



UTAH STATE FIRE CHIEF'S ASSOCIATION

September 6, 2023
Fall Business Meeting

In Attendance:

Anderson, Jess, Utah DPS
Barnett, Robert, Big Water
Bassett, Jeff, Sandy
Benavides, Justin, Clinton City
Black, Ted, SFMO
Brown, Jason, North Tooele
Buckley, Don, Draper
Burchett, Dominic, UFA
Carlson, Patrick, UT County
Craft, Jeremy , Lehi
Dawson, Chris, South Jordan
Evans, Matt, Bluffdale
Evans, Matt, Washington
Gallegos, Daniel , HAFB
Hales, Eddie , Spanish Fork
Hammer, Rod , Cache County
Hannig, Brad, Logan
Hatfield, Shad , Lehi
Headman, Jeremy , Provo
Holt, Kevin, Draper
Jones, Jeremiah, North View
Lacroix, Robert, Logan
Lessner, Ryan , South Jordan
Lieb, Karl, SLC
Marsella, Dave , North Fork

Mason, Beau, Utah DPS
Mathieu, Tina, UCA
Maxfield, Derek, West Jordan
Mittelman, Joey, Murray
Nielson, Ben , North Summit
Nunn, Kevin, North Tooele
Olson, Stephen, Murray
Owens, Mike, Park City
Pierson, Brett, Kanab
Provost, Jason, Wasatch Fire
Ritchie, Jon, SFMO
Rowder, Tyler , North Summit
Stewart, Greg, South Davis
Stone, Dane, South Davis
Storey, Brandon, South Ogden
Sullivan, Paul, Weber
Robinson, Tim, Lehi
Tomkinson, Rod, Logan
Trevino, Chris, West Jordan
Vawdrey, Bart, Draper
Wade, Dave, North View
Ward, Kevin, Layton City
Waters, Brett, FFSL
Zanetti, Bob , Park City

Guests:

Dave Spatafore
Ashley Spatafore
Public Safety Commissioner Anderson
Public Safety Deputy Commissioner Mason
UCA Director Mathieu
Dean Panovich, Department of Health
Workforce Services Chief of Tax Miller
Workforce Services Chief of Benefit Madsen
Jan Leavy, guest
Thomas Gourdin, FF Credit Union

Welcome – Clint Smith

- Call to order at 9:05 a.m.
- Introduction of Executive Committee & Guests

Minutes Approval – Clint Smith

- May 3, 2023 Spring Business Meeting minutes

Jeremy Craft motioned to approve the minutes from May 3, 2023

Motion was seconded

All voted in favor, none opposed

- [Click Here to View Minutes from Previous Meetings \(scroll to mid-page\)](#)

Financial Report – Daniel Gallegos

- An update on UFSCA finances was provided
 - The NFFF Golf Tournament collected \$25,801 in donations
 - Membership renewals will begin in October
 - Solicitation for sponsorship for the Winter Leadership & Business Meeting in St. George, January 17-18, 2023, will begin in October as well

Board Elections – Clint Smith

- Brad Hannig was appointed as 2nd VP at the last meeting
- Upon review of the bylaws, if movement of the President and VP happens prior to the 2-year rotation of auto succession, an appointment for the open position may take place
- Per bylaws, another vote is necessary to solidify this position for the coming 2-years
 - This will allow for normal board progression going forward

Bart Vawdrey nominated Brad Hannig

No other nominations were put forward

Nominations were closed and voting will take place at the end of this meeting

Legislative Update

- Dave Spatafore and Ashly Mirabella provided an update to legislation
 - Retirement
 - Rates are increasing for Tier 2
 - There is a decrease of 2% for Tier 1, but this may not hold
 - There are now more Tier 2 members than Tier 1
 - One bill wanted to include OT into retirement
 - URS is looking into what this would look like
 - The primary reason Tier 2 is increasing is due to salaries having increased for PD and Fire
 - The way the Tier 2 bill was drafted is for employers to pick up the extra costs, it will be presented for the individual firefighter to pick up the 2.1%
 - Another bill would allow Tier 2 to retire at 20-years with no penalty
 - AFFF
 - Work is taking place for funding to replace and remove the foam in stations statewide
 - There is currently a rough figure of what the total cost would be
 - If interested in being included in this process, please submit the information necessary via the survey that was sent out
 - Mental Health Services
 - With the mandating of mental health for employees, the funding is now being examined

- The first year had 1-time monies and as of the last session, \$7M remains
- Weaknesses are being found in this program with smaller agencies having to provide services to families and retirees
- Looking at the possibility of creating a statewide program that would not be mandatory
 - This would allow departments both large and small to pay into this program
 - This would also include the PD side as well to create a larger system
- Another survey will be distributed to explore this possibility
- The goal is to gather as much information and present something more streamline and sustainable
- Volunteer Departments
 - Looking into issues with the impact of unemployment insurance
 - Working with Workforce Services on this issue
 - More information to follow
- BEMS
 - Moving to DPS
 - This is a great opportunity to get involved in this process
- Ambulance Billing & Supplies
 - BCBS is no longer covering supplies
 - This seems to vary per department and per ambulance ride
 - BCBS states that supplies are already included in the state rate, but this is not correct
 - The next step is to draft language into the rules of EMS to ensure supplies can be billed
 - Basically, a guideline of what can and can't be charged
 - This must be done by the 9/25 meeting
 - On 9/25, a meeting with PEHP, BCBS, the insurance commissioner and BEMS will take place
 - It is very important for us to have a plan and the language, if interested or if your attorney is interested, please let us know

