



# UTAH STATE FIRE CHIEF'S ASSOCIATION

September 7, 2022  
Fall Business Meeting

## **In Attendance:**

Dom Burchett, UFA	Jon Ritchie, Utah State Fire Marshal's Office
Dustin Dern, UFA	Lynn Schofield, Provo
Aaron Byington, Syracuse	Wade Snyder
Mark Becraft, North Davis	Greg Stewart, South Davis Metro
Terry Addison, SSL	Paul Sullivan, Weber
Mark Benavides, Clinton	Nate Thompson, Logan
Riley Pilgrim, UFA	Derek Tolman, South Weber
Patrick Carlson, Utah County	Rod Tomkinson, Logan
Britt Clark, Weber	David Wade, North View
Theron Williams, North Davis	Daniel Walton, Tooele
Chris Dawson, South Jordan	Keven Ward, Layton
Pete Emery, Park City	Bob Zanetti, Park City
Paul Erickson, Kaysville	Joseph Mittelman, Murray
Matt Evans, Bluffdale	Steve Olson, Murray
Matt Evans, Washington City	Gil Rodriguez, UFRA
John Evans, WVC	Marc McElreath, UFRA
Craig Golden, Roy City	Brad Wardle, UFRA
Eddie Hales, Spanish Fork	Rodger Hoffman, SSL
Dave Marsella, North Fork	Brian Patten, Lone Peak
Mike Mathieu, Ogden	Jake Beck, Lone Peak
Derek Maxfield, West Jordan	Dan Cazier, Washington City
Ryan McConaghie, Sandy	Daniel Gallegos, Hill AFB
James Miquel, Provo	Gerald Strebel, Sandy
Craig Northup, Woodland Hills	Clint Smith, Draper
David Olsen, Clinton	Jeremy Craft, Lehi
Mike Owens, Park City	Joseph Mittelman, Murray
Mike Phillips, Cedar City	
Brett Pierson, Kanab	

**Thank You to Sponsor:** Paul Davis for Breakfast

## Guests:

Dave Spatafore  
Ashley Spatafore  
Kenneth Bland, American Wood Council

## Welcome

- Chief Ward called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.
- Introduction of Executive Committee

## Minutes Approval

- May 11, 2022 Spring Business Meeting minutes

Joseph Mittelman motioned to approve the minutes from May 11, 2022

Craig Golden seconded the motion

All voted in favor, none opposed

## Financial Report – Brad Hannig

- Chief Hannig provided an update of finances for USFCA
  - The current balance is \$63,834
  - Much of this revenue is for the upcoming golf event for the National Fallen FF next Tuesday, 9/13
  - Upcoming expenditures are costs for this fall meeting and rooms for the Eboard to attend the WSFC Presidents Forum September 26-28 in Sisters Oregon

Mark Becraft motioned to approve the Financial Report as presented

Jim Miquel seconded the motion

All voted in favor, none opposed

## Legislative Update

- Lobbyists Dave and Ashley Spatafore provided a brief update
- Interims are taking place currently; meetings will begin 2-weeks from now
  - HB23Mental Health Requirements
    - Grant allocation period is open and will remain so until funding is no longer available
    - This is 1-time money and is earmarked to expand a current program or create a new one
    - The focus for this funding is for those agencies without a tax base
    - The program requirements are pretty open
      - There is a requirement to provide services for retirees for 3-years after separation
  - HB145 – Implementation and preparedness plan for the state
    - Part of the bill is studying the implementation of a plan for the state
    - Gathering of information is taking place now
    - Jamie Barnes hopes to have her team put something together with the local departments
  - Retirement HB12
    - This bill failed but has now been broadened with modifications to the retirement system
    - This will be expensive, especially if all systems are included
    - Costs are currently being analyzed
    - The larger systems, PD/Fire are looking at backfill from 2011-2019 using a weighted multiplier
      - Continuing to research if this is feasible for Tier 2 Public Safety
      - May look into extending the vesting period from 6 to 8-years to mitigate costs

- The Spatafore's are asking where the fire chiefs want to be
- Dave Spatafore stated that an option is for the fire chiefs to fill in the gap for Tier 2 employees hired between 2011 and 2019 once they get to a 20-year period and consider a change in vesting to reduce costs
- SB228 Health Information Sharing
  - This bill focuses mainly on law enforcement
  - This did not pass last year
  - This is basically a database for mental health issues for use during response with the goal to mitigate some of the poor outcomes when responders are not prepared
  - Talk to make this a voluntary system is also being considered
  - Work is being done to join the mental and medical health side to determine what this could look like
  - Dave Spatafore stated that some version of this bill will pass and will continue to evolve as experiences and events take place
- Ambulances
  - There is currently legislation in the works, but details are unknown
  - Behavioral Health transports want licensing, with the ultimate goal being Medicare and Medicaid
  - Need to watch how licensure will look and how it infringes on transports
- Medical Cannabis
  - No legislation yet, but this is a moving target
  - Please notify the Spatafore's if you see/hear anything

