

SOUTH WALTON FIRE DISTRICT

911 North County Highway 393, Santa Rosa Beach, Florida 32459

"Prompt, Competent, Caring Response in Time of Need"



The Board of Fire Commissioners of the South Walton Fire District will hold a regular meeting on **August 12, 2024, at 4:00 p.m.** on the third floor of the South Walton Fire District Logistics Building.

The agenda will include, but not be limited to the following:

Special Presentation:

Service Acknowledgement

Ryan H. Crawford, Fire Chief

- I. Call to Order
- II. Public Comment*
- III. Approval of Minutes
Regular Board Meeting: 07.08.2024
- IV. Secretary/Treasurer's Report
- V. Attorney's Report
Trademark Update
Title Insurance Claim Update
- VI. Chief's Report
- VII. Committee Reports
- VIII. Unfinished/Old Business
- IX. New Business
Board Action Item: Capital Purchase Request – Braun Chief XL Ambulance
Daniel LaTour, Assistant Chief

Board Action Item: Land Transfer Agreement RE: Watersound Fire Station
Ryan H. Crawford, Fire Chief
- X. Public Comment*
- XI. Adjournment

***Note:** Persons who wish to be placed on the agenda must contact the Administrative Assistant within five days of any meeting and provide the name of the person who will be speaking and the subject to be addressed. If a person decides to appeal any decision made by the Board of Fire Commissioners of the South Walton Fire District concerning any matter considered at such meeting or hearing, he or she will need a record of the proceedings and that, for such purpose, may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

SOUTH WALTON FIRE DISTRICT BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS

Meeting Minutes – August 12, 2024

PENDING APPROVAL

Commissioners Present: David A. C. Bailey, Brian Christenson, Charlotte Flynt, Mark Foley, Maurice Gilbert, Roger Hall, Mike Stange

Commissioners Absent: None

Call to Order: 4:00 p.m.

Special Presentation: Chief Crawford presented a plaque to Patrick McCorry in appreciation for his dedicated support of SWFD's Peer Support Program including Employee Behavioral Health and Resiliency from 2021 to 2024.

Public Comment: None

Commissioner Gilbert announced that a quorum was present.

On a motion duly made by Commissioner Christenson and seconded by Commissioner Bailey, the Board unanimously approved the minutes of the July 8, 2024, Board of Fire Commissioners' regular meeting.

Secretary/Treasurer's Report: Commissioner Flynt read the June 2024 cash report into the record.

Attorney's Report: Attorney Youell reported she received a response from Old Republic National Title Insurance Company after being notified of a Notice of Title Defect for SWFD's Geronimo Street property. Claim number ORT396635 has been assigned. Attorney Youell will inform the board of any progress.

Attorney Youell also reported that she awaits a response from the trademark attorney before submitting a packet to the US Trademark Office.

On a motion duly made by Commissioner Christenson and seconded by Commissioner Bailey, the Board unanimously approved Attorney Youell's July 2024 billing statement.

Fire Chief's Report:

Chief Crawford reviewed the Emergency Response Activity Report which included Beach Safety Responses.

SWFD's Beach Safety Division completed the final Junior Lifeguard session on July 25, 2024. SWFD is very proud of the Junior Lifeguard program and its impact on the area's youth.

On August 3, 2024, SWFD hosted the annual Emerald Coast Junior Lifeguard Competition in Miramar Beach. Junior Lifeguard participants from Destin and South Walton competed in numerous lifeguard events. Overall Cumulative Totals – Destin Beach Safety - 778 points to SWFD - 734 points.

Chief Crawford announced that Firefighter Tommy Thompson retired at the end of July after serving nearly 40 years in the fire service with the last 25 at South Walton Fire District.

On July 31, 2024, Chief Crawford attended Midway Fire District's "Change of Command" ceremony as Fire Chief Jonathan Kanzigg retired and ceremoniously passed command to Deputy Chief Shannon Stone.

On August 9, 2024, SWFD hosted an "Own Your Story" course taught by SWFD PIO McClintock. This course was one of the first of its kind to be held in Northwest Florida.

SWFD received the American Heart Association's Mission Lifeline EMS Silver Award. This award recognizes agencies that have demonstrated annual compliance of 75% or greater on all required measures while highlighting agencies that use evidence-based treatment guidelines to improve patient care and outcomes. The program focuses on transforming healthcare quality by connecting heart attack and stroke care components into a seamlessly integrated care system. Chief Crawford stated that this award reflects the care provided by SWFD's firefighters, SWFD's EMS Division leadership, and area healthcare partners. A copy of the award was included in the board packet.

Chief Crawford reported that SWFD has identified and registered 88 Automatic External Defibrillators and certified 703 CPR or First Aid students since the beginning of 2024.

