

Budget Committee Meeting Minutes

May 14, 2026

The meeting was held at the Crooked River Ranch Fire and Rescue station and called to order by Dave Palmer at 6:00pm.

Nominations for Budget Committee Officers were made. Mike Dries nominated Bill Burt for Chairman, seconded by Kay Limbaugh, vote was unanimous. Bill Burt nominated Robin Huber for Secretary, seconded by Mike Dries, vote was unanimous.

Budget Committee Secretary Robin Huber called roll. All Budget Committee members were present as well as Chief Hartley and Administrative Assistant Dana Schulke. Members of the public present were: Susan Holt.

Mike Dries made a motion to approve May 1, 2025 Budget Committee meeting minutes and Dave Palmer seconded. Minutes were approved unanimously.

Chief Hartley Budget Presentation

The Chief noted the presentation would cover the proposed budgets for all funds, the General Operating Fund, the Capital Reserve Fund, and the Bond Fund. He would answer any questions from the Budget Committee. Input and questions on proposed budgets were also allowed by the public during the presentation.

The Chief mentioned there had been previous comments from the public asking about funding coming from the CRR Homeowners Association (HOA). He addressed this funding misinformation by stating that NO money comes to the CRR Fire and Rescue from the HOA. HOA dues DO NOT FUND the fire district.

General Operating Fund Budget Overview:

Revenue:

- A. **Available Cash on Hand:** Chief Hartley along with Commissioner Joe Costigan explained the ending amount estimated during budget preparation that is included in the proposed budget may be lower than actual year-end balance. This is due to two staffing shortages and spending being closely monitored. Options for appropriate adjustment for this were outlined and input from the Budget Committee was requested on a plan of action. The committee chose to wait until July, when the final Cash on Hand balance is determined to make any adjustments. The issue will be addressed again at that time.
- B. **Previously Levied Taxes Estimated To Be Received:** Clarification: This amount covers taxes from previous year(s) that are received in the current budget year.
- C. **Ambulance Billing:** The proposed budget amount is based on an average from the revenue received from ambulance transports. The amount proposed does not include the new proposed fees for non-transport EMS calls as we have no prior data to establish an estimate.
- D. **Grant Revenue:** The amount is lower due to FEMA's SAFER Grant not being awarded.
- E. **Misc. Income:** This amount includes anticipated addition for 50th Anniversary Fund Raising Donations.
- F. **Sale of Assets:** No amount was included as the sale of the structure engine should come in before the end of FY25-26.

Personnel:

- A. **Salaries and FTE:** Salary increases included are based on newly negotiated contract rates. These increases will put positions nearer the average market value. As a result of these salary increases, FTE will be adjusted to reflect a reduction from 2.0 Shift Firefighter/Paramedics to 1.0 forty hour/week daytime Firefighter/Paramedic. This will help to maintain service delivery.
- B. **Employee Benefits:** Costs reduced based on one less FTE.
- C. **Workers Comp and Group Accident Insurance:** Increase due to industry increases.
- D. **Volunteer Stipends:** Previously funded through FEMA SAFER grant, which was not awarded.
- E. **Student Volunteer Stipends:** This amount has been recalculated to make it more competitive when recruiting for resident student volunteer positions.

M & S:

- A. **Insurance:** Up by 13%. Other options were consistent with this increase.
- B. **Building Maintenance:** A question was raised by Commissioner Costigan asking if this amount was sufficient. Chief spoke to current needs and resources indicating he felt this amount would be sufficient.
- C. **Fuel:** Increases based on current fuel costs. Chief pointed out that the District did not pay fuel tax but was impacted by fuel cost increases.
- D. **Professional Services:** Increases for election fees (2-Regular Board positions expiring and 2 Appointed Board positions required in the first regular election after appointment). Also included are additional legal fees, billing fees for new EMS non-transport billings, and grant writing services.
- E. **Tuition Reimbursement:** Increased to help cover resident volunteer community college costs. This will make the volunteer program more marketable.
- F. **Vehicle Maintenance:** This is the second fiscal year with large repair costs despite ongoing routine maintenance. Also includes is an increase in routine maintenance costs.
- G. **Volunteer Incentive & Wellness Program:** Small volunteer smart phone stipend will be discontinued in order to increase wellness funds (covering physicals).

Debt Service:

- A. **Ambulance (571) Payment:** Final payment will be Dec – 2026.
- B. **Engine (521) Payment:** Final payment occurs in Dec – 2034. Option to re-finance should interest rates decrease.

Capital Reserve Fund Budget:

- A. **Capital Purchase:** Parking lot asphalt crack sealing, seal coating, and striping included.

Bond Fund Budget:

- A. This is a 25 year bond running through FY2032/33.

All questions were answered during the presentation and there were no additional questions. A motion to approve the budget as presented was made by Sue Hanson and seconded by Robin Huber. Vote passed unanimously.