#### **Utah EMS Report – Guy Dansie**

- All EMS grants should be out for signature
  - Another \$250,000 grant funding is available, so more amendments are pending for a second round of grants
- National Registry of EMT's
  - The PM test is now scenario based, work will begin on changing the style of questions, just a heads-up
  - The National Registry pushed a measure to no longer require accreditation on PM programs
    - This motion was rescinded
- Funding
  - The Department of Health is working on an EMS Building Block Grant through the governor's budget
  - Also, discussions are taking place with legislators to restore the funding that was cut in half
  - Due to funding shortfall, looking at running a bill to earmark funding for a Critical Incident Stress Management Program
- Rule Changes
  - There is a new process to develop rules, there is a backlog due to the previous process
    - Requirements for training instructors
    - Data rule is changing to 1-week for submittal of PCR's

## **Communications Report – Mike Mathieu**

- **Fleet Mapping**
  - Adopting a mapping philosophy on the new radio system will change talk group use
  - There will be 5-10 talk groups that all fire/EMS agencies will use
  - Coordination on the 911 system will be necessary
  - This mapping is for efficient interoperability
  - Same as the encryption key principle; there is always a balancing of interoperability with privacy/encryption
- **Vendor Equipment Differentiation**
  - Harris, Erickson, and Motorola all discussed their radio features at the PSAP meeting
  - Chief Mathieu is stressing to all Fire Chief's, to not rely on UCA to determine which radio best fits your department
  - Not all radios are created equal, and it is up to you to determine what works for you
    - Be prepared to make an informed decision, do your homework, and make sure your equipment is what you want it to be
    - Audio quality is an aspect to pay attention to
    - You are welcome to attend when UCA has the vendors provide demos on equipment
  - UCA will be purchasing radios via a grant, they are not replacing Phase 2 compliant radios, the priority is for those who need radios the most, such as volunteer departments
    - Dave Spatafore stated that UCA has money from the legislature for radios
    - Representative Darrin Owens has gone after monies for radios, millions of dollars
    - It is important to talk to your representatives, there is a chance more funding can be appropriated and also an extension of eligibility criteria
    - It is up to \$2M currently
    - The Spatafore's will draft a letter from the State Chiefs
  - The intent is for full testing to take place in spring 2023 and activation of the system fall 2023
    - This is faster than the 1-year phase in, the system should be operational statewide in a 2-month period

## **State Fire Marshal's Report – Jon Ritchie**

- Legislative issue with amendments to the Aggravated Arson, also legislators are looking at fire department access and the narrowing of roads
- 2021 building and fire code adoptions will be taking place

## **Fire Marshal's Association of Utah Report – Don Buckley**

- The Winter Fire Conference is now Winter Fire Protection Institute
  - They are expanding what they do during the event which takes place January 15-18, 2023
  - There will now be 1 class for 3-days for fire protection review to allow for Fire Marshals to get their Fire Plans Examiners certified through ICC and prepare them for the test

- Fire Prevention Week
  - Layton Fire currently has the trailer for those wishing to utilize it

#### **UFRA – Brad Wardle**

- IFSTA Distributorship
  - Individuals are now able to purchase IFSTA books from UFRA for a discounted price, unsure of the discount currently
- UFRA is looking for instructors
- High-Rise Guideline
  - Work has been taking place for the past 6-7 months on the guideline
  - Will present what has been compiled thus far and discuss the next steps in preparation for Winter Fire School
  - Presented a PowerPoint for high rise/mid-rise emergency mitigation for feedback
  - The goal is for feedback from Incident Commanders to ensure the guideline is hitting the mark
- Designated Officer Program
  - There will be some changes, the program has grown over the recent years
  - Meetings are held regularly to update the application

#### **FFSL – Wade Snyder**

- Provided staffing update
- Helicopter Program
  - Looking to expand the program
  - Currently have 2 new ones, one with a tank, the other with a bucket
  - The helicopters are using Spanish Fork and Brigham City airports for home base
- Infrastructure Bill
  - Community Wildfire Defense Grant
  - There are 2 different items to apply for
    - CWPP Development, \$250,000 maximum per award with a 10% fund match
    - This can be used from the state level to all municipalities down to HOA's
    - The second is project implementation for projects within CWPP, up to \$10M with a 25% match for project and equipment needed to complete a project
  - All opportunities for funding are on the website

#### **NFFF Golf Tournament Update – Clint Smith**

- This will be held Tuesday 9/13
- Glenmoor Golf Course in South Jordan
- All vendors are set and have given great support
- This is a good opportunity for the State Chiefs to support the NFFF program and raise funds
- There will be 19 honorees during the tournament

#### **New Business**

- NFPA 1403 Update – Kevin Ward/Brad Wardle
  - This is actually a state law and has been so for 20-25 years
  - Due to some legal and criminal ramifications; the State Fire Marshal suggested it be

- removed from state law
- Work is taking place to make it a training standard moving forward
  - A training curriculum will be developed, and talk will begin to determine what this is and how to create an equivalence, and how best to help smaller departments comply with the standard
  - A committee will be assembled to address this; if interested in serving on the committee, please contact Brad Wardle
  - Presentation – Tall Wood Buildings
    - American Wood Council Kenneth Bland

### **Good of the Order**

- Reminder for the Winter Meeting and Leadership Symposium January 18-19, 2023

### **Adjournment**

**Next Meeting:**  
USFCA Winter Business Meeting & Leadership Conference  
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January 18-19, 2023  
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Dixie Center, St. George