In July, Chief Crawford attended the Southeastern Association of Fire Chiefs' Conference in Atlanta and the Florida Fire Chiefs' Association Executive Development Conference in Tampa. After serving the past five years as the FFCA's NWFL Regional Director, Chief Crawford was sworn in as the 2nd Vice President of the FFCA.

Chief Crawford met with Ascension Sacred Heart on the Emerald Coast CEO/President Trey Abshier on July 31, 2024. This was a productive introductory meeting, and they have committed to meeting regularly to address the growing healthcare needs of the community.

Chief Crawford recognized Chris Chase as the Firefighter of the 2nd Quarter. Firefighter Chase was nominated by his peers for outstanding support of new firefighters, providing them with mentorship and training, and consistently demonstrating his ability, patience, and compassion for patient care.

Staff continue to work with WCSO leadership and Walton County's 911 Coordinator to finalize a draft for a Memorandum of Understanding concerning 911 call intake processing. The proposed changes will allow all 911 calls originating in South Walton to ring at both PSAP locations (WCSO and SWFD) simultaneously activating response resources more efficiently.

As part of the Walton County Sheriff's effort to procure a proprietary county-wide radio system for public safety, they have been working with a consultant to identify possible locations for radio tower sites to build out necessary infrastructure. One of the potential locations identified is behind SWFD's Fire Station 4 on Mack Bayou Road. SWFD staff has had preliminary discussions with state land management officials and Florida Forestry regarding the possibility of restructuring the existing 50-year state land lease to include an allowance for a radio tower to be erected on the parcel. Staff anticipates a formal proposal to be presented to the Fire Board soon.

Several SWFD staff members traveled to Ten-8 Fire and Safety Equipment in Bradenton, Florida to conduct a final inspection of SWFD's new engine. Delivery of this engine will be followed by SWFD Fleet Division's final up-fitting before placing it in service.

SWFD received delivery of a Crestline Ford ambulance ordered in April 2022. This ambulance replaces SWFD's 2016 Ford Transit Van primarily utilized for inter-facility transports.

On August 8, 2024, Division Chief Stone and Lieutenant Powell were deployed as Strike Team Leaders and Aid in Lafayette County, Florida. Their mission was to command a structural task force of engines providing localized fire protection for flooded areas following impacts from Hurricane Debby.

For the 17th year, SWFD has promoted the Drive Safely campaign to remind motorists of the presence of children along roadways and their return to school. Firefighters are scheduled to campaign along roadways adjacent to local school zones welcoming children back from summer break.

Human Resource Manager Lois LaBarreare will be attending the Florida Human Resources Conference in Orlando August 27th – 30th.

Chief Crawford presented PIO McClintock with a 2nd place state photography award on behalf of the Division Director of the Florida State Fire Marshal's Office.

Chief Crawford shared a few upcoming events:

- September 7, 2024 - 9/11 memorial stair climb at Edgewater Beach Resort in Panama City Beach at 9 a.m.
- September 11, 2024 – SWFD's 3.43-mile run/walk along Hwy 331. The run/walk event will begin and end at Pilcher Park at 8:15 a.m.

Letters received from citizens and visitors recognizing District employees for their compassion and professionalism in their time of need were included in the board packet.

SWFD's Administrative Offices will be closed on September 2, 2024, in observance of Labor Day.

Chief Crawford reminded the board that SWFD's Proposed Budget Public Workshop is scheduled for Thursday, September 5, 2024, at 2 pm.

The next regularly scheduled Board of Fire Commissioners' meeting is scheduled for September 10, 2024, at 4 p.m. in SWFD's Logistics Building Board Room with a First Public Hearing at 5:01 p.m.

Committee Reports: None

Unfinished/Old Business: None

New Business: Assistant Chief LaTour presented a Board Action where Staff recommended Fire Board approval to accept an Equipment Proposal for purchasing one Braun Chief XL ambulance. If approved, staff will request funds be budgeted in the fiscal year 2026/2027 capital budget.

On a motion duly made by Commissioner Christenson and seconded by Commissioner Flynt, the Board unanimously approved the purchase of one Braun Chief XL ambulance to be budgeted in the fiscal year 2026/2027 capital budget.

Fire Chief Crawford presented a Board Action where Staff recommended the Board accept the proposed Land Transfer Agreement with St. Joe Company for SWFD's Station 6 - Watersound and authorize the Chairman to execute the agreement and any closing documents.

On a motion duly made by Commissioner Flynt and seconded by Commissioner Christenson, the Board unanimously approved the Chairman to execute the proposed Land Transfer Agreement with St. Joe Company for SWFD's Station 6 -Watersound and any associated closing documents.

Public Comment: Members of the public were invited to comment. There was no public comment.

Adjourned: The meeting adjourned at 4:39 p.m.