



# UTAH STATE FIRE CHIEF'S ASSOCIATION

January 19, 2022  
Winter Business Meeting

## **In Attendance:**

Aaron Brems	Derek Maxfield	Mat Doshier
Aaron Byington	Derek Tolamn	Michael Hill
Andrew Engemann	Dustin Dern	Mike Dunn
Andrew Siebach	Eric Hales	Mike Mathieu
Bart Vawdrey	Fred Johnson	Mike Phillips
Blaine Coombs	Garrett Nielsen	Mike Young
Bob Sullivan	Greg Stewart	Murl Rawlins
Bob Zanetti	Greg Goldman	Nate Thompson
Brad Hannig	Jake Beck	Patrick Carlson
Brad Wardle	James Ealey	Paul Erickson
Brandon Thueson	Jason Earl	Paul Sullivan
Brent Jarvis	Jason Provost	Peter Emery
Brett Ostler	Jay Downs	Riley Pilgrim
Brett Pierson	Jay Ziolkowski	Robert Pitcher
Brian Patten	Jeff Bassett	Robert Stanley
Britt Clark	Jeremiah Jones	Rod "Hoss" Tomkinson
Bruce Cline	Jeremy Craft	Ron Hammer
Chad Pascua	Jeremy Raymond	Ron Morris
Chase Gustman	Jim Jones	Roney Ketts
Chet Barnes	Joe Hamblin	Rudy Sandoval
Chris Dawson	Joe Decker	Ryan McConaghie
Chris Rieffer	Joe Treadwell	Scott McClaughry
Chris Trevino	John Evans	Scott Miller
Clinton Miner	Justin Snyder	Scott Peacock
Corey Barton	Justin Whatcott	Shad Hatfield
Coty Chadburn	Katie Ricks	Shaun Hirst
Craig Golden	Kenny Johnson	Steve Lutz
Craig Northup	Kevin Gilden	Steve Pearson
Dan Walton	Kevin Hold	Ted Black
Dane Stone	Kevin Ward	Theron Williams
David Gallegos	Kurtis Park	Tim Robinson
Darren Imlay	Lon Myers	Tom Kuhlmann
Dave Etter	Marc McElreath	Tony Clinger
Dave Marscella	Marc Sanderson	Wade Reynolds
Dave Powers	Mark Becraft	Wade Snyder
Dave Vickers	Martha Ellis	Warren Findley
David Wade	Matt Evans	

## **Welcome**

- Call to order at 9:00 a.m.
- Introduction of Executive Committee & Guests

## **Posting of Colors by the St. George Fire Department Honor Guard**

### **Minutes Approval**

- September 8, 2021

Mark Becraft moved to approve the minutes from the September 8, 2021 meeting

Jess Campbell seconded the motion

All voted in favor, none opposed

### **Financial Report**

- Brad Hannig thanked the sponsors for their support
- Most of the monies spent this past year was for travel to the Western FC Conference
- Included in the packet was the financial spreadsheet with a current balance of \$67,122.00, with the expenses of this event yet to be deducted

Ted Black moved to approve the financial report as presented

Greg Goldman seconded the motion

All voted in favor, none opposed

### **Committee and Board Member Reports**

- Legislative Report – Chief Craft
  - There are some issues that could have some major effects
  - HB16 allows the state to reimburse agencies on EMAC performance, up to 80% percent
  - HB23 is a first responder mental health services bill
    - This bill will allocate \$5,000,000 for funding, which is good for grants and will reach more departments
    - An issue it contains is that all first responder agencies must provide mental health resources to employees, their families, and all retirees of the agency
    - The State Chief's and the Legislative Committee favor this bill
  - HB61 changes the one year waiting period to 60 days
  - HB145 continue to work through this bill, not much is known at this time
    - This deals with the SLCo fire ordinance
  - SB45 Medical Cannabis Card
    - This controversial bill states that those with a card cannot be discriminated against
    - The State Chief's continue to monitor this bill
  - SB102 Wireless Communications used in motor vehicles
    - Continuing to monitor this bill
- Utah EMS Report – Guy Dansie – Absent, but sent report
  - Representative Johnson is working on bills for the recognition/authorization for ground ambulance providers to develop community para-medicine programs
  - Another bill will allow the Department of Health to share EMS data for traffic safety improvements with DBS
  - A final bill creates ongoing funding services that provide subsidized health insurance in rural counties for EMS and fire volunteers

