Fire District 1
Steering Council Meeting

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

October 01, 2026

Fire District 1 Attendees: Chief Doug Williams, Fire Marshal Brad Crisp, 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, Jacob Culy/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

Special Guests: Commissioner Ryan Baty

Overview of Discussions:

The Sedgwick County Fire District One Steering Council meeting was called to order by Chairman Jeff Witherspoon. Chairman Jeff Witherspoon asked for approval of previous meeting minutes to which the vote passed unanimously.

Commissioner Ryan Baty said Sedgwick County may seek state authority for an elected fire board; he discussed possible structures, timing, and whether voters or the county commission should decide; however, that remains to be determined. The Council asked how should the fire board be selected, and when should any change take effect? Commissioner Baty said the council's role is to represent fire district residents and inform policy; periodic communication with the fire board chair and public reporting were encouraged.

Commissioner Baty also discussed City and Township Aid Agreements. He said the agreements are intended to prioritize firefighter safety and clarify local departments' responsibilities before requesting aid. Valley Center is considering a sales-tax vote; a no vote would lead to negotiations with the fire district. Its possible entry could include a transition agreement, hiring firefighters, and a future station. Clearwater and Cheney were negotiating agreement language. Colwich and Mt. Hope had not finalized positions. Township aid extensions were discussed through year-end, subject to city agreements.

The council voted to support the training center at the South Oliver location at the increased estimated cost of about $5.2–$5.3 million.

Chief Williams provided updates of ongoing negotiations with Valley Center, Clearwater, Cheney, Colwich, and Mount Hope. Cities have been asked to consider mutual-aid agreements with staffing and incident-command expectations. Existing arrangements may expire if cities do not act by the stated deadline.

The group discussed unequal taxation and the effect of county crews responding to communities that do not pay equivalent fire-service taxes. Inadequate volunteer turnout can leave county stations empty or force on-duty crews to operate understaffed. Township contracts with local cities may create additional coverage and funding complications.

Chief Williams discussed that the department received a grant to establish baseline physicals for all firefighters and was considering how to administer future physicals. The strategic plan meeting was postponed while aid-agreement matters were addressed. The department reported that budget items, including pay raises and a training officer, had passed.

I. Call to Order: Chairman Jeff Weatherspoon at 1805

II. Roll Call

Steering Council	**Roll Call**
Jeff Witherspoon	Present
Katie Bowen	Present
BJ Bryant	Present
Russ Lowen	Arrived 1816
Kent Koehler	Present
Susie Sutton	Present
Jacob Culy	Present
Vacant	
Vacant	

III. Pledge of Allegiance

IV. Approval of previous meeting minutes

Event:	**Previous Meeting Minutes**
Motion:	Jacob Culy
Second:	Katie Bowen
Jeff Witherspoon	Aye
Katie Bowen	Aye

BJ Bryant	Aye
Russ Lowen	Absent
Kent Koehler	Aye
Susie Sutton	Aye
Jacob Culy	Aye
Vacant	
Vacant	

V. Q & A with Commissioner Baty

VI. Training Center Update: Council to take action as they deem appropriate

Motion: In Support of Completion of the Training Center at the Increased Cost at the South Oliver Location

Event:	**Support of Completion of Training Center at South Oliver**
Motion:	Kent Koehler
Second:	BJ Bryant
Jeff Witherspoon	Yes
Katie Bowen	Yes
BJ Bryant	Yes
Russ Lowen	Yes
Kent Koehler	Yes
Susie Sutton	Yes
Jacob Culy	Yes
Vacant	
Vacant	

VII. Fire Chief Update

i. Project for Aid Agreements/Consolidation of Fire District

1. Extension of Agreements

ii. 2027 Budget Update

1. SCFD was awarded the AFG grant for physicals

iii. Fire District Strategic Plan – Planning Workshop # 3

VIII. **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
Jacob Culy	Aye
Vacant	
Vacant	

Meeting adjourned at 1911