Utah EMS Report – Commissioner Anderson and Deputy Commissioner Mason

- Grant Support
 - All departments have access to available resources to help with education and work on the grant
 - There have been frustrations of administering the grant and what to do with the 1-time funding to get the mental health programs up and running
 - Also, the smaller areas don't have the resources or professionals
 - An individual has been hired who can help define the parameters of the grant
 - Quarterly reports for grant money are not all being submitted
 - The goal was to make this an easy process and to provide funding where possible
- School Safety
 - An individual will be hired as a State Security Chief once the job description has been defined
 - The purpose is similar to a Fire Marshal who will develop policy on how best to secure schools against threats and what this looks like 20-years from now
- Update on EMS Transition & Process
 - Darin Bushman out of Piute County has been appointed
 - The goal is to get some budget back as budgetary needs have been identified

Workforce Services – Michael Miller, Chief of Tax/LeeAnn Madsen, Chief of Benefit

- Discussed were how best to navigate rural concerns with volunteer agencies and the complications between volunteers and unemployment benefits

UCA – Tina Mathieu, Director

- Upgrades to all sites have been completed
- Coverage testing has begun
- Will be hosting a class at the upcoming stakeholders conference 11/8/23 in St. George
 - This class will certify individuals from your agency to conduct your own programming
 - Programming in-house will result in a significant savings
 - More certifications are scheduled for the upcoming months (9/27, 10/25, 11/29)
 - More classes can be added if requested
- Serial Numbers Submitted
 - Executive Director Mathieu also reminded all that serial numbers for current radios, as well as make and model should be submitted to UCA

BEMS

- Legislative Bill Update
 - Work continues with the rural EMS Liaison, regulation of EMS professionals in the private sector, expanding insurance for EMS volunteers, access to electronic health records, and shared patient data
- Invisible Conditions Alert Program
 - A flyer will be distributed explaining what this program is and how to access this

Western Fire Chiefs – Jeremy Craft/WFCA VP Kevin Ward

- Maui Incident
 - WFCA deployed technology to assess the damage on Maui
 - Known maps are used and as the incident unfolds, street level cameras are used to take current photos which are merged for damage assessment
 - This helps initiate the process for funding
 - Have heard good feedback from this technology
- Webpage Wildfire Map
 - The WFC webpage has all wildfires in the US with accurate information and resources
 - This is great information for the public
- Sourcewell
 - WFC continues to support Sourcewell
 - Sourcewell continues to grow and is looking to add more EMS supplies for departments
- FirstNet
 - A reminder that FirstNet has a local representative if any issues with the deployment of assets arise
- Fire Headlines Podcast
 - Reminder that WFC has a great podcast “Fire Headlines” with relevant topics, many of them technology focused

FFSL – Brett Waters

- Fire season was light, expecting the season to end soon
 - Most starts were naturally caused and were aggressively attacked
 - The majority of the effort in Utah is supporting national season as there is a lot of activity going on
- UCAC Meeting
 - Reminder the meeting takes place 11/1/23, the location is TBD
- Warden Assignments
 - A brief update on Warden assignments was given

State Fire Marshal's Report – Ted Black

- Legislation Update
 - Educational facility where and how to define
 - Homelessness and where to house
 - Affordable housing will be a challenge as the thought is the code is a blockade to affordable housing
- AFFF
 - A reminder to please reply to the survey so that we have an idea as to how much funding is needed to ensure all the AFFF is disposed of properly
- Fire Investigations
 - A reminder that if needing help with a fire investigation, please reach out to the State Fire Marshal's Office
- Hyperbaric Chambers
 - Beginning to see an increase in questions regarding these chambers

UFRA Update – Brad Wardle

- Winter Fire School
 - January 19-20, 2023
 - Registration opens 12/1 at 0900 for classes
- Live Fire Standard
 - There is a new Utah Live Fire Standard
 - The curriculum is coming together
- Classes
 - In August UFRA hosted a Water Mapping class
 - A Big Box Firefighting Class will be held in November
 - High Rise 3rd pilot program will be in Ogden 9/14-15
 - National Fire Academy Classes in Layton are full
- Logistics Update
 - New FAST prop
 - Hose line/water mapping prop being built
 - 2 new vent props and a pump panel prop
 - New semi for delivery of props should arrive November 2023
 - A new straight tip
 - 6 new technical rescue levels adopted
 - AARF training for airports
- Cancer Testing Update
 - Joint venture between USFCA & UFRA
 - The objective is to get multi-cancer early detection for the State of Utah
 - Starting with a recommendation from medical directors to start at age 40
 - The goal is to provide testing free of charge annually to all FF's in the state
 - This will be funded by grants, donations, legislation, city councils, and department yearly budgets
 - Thank you to FF Credit Union for a donation in support of this goal

Board Elections

- A unanimous vote was cast to elect Brad Hannig as USFCA 2nd VP

Good of the Order

- Brett Pierson
 - Asking that everyone brainstorm on how to help volunteer and combination agencies who don't have time to be here, get involved

- How can we help them
- If any of you interfaces with an agency who couldn't be here today, please stay after and let's brainstorm on how best to help them

Unfinished/New Business

- NFFF Golf Tournament
 - Will be held September 12, 2023
 - Glenmoor Golf Club
- AFFF Survey
 - A reminder to complete the survey that has been sent and will be sent again
 - Please watch for additional surveys on other topics for the USFCA
- Bylaws
 - Asking that everyone review the bylaws and submit any suggested changes or corrections before the January 2024 Winter Meeting
 - The bylaws address Section Directors, who can be appointed to serve as liaisons between associations and various state agencies or groups
 - If anyone is interested in this, the USFCA Executive Board would like to get more individuals involved to help share the workload and to better focus on important issues as they arise
 - [Click Here to Access Bylaws Through Mid-Page Tabs](#)

Adjournment

Next Meeting

USFCA Winter Meeting & Leadership Conference
January 17-18, 2024
Dixie Center, St. George