BENTON COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO. 2

REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

August 18, 2026

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chairperson Orth called the regular meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners of Benton County Fire District #2 meeting to order at 4:01 PM at 1304 Dale Avenue, Benton City, Washington.

THOSE PRESENT

Chairperson Orth, Commissioner Howell, Commissioner Rouse, Chief Bates, Asst Chief Dormaier, District Admin Wheeler.
Staff Members' Present: Captain Meyer, Captain McKenna, Lieutenant McGhan
Guests: Jeannie Howell, City of Benton City Representative Jerrod Miller

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA – *None*

PUBLIC COMMENT – *None.*

Financial Review – *Review of revenue and expenditures reports/vouchers presented for approval.*

CONSENT AGENDA
All matters listed within the Consent Agenda have been distributed to each member of the Board for reading and study. These matters are considered to be routine and will be considered or enacted by one motion of the Board with no separate discussion. However, if any member of the Board desires separate discussion on a specific item, that item may be removed from the Consent Agenda and placed on the Regular Agenda by request.

- Agenda: **Approve agenda dated August 18, 2026.**
- Minutes: **Approve minutes of the Regular Board Meeting dated August 4, 2026.**
- Payroll Vouchers *(Fund 6821)*
  - Approve **Direct Deposit in the amount of $ 97,781.24**
  - Approve **Payroll Vouchers in the amount of $ 61,585.66**
- Claim Vouchers *(Fund 6821)*
  - Approve **2026 Bill vouchers in the amount of $ 132,284.84**

Commissioner Howell moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. Commissioner Rouse seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

IMPORTANT DATES

- **09-08-2026, B2 Fire COMM Meeting, 4:00 PM, STA 210,Tuesday**
- **09-15-2026, B2 Fire COMM Meeting, 4:00 PM, STA 210,Tuesday**

CONFERENCES

- October 4-8, 2026, **Fire Admin Conference** (Suquamish, WA)
  - *Attending: Wheeler*
- October 21-24, 2026, **WFCA State Conference** (Spokane, WA)
  - *Attending: Orth, Howell, Rouse, Bates*
- March 3-5, 2027, **PNW Leadership Conference** (Portland, OR)
  - *Attending: Orth*

CORRESPONDENCE – *None.*

FINANCIALS *(Financial Officer)* – *None.*

BUDGET POSTION *as of 08/18/2026*

RESOLUTIONS/MOTIONS – *None.*

REPORTS

- Fire Chief Bates
  - Multiple mobilization (Mobe) fires continue across Washington and Oregon. An engine strike team and several overhead personnel from the region have been deployed in support of wildfire operations. E1254 is currently assigned to the Paradise Fire near Walla Walla with Captain Guerin and Firefighter Tupper. Lieutenant McGhan has returned from the Old Trail Fire near Spokane, and Captain Meyer has returned from an assignment near Clarkston.
  - The rescheduled National Night Out event was held on Saturday. District personnel participated in the event, including community activities and a water balloon competition with local youth.
  - Reserve medic unit M1223 has been returned to service after being utilized by Benton County Fire District 1. BC1 expressed appreciation for the District's assistance.
  - Progress continues on the regional radio project. Work with the radio work group is ongoing, and planning for system cutover is anticipated this fall as wildfire activity decreases. The project will provide a comprehensive communications plan, updated fleet map, and improved interoperability between law enforcement and fire agencies.
  - Chief Bates is working with Enduris to review District insurance coverage, verify current information, and identify potential cost savings. Discussions are also being held with regional partners regarding their experiences with other insurance providers.
  - Appreciation was expressed to District personnel for their continued efforts during a busy operational period. The District has responded to 922 calls year-to-date, including more than 170 calls during the previous month.
  - Chief Bates reported that a ladder truck from Pasco Fire Department is currently available through an auction ending September 1. Initial information indicates the apparatus is in good condition with current certifications. Further evaluation, including measurements and funding considerations, will be completed before bringing additional information to the Board. A special meeting may be required if action is needed before the next regular meeting.
- Asst Chief Dormaier/PIO
  - Assistant Chief Dormaier presented the Chief's Report in Chief Bates' absence.
  - Thirty-two volunteer applicants are currently in the onboarding process.
- Training Cpt. Kale Guerin – *None.*
- Safety Cpt. Mike Meyer, HSO
  - One new injury report was submitted for smoke exposure under a State Mobilization/L&I claim. The affected personnel member is currently on light duty.
- B2 Association – *None.*

CITY OF BENTON CITY – *Jerrod Miller provided an update on current city business and ongoing activities.*

NEW BUSINESS – *None.*

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – *None.*

BVFF

Temporary Convene for BVFF Pension Meeting (Agenda Closed to Public)

- Approval of New Incident Report Claims and BVFF Invoice Vouchers list dated 08/18/26. *(separate sheet)*

Chairperson Orth motion to approve BVFF new incident report claims and any Invoice Vouchers for payments. Commissioner Howell seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

Resume Regular Public Meeting

PERSONNEL – *None.*

AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING – *There were no agenda items to add to the next meeting.*

EXECUTIVE SESSION

- **Executive Session for Personnel Qualifications and/or Performance Review per RCW 42.30.110(1)(g)** (*Evaluate the qualifications of an applicant for public employment or review the performance of a public employee.)*

An Executive Session was called for 30 minutes to review qualifications for public employment position. The session opened at 4:18 PM in the Chief's Office. At 4:48 PM, the session was extended ten (10) minutes. At 4:58 PM, the session was extended ten (10) minutes. The executive session closed at 5:07 PM, and the Regular Meeting reconvened.

- ACTION: No Action

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Howell moved that the meeting be adjourned. Commissioner Rouse seconded. There being no further business, Commissioner Howell adjourned the meeting at 5:09 PM.

Attested on September 8, 2026.

/s/ Caren Wheeler
CAREN WHEELER, DISTRICT SECRETARY

BARRY G. ORTH, CHAIRPERSON

/s/ Larry Howell
LARRY D. HOWELL, COMMISSIONER

/s/ Steve Rouse
LEWIS S. ROUSE, COMMISSIONER