



BENTON COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO. 2 REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

August 4, 2026

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Commissioner Howell called the regular meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners of Benton County Fire District #2 meeting to order at 4:00 PM at 1304 Dale Avenue, Benton City, Washington.

THOSE PRESENT

Commissioner Howell, Commissioner Rouse, Chief Bates, Asst Chief Dormaier, District Admin Wheeler.

Staff Members' Present: Captain Meyer

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 4, 2026.**
- Minutes: **Approve minutes of the Regular Board Meeting dated July 21, 2026.**
- Claim Vouchers (Fund 6821)
 - **Approve Bill vouchers in the amount of \$ 50,105.45**

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

IMPORTANT DATES

- **08-18-2026, B2 Fire COMM Meeting, 4:00 PM, STA 210, Tuesday**
- **09-08-2026, 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)

General Fund 6821	\$464,747.91
EMS Fund 6828	\$2,159,945.50
Reserve Fund 6826	\$75,119.91
Total General Funds	\$2,699,813.32
Bond Fund 6822	\$99,027.82
Total ALL Funds	\$2,798,841.14

District Financial Report as of 06/30/26



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BUDGET POSTION *as of 08/04/2026*

RESOLUTIONS/MOTIONS – *None.*

REPORTS

- Fire Chief Bates
 - Repairs to the HVAC system at Station 210 have been completed. The remaining HVAC units within the facility were also serviced. Insurance was contacted regarding potential coverage; however, the claim was denied as the failure was determined to be the result of normal wear and tear, which is excluded under the District's policy. Chief Bates noted that the denial letter and applicable policy provisions are available for Board review.
 - Multiple mobilization (Mobe) fires continue throughout the state. Engine strike teams and overhead personnel from the region have been deployed in support of wildfire suppression efforts. E1254 is currently assigned to the Sinlahekin Fire with Firefighters Strasser and Munn, along with Captain Guerin serving as a Strike Team Leader (STL) Trainee. Lieutenant McGhan is assigned to the Airway Heights Fire as a Strike Team Leader, and Captain Meyer recently returned from the Railroad Fire, where he served as a Safety Officer Trainee.
 - The National Night Out event scheduled in Benton City was canceled due to poor air quality conditions.
 - The District's dozer and disc attachment have both been returned to service and are fully operational.
 - Benton County Fire District 1 is currently utilizing reserve medic unit M1223 while one of their units undergoes repairs. The unit is expected to be returned by the end of the week, pending successful completion of repairs.
- Asst Chief Dormaier/PIO
 - Thirty-two volunteer applicants are currently in the onboarding process. Three separate onboarding groups are planned prior to September 3.
 - A \$50,000 grant request has been submitted to assist with personnel-related expenses, including PPE and structural turnout gear needed for incoming members.
 - The Les Schwab grant opportunity has opened and is being reviewed for potential application.
- Training Cpt. Kale Guerin – *None.*
- Safety Cpt. Mike Meyer, HSO – One volunteer injury was reported. A BVFF claim was submitted.
- 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 – *None.*

PERSONNEL – *None.*

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION – *Request Executive Session at Next Meeting (08/18/26) for Personnel Review.*



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ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Rouse moved that the meeting be adjourned. Commissioner Howell seconded. There being no further business, Commissioner Howell adjourned the meeting at 4:22 PM.

Attested on August 18, 2026.

/s/ Caren Wheeler

CAREN WHEELER, DISTRICT SECRETARY

/s/ Barry Orth

BARRY G. ORTH, CHAIRPERSON

/s/ Larry Howell

LARRY D. HOWELL, COMMISSIONER

/s/ Steve Rouse

LEWIS S. ROUSE, COMMISSIONER