Teton County Fire Protection District

P.O. Box 474

911 N. Hwy 33

September 22, 2026- Driggs Fire Station, as well as Teleconferenced via Zoom

In Attendance:

Jason Letham, Fire Commissioner

Bob Foster, Fire Commissioner

Erin Borbet, Fire Commissioner

Bart Birch – Legal Council

Mike Maltaverne-Fire Chief

Mariana O'Neill -CFO

Meeting began @ 1607 hours

Commissioner Letham called the meeting to order.

Minutes: The minutes from August were not presented.

Claims: Commissioner Letham asked for any questions or comments on the claims presented for the period **of August 2026.**

No comments or questions were asked.

Commissioner Foster made a motion to approve the claims as presented.

Commissioner Borbet seconded the motion.

Commissioner Letham asked for all in favor. All replied "aye", and the claims were approved as presented.

Budget Statement:

Commissioner Letham asked for any questions or comments on the August Budget Statement presented**.**

No comments or questions were asked.

Commissioner Foster made a motion to approve the Budget Statement as presented.

Commissioner Borbet seconded the motion.

Commissioner Letham asked for all in favor. All replied “aye”, and the Budget Statement was approved as presented.

Wildland Engine:

Chief Maltaverne presented a proposal to purchase a new Type 4 wildland fire engine for $579,852 using impact fees as per CIP, explaining that it would be built to CAL FIRE specifications and primarily stationed at Station 2 in Victor. The vehicle would enhance the department's capacity to respond to wildland urban interface areas and could be used for winter weather events and medical emergencies. The board approved the purchase, with Chief noting that the manufacturer's new business model allows for faster delivery of pre-built apparatus rather than custom-built vehicles.

Commissioner Foster made a motion to approve the purchase of the Wildland Engine with True North Emergency Equipment

Commissioner Borbet seconded the motion.

Commissioner Letham asked for all in favor. All replied “aye”, and the motion was passed.

Dispatch Study RFP

Chief Maltaverne discussed the need for a dispatch study and expressed frustration with the current county dispatch system, describing it as "unacceptable" and noting that the fire department is often treated as an afterthought. He explained that while sheriff is requesting the cities to contribute to dispatch costs, the county has been resistant to a consolidation study. He emphasized that the study would be valuable for improving dispatch operations and would provide objective recommendations, though he acknowledged the sheriff's department may not be motivated to implement changes without community pressure. Chief Maltaverne discussed a comprehensive operational assessment of Teton County's 911 dispatch center that is being developed with an advisory committee. The study would analyze staffing, budget, call processing procedures, training programs, and emergency medical and fire dispatching procedures, with potential consolidation with Madison County also under consideration. Chief

requested the Commission make a motion directing staff to advertise a request for proposals, which would then be vetted through the advisory committee before hiring a contractor for the analysis.

Commissioner Foster made a motion to advertise the proposal to gather information about cost of the RFP.

Commissioner Borbet seconded the motion.

Commissioner Letham asked for all in favor. All replied "aye", and the motion was passed.

Wildfire Mitigation Coordinator Funding Agreement

Chief Maltaverne presented a financial agreement with the Teton Valley Fire Action Community team, where they will provide $50,000 annually for three years to fund a third of the wages for a new wildfire mitigation coordinator. The position will be posted until September 30th, with a hiring panel including members from TV Fact and The Nature Conservancy expected to make a job offer in early November. The new coordinator will handle wildfire mitigation efforts, grant funding, community outreach, and will also support the wildland program, generating regional attention for this innovative approach to addressing wildfire issues.

Mil Levi Increase Discussion

Chief and the Commissioners discussed the current staffing challenges of the fire department, including the need for additional firefighters and the impact of high leave accrual rates on staffing capacity. Chief expressed concerns about the timing and political climate for asking voters to approve a mill levy increase to fund 10 additional employees at a cost of $1.1 million annually. He acknowledged the department's strong financial management over the past 18-19 years without increasing taxes but indicated that more work needs to be done to address leave policies and operational efficiency before pursuing a mill levy increase.

Chief's Report

Chief Maltaverne provided an update on current and upcoming projects, including three vehicle orders, an urban renewal agreement with Victor, and ongoing work on policy and procedure manuals. He highlighted challenges related to rapid growth in the county, including increased demand for fire services and the need to address fire pond issues due to access problems and evolving state regulations. He also mentioned upcoming personnel changes, including promotions and new hires, as well as the need to start negotiating a new CBA contract soon.

Other:

Move the Commission meeting scheduled for October 27th to 2 p.m., to accommodate the wellness screening.

Commissioner Letham made a motion to adjourn at 1815 hours.

Commissioner Foster seconded the motion.

Commissioner Letham asked for all in favor. All replied "aye", and the Board of Fire Commissioners were adjourned.