- Senator Owens is working to restore the pre-COVID funding for EMS from the current \$2,000,000 to \$3,000,000 per year
  - A portion of this funds the bureau, most of it is used for rural ambulance providers
- The department of Health is proposing a building block to replace funding for the EMS database and crisis management system
  - The Health and Human Services Committee will review the funding proposal on January 31st and decide whether it is palatable
- Reminder that fiscal reports are all needed for the proposed ground ambulance rates and Medicaid needs all county or patient transport codes by the end of March for the assessment
  - Please work with billing agencies, or financial staff to complete this
  - Once complete, please send to Guy Dansie (gdansie@utah.gov).
- Mark Herrera is replacing Brett Cross as the EMS Program Editor for training, trauma, EMSE, and world EMS liaisons
- Communications Report – Chief Mathieu/Dave Edmonds, Director of UCA
  - With the new statewide radio system network, the biggest concern is long range planning
  - An inventory of your existing user equipment and whether it will work on the new system as migration takes place is a question all agencies should be addressing
    - Will equipment accommodate the new system, what amount of equipment in your possession will continue to work on the new system, and all aspects of a migration plan
  - The PSAC committee will be working with UCA to develop a migration plan for all agencies to better understand what to anticipate and prepare for as progression is made to this new radio system
  - Chief Mathieu noted that the old system is a proprietary system; only certain things will work on the old system, the new B25 Compliance system is more of an open architecture, allowing for multiple types of user equipment
    - The benefit to this is agencies have the choice of different types of user equipment to create competition amongst managers, this will hopefully drive prices down
    - This is an important point, agencies will have functional equipment that will work on the system regardless of the manner chosen
  - Another important element is the use of encryption
    - There are times where the need to keep conversations covert for the purposes of protecting information arise
    - One encryption key to remember is the fundamental use of encryption
      - The more you encrypt the more you lose interoperability
      - Multiple encryption keys add more cost
      - Remember when buying equipment, make sure that it is rightsized, only buy what you need to function properly, and not just buy it because it's available
      - Much work is being done collectively to make sure that user issues related to the fire service EMS are taken care of

- Dave Edmonds, Director of UCA
  - The radio system here in Utah is the most interoperable and one of the largest radio systems in the country
  - This public safety radio systems crosses every discipline- police, fire, EMS, federal, state, local
  - As it expands, moving to P25, it will continue to grow
  - In addition to having such a large, interoperable system, there is also the 911 side of the house that is co-located at UCA, most states don't do that
  - The current system is very large, 35,000 to 40,000 radios
  - The Utah legislature has prioritized public safety communications
    - There is a new NG911 system that is currently being put in all PSAPs throughout the state
    - This will allow more versatility that hasn't been seen before; receiving pictures of a scene, video, and eventually geospatial routing
    - Our system has the capabilities to function with all NG911 disciplines once the providers come
    - This is being fully paid for by the state of Utah
  - The migration begins in 2023
  - It is important that you understand if your radios can talk on our new system
    - Dave Edmonds pointed out that as the increment move from an analog to digital system takes place UCA will continue to do their best to communicate with agencies and send out information
  - Dave pointed out that the UCA website is very comprehensive about which radios will work and which radios will not work
    - In the corner of the main webpage there is a link to an application that will provide us information such as who you are, the agency you represent, and if you absolutely want to migrate to this new system
  - Getting to a point where interoperability is getting better, and this system is truly among the best out there,
- WFCIA/IAFC – Chief Miller, President WFCIA
  - Chief Miller gave an overview of what WFCIA provides members
    - Leadership representation on the IFC board and committees
    - Participates in the Congressional Fire Service Institute
    - Support passage of legislation and provides opportunities for a grassroots start on certain legislation
    - Representation on the Western Fire Chiefs Board and on the IFC committees, WFCIA represents at your State Chiefs Association
    - WFCIA provides services such as FireRescue GPO which is now part of Sourcewell
      - Sourcewell has over 400+ competitive purchase contracts on file for use by all agencies
      - Items available via contract include firefighter equipment, PPE, wireless voice and data services, fire apparatus, ambulances, fleet vehicles and products, public safety software, public safety communications technology hardware, public safety video surveillance, and body armor

