

Aspen Fire Protection District

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Board of Directors Work Session October 18th, 2022

The Board of Directors of the Aspen Fire Protection District met for a Work Session. The meeting was open to the public in person and virtually via Zoom.

Meeting called to order by John at 3:08pm

Roll Call:

- Board of Directors Present: John Ward, Parker Lathrop, Dave “Wabs” Walbert, Emily Taylor, Steve Wertheimer
- Board of Directors Absent:
- Staff/Volunteers Present: Rick Balentine, Jake Andersen, Jan Schubert, Nikki Lapin
- Public/Others:

2023 Draft Budget Review

- Payroll Cycle - Continued discussion from previous meