

Regular Meeting of Pinetop Fire Board

May 18, 2026

Pinetop Fire District Station 12

Video & Conference Available

1845 S. Pine Lake Rd, Pinetop AZ 85935

Call the meeting to Order: John Rowlinson called the meeting to order at 5:01 pm

Roll Call of Board Members, Present - John Rowlinson, Edith Webber, Steve Voldal, Marcus Harding.

Administration Attending: Chief Jim Morgan, Asst Chief Richard Wallace, Brenda Tranchina HR consultant, were virtual. Attorney Thomas Montoya, Karen Robbins, Gabe Buldra- JVG, and Battalion Chief Ben Altop were present.

1. Call the Public

None

Consent Agenda Board Business

The items on the consent agenda are considered routine and will be adopted in one motion unless a board member, staff, or member of the public in the audience requests, before the vote on the motion, to have the item considered separately. If any item is removed from the Consent Agenda, the Board Chairman will indicate when it will be discussed in the regular agenda.

Approval of meeting minutes for April 2026

Approval of Warrants paid April 2026

Motion to approve the consent agenda as presented by Marcus Harding. Edi Webber seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously 4-0.

IV. Board Business

1. Discussion/Consideration/Possible Approval re: Presentation and approval of April 2026 financial reports

Gabe Buldra from JVG is here to present the financial reports.
All reports are included in the board Packet.

Navajo County Revenue for April is under budget by \$1,000,631 timing of collection.

Non-Levy Revenue is over budget by \$59,653.

Interest income is over budget by \$61,810.

Wildland Fire income is under \$129,298 due to timing of invoice payments.

Total Expenses for April are over budget by \$63,969.

Travel and Training were almost \$21,841 over budget due to state land expenses.

Grant Expenses were \$51,550 under budget.

Personnel expenses were over budget due to timing of overtime and holiday expenses.

Buildings and Land are 8,806 under budget due to building and grounds maintenance.

Year to date Revenue was over budget by \$713,512-

Property tax Revenue is under budget by \$815,280.

Wildland Fire Income is over by \$1,473,027.

Interest income is over budget by \$386,961.

Ambulance Revenue is under budget by \$208,792 Ambulance revenue is looking up.

Year to date expense is over budget by \$742,370 driven by wildland wages and wildland overtime.

Total Cash less the bond is \$1,883,813 down from \$1,047,287 from this time last year. Ninety-two percent of the budget has been spent thus far.

Percentage was 80% personnel, 12% ops 5% admin and 3% communications.

Please refer to the board reports, any questions or concerns should be directed to Gabe Buldra or Sara Simonton, from the James Vincent Group.

Gabe from JVG provided an overview of the budget planning process and schedule for FY027. Documents included in the packet.

There was some discussion about the new budget and costs, and it was decided to have a special budget meeting in the coming week.

Chief Morgan; DFFM is also behind on paying a mitigation grant. \$180,000.00 extension on grant – behind on process. Healthcare costs, ½ million dollar increase we have two other vendors, and we are looking for best pricing. It will still be over the price from last year, but we are looking at best option.

Steve Voldal made the motion to accept the April 2026 financial reports as presented. Seconded by Marcus Harding. Motion passed unanimously 4-0.

2. **Discussion/Consideration; Appointment of applicant to fill vacant board position.**

Chief Morgan: we received one board letter of interest for current the board vacancy. Remember we have at least 90 days to select a member. One board member expressed concern that there may be a conflict of interest concerning the applicant- We will add the applicant to the next board meeting to see if there is a conflict of interest. We would also like to interview her in person. The matter will be tabled until the next board meeting so the applicant can be present for interview. Chief Morgan reminded the board that we need to make sure the board members can fill out oath of office so they can do their training in order.

No board action currently.

3. **Discussion/Consideration; Current Fire Chief Morgan's contract and Grant Writing Agreement regarding grants awarded under current contract and transition to Grant Writing Agreement**

Vote to go into Executive Session at 520pm for legal advice pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.03 (A)(3) regarding the Fire Chief's Employment contract and for instructions to legal counsel pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.03(A)(4) regarding the Fire Chief's Employment Contract.

John Rowlinson made a motion to enter Executive Session for legal consultation. Those attending will be Karen Robbins for minutes, Thomas Montoya Attorney, Brenda Tranchina HR, Gabe Buldra JVG, Josh Livermore, and the Board Members. Seconded by Marcus Harding. Motion carried 4-0.

Enter back into Public Session at 6:24pm
Chairman Rowlinson: we will table number 3.3 for further review and consideration, discussion, and review until the next meeting when we are afforded additional information.

4. **Discussion/Consideration/Possible Approval re: Discussion Consideration and possible Approval re: Fire Chief's Hiring process**

5. Return to public Session 6:24pm

Discussion/Consideration/Possible Approval re: Discussion Consideration and possible Approval re: Fire Chief's Hiring process

Steve Voldal made the motion to approve the revised contract for Josh Livermore with start date May 25, 2026, adding additional modifications as discussed in executive session. Seconded by Marcus Harding. Motion passed unanimously 4-0

V. Summary of Current Events

Fire Chief Report – Chief Morgan, since the report was made our fuels mod went to the seven cabins fire in New Mexico.

Chair Report; Area will be in Stage 1 at 6 am tomorrow. Close calls are already in the area. Let us all be safe out there.

VI. Announcements.

If anyone has anything for the agenda, please send your request to Chairman Rowlinson or Chief Josh Livermore.

AFDA, AFCA summer conference meeting in Glendale in July – as always contact Richard Wallace for Reservations.

Continued from last meeting, Charles Rose can possibly report on the slash piles out at Buck Springs Resort.

Special Board Budget Meeting May 26, 2026, at 5 pm

The next Regular Board Meeting is June 15, 2026

Meeting adjourned at 6:27pm

Respectfully Submitted

Karen Robbins