- Looking to expand this year with additional public safety training and simulations equipment, critical care, resuscitation, and EMS equipment all with foreign contracts
    - If interested, contact Teila Leighton at WFCA 971-272-1987
  - Other services include; The Daily Dispatch, confidential executive recruitment services, internal fire chief;s program wherein a fully competent fire chief can be in place within 24 hours at a department in need on an interim basis, and continue work on strategies for investment into technologies
  - Wildfire Policy Committee is also a part of WFCA
    - The goal is to unify the wildfire problems initiatives within the Western Division
    - This coming year, states will be asked for their top initiatives for the first one to three years, for input on the strategic plan the WFCA is working on
  - Innovative approaches in training, leadership, and development, problem-solving, promoting solutions to current issues are all addressed at summits hosted throughout the year
    - The next one will be held in Sisters Oregon May 2022
  - The WFCA continues to support the Utah State Fire Chiefs Association, Chief Ward stressed how much the Western Fire Chiefs really influences the International Association of Fire Chiefs and supports great things in fire service across the country
  - Chief Josh Waldo from Bozeman, Montana will be announcing candidacy for the Second VP for the Board of Directors to the IFC
    - The IFC has offered a letter of support for Chief Josh Waldo for the candidacy for Second Vice President for the IFC
- State Fire Marshal's Report – Ted Black
  - Coy Porter has officially retired the 15th of this month (January), following a 44-year career in the fire service
  - The process for selection of a new Fire Marshal is in process and is done with the commissioner appointing a new Fire Marshal on the recommendation of the Fire Prevention Board, then approval by the Governor
  - With the changes made to how Utah Fire and Rescue was funded to ensure they had a guaranteed funding source, there were some unintended consequences; one of them was the elimination of the Standards and Training Council
    - Any questions relative to standards and training, curriculum, can now be brought to the Fire Prevention Board
    - The Hazardous Materials Advisory Council does still exist, but it hasn't had a lead function since that change, therefore it will be reviewed going forward
    - Another consequence was the elimination of the Certification Council, and with that bill changed the funding
      - The Certification Council has been operating for the last couple years as an ad hoc committee to the Board,

- The Certification Council was re-established at the last Fire Prevention Board meeting, and will function as it always has
  - The Fire Marshall's Office had record numbers in every category, the past year; training, inspections, testing, all aspects of the office exceeded any previous record
  - The License Plate Grant committee received grant applications from several fire departments
    - It is anticipated that there will be more money this year in the grant than has been in the past; ~\$45,000
    - The grant program primary purpose, by statute, is to fund the museum
  - HB39 is due to a single Engineer complaint regarding the need to have an engineer's stamp on all fire protections, fire sprinkler, and fire alarm system drawings
    - Language has been drafted clarifying that a certified technician by the National Institute of Certification in Engineering (NICE) has the authority to stamp or sign plans for submittal to agencies
    - The bill verbiage also clarifies that agencies have the authority to do a co-compliance plan review and co-compliance inspections
- Chief Ward introduced Brad Wardle, UFRA
  - Fire School is on with over 700 attendees this year
  - The Volunteer Fire Chiefs' luncheon will be scheduled possibly in March/April
- Fire Marshal's Association of Utah Report – Gerald Strebel
  - Reviewed the meetings held over the past year
- NFPA Report – Bob Sullivan , Broomfield, Colorado
  - Just a reminder that NFDA standards are written by our technical committees and those committees are made of experts in the field just like those in attendance
    - Therefore, if there is something in the standards that you don't like, you are all encouraged to get involved with the process
    - Anyone can get involved in the process by submitting comments or statements
    - Bob Sullivan stated that it is part of his job to help with that, if unsure what the process involves, give him a call
    - The standards are always changing, it is recommended to have someone within your department keep track of the changes/updates
    - Each of the standards has a document information page next to the home page for that standard, this is where you can sign up for alerts so that every time there is a proposal to change something on the standard, an email alert is generated
    - There is also a page on the website that outlines the whole standard process, step-by-step, issue-by-issue
    - Anyone interested in applying for one of the committees reach out to Bob and he can help
  - With regard to the Fire Marshal aspect, there are programs for enforcers; Fire Marshals, Fire Inspectors, etc.
    - Up to 80% of travel costs are covered

