</i>	
<i>Vacant</i>	

Event:	Elect of Vice Chairman – Kent Koehler
Motion:	BJ Bryant
Second:	Katie Bowen
Jeff Witherspoon	Aye
Katie Bowen	Aye
BJ Bryant	Aye
Russ Lowen	Aye
Kent Koehler	Abstain
Susie Sutton	Aye
<i>Vacant</i>	
<i>Vacant</i>	
<i>Vacant</i>	

VI. Council Member attendance at Department events

VII. Fire Chief Update

- i. Project for Aid Agreements/Consolidation of Fire District
- ii. Fire District Compensation
- iii. 2027 Budget Update
- iv. Fire District Strategic Plan – Planning Workshop #1

VI. Meeting Adjournment

Event:	Meeting Adjournment
Motion:	Kent Koehler

Second:	Susie Sutton
Jeff Witherspoon	Aye
Katie Bowen	Aye
BJ Bryant	Aye
Russ Lowen	Aye
Kent Koehler	Aye
Susie Sutton	Aye
<i>Vacant</i>	
<i>Vacant</i>	
<i>Vacant</i>	

Meeting adjourned at 1930