- Consolidation Project
  - Consolidating four standards into one, which is currently on track for 2024 publication
  - All the same information will be there, it will take time to revise and determine where the information best fits within the document
- Continuing 125th anniversary educational session will take place in Boston in June
- A monthly network newsletter, free to sign up
  - Offers many options to customize information to find what you are looking for
  - You will then receive a monthly email on the topic(s)/updates you chose
- New Community Risk Programs
  - Offers the ability to assist with data collection within your jurisdiction
- Fire Sprinkler Coalition – Don Buckley
  - Upcoming events were reviewed
  - Reminded attendees that a side-by-side trailer is still available to do many types of demonstrations with fire sprinklers
    - One item the FDA has is a virtual reality-type of demonstration
    - Working to obtain a grant in order for the state to obtain one of these for demonstrations
    - Participants are afforded a 360 degree immersion of a virtual house fire with and without sprinklers

### **Unfinished Business**

- EMAC Update – Assistant Chief Pilgrim/Chief Evans
  - A lot of all-hazard work has been taking place, especially at the EMAC Deployment level
  - Over the last four years, EMAC has been far more significant and more common than what has been seen in the past
  - This has been a big deal for departments, the state of Utah, and definitely for states receiving this help
  - In years past, it has been a finicky system as far as getting people deployed, how agencies and how resources were being sent out prior to the National Mutual Aid System (NMAS)
  - Work is being done to bolster and build up the all-hazardous response piece and work to find a way to put all these resources into a database, just as is done on the wildfire side
  - EMAC has been the system for all-hazards, NMAS is now the way to track resources and get them deployed on all-hazardous spaces
  - As a result of working closely with the State Chiefs and DEM, there will be a big push to get everything into the database
  - If an agency wants to go on an EMAC deployment, resources have got to be in there
  - A lot of training is coming in the next few months to educate everybody on how NMAS works and what is needed to keep it current and updated
  - Resource requests comes in through EMAC, and from NMAS qualified resources will be pulled

- Also put together is the Utah Mobilization Guide that recognizes EMAC deployments, not wildland specific
  - This guide is in a draft form currently to ensure it meets the intent of what EMAC, on the national level, is asking departments to do
  - That will be pushed out to this group and all state chiefs for feedback
  - The goal is to have this as the guiding document for EMAC deployments moving forward
- A lot of work, on the backend has taken place to make sure the right people and the right resources are going out under the right supervision
- A common concern has been the billing
  - Much of the breakdown is on the state DEM side due to limitations with staff and experience when a large amount of bills are submitted
  - This year, many improvements were made including the push for HB16 so DEM can frontload 80% of department costs
  - That results in departments not sitting on a lot of money and waiting for years to be reimbursed
  - Have already seen a huge improvement from years past, years of waiting monies from deployments should now be caught up and returned before this fiscal year ends
- Working on communication with this group and state chiefs has been the focus
- All the paperwork to date will now be online and done at the beginning of the season
  - The paperwork will have already been approved and accepted and all agencies need do is update costs, before deployment, the request to the state and all paperwork has been completed
  - All backfill is covered as well, therefore, it doesn't matter what positions go out, every position is covered at the agency's cost, the department just needs to supply supporting documentation
  - One thing that agencies must make sure is Taskforce Leaders are qualified resulting in being selective on who is being sent and to ensure resources are in good hands
- WL Fire Policy Group
  - A lot of initiatives being pushed from IAFC are new to us in Utah
  - The relationship with Western Chiefs has always been there, but we haven't always been as engaged as other states have been
  - Both the IAFC and WFC are pushing a lot of policy forward
  - Many states relying on their regular departments to pick up the WL firefighting slack
  - WFC want to collect the next 3-5-years of concerns so they can begin pushing at a higher level, this is a good opportunity at the national level not to have policy influence on legislation

- Volunteer Fire Chief Liaison Discussion and Nominations - Board Appointment
  - There are many combination and volunteer departments throughout the state and the goal is to have them engaged
  - It was suggested to appoint a Voluntary Fire Chief Liaison to the Executive Board in order to better represent those departments
  - The intent is to better foster the fellowship of the whole Utah Fire Service
  - Looking for nominations for the position of a Volunteer Fire Chief Liaison, that will be taken back to the Executive Board for further discussion
  - Nominees:
    - Brett Pierson
    - Jeff Barnes
    - Blair Westergaard
    - Rod Hammer
  
- FFSL Update and New Rate Discussion - Brett Ostler/Wade Snyder
  - Brett Ostler provided an overview of HB145
  - Working on HB145 looking to end the 50/50 cost share on Fire Warden and have them become a state employee
    - The second portion is asking FFSL to conduct a study on what wildland-urban interface is and how a fee could be assessed to those homes that are in the WUI
  - The Utah Wildfire Cooperative Advisory Council (UCAC) was formed to help guide the FFSL on rates
    - This was due to feedback from larger departments that the rates were not covering their true costs
    - The FFSL offered to look at their true costs and see where we could meet at through the FPS process, billing avenues, and see if we couldn't really help those career departments who help us a tremendous amount
    - Wade Snyder explained how regardless of the agency, if responding, they must be made whole at the end of the assignment
    - To date, a flat rate system was in place
    - Many of the larger departments have some advanced personnel in key positions as far as branch chiefs, logistics chiefs, medical unit leaders, etc.
    - The first goal is to maintain effective response to wildland fires with best value to Utah citizens
    - We all want to keep costs commensurate, because it could be your municipality, your fire district using an apparatus from somewhere else in the state in the future, and I'm sure all agencies want to make sure that that cost is appropriate and covers the cost of the responders
    - The second goal is to be ensure responders are financially made whole for their efforts
    - A third goal is to allow for responders at all levels to train and become qualified in experience-based qualifications
    - At the last UCAC meeting, Wade Snyder presented a calculator that one can plug in what an individual makes per hour, and it will accurately calculate what Firefighters cost per hour, and in an overtime situation
    - This was eye-opening, because in an overtime situation there is no longer a pay

- for base salaries and all that, therefore, a huge savings is realized
- With almost all firefighters overtime, the cost is actually less, this makes it easier to come up with a flat rate
  - So the overall goal is to utilize a fire business system to come up with custom rates, somehow average out overtime and standard time wherever it makes sense, resulting in one rate
  - Rates would be adjusted annually
  - Federal Partners are not willing to accept a backfill cost at a line item, we feel there is a way around this
  - Work will continue on what those costs really are, we need to make sure that no one is discouraged from participating
  - Encouraging individuals to advance their qualifications, get in the system, in order to be tracked properly and be effective at keeping these fires from becoming catastrophic

### **Good of the Order**

- Nothing

### **Presidents Message**

- Chief Ward reminded all attendees that their goal is to be a resource for all Chiefs and Officers for all training opportunities

### **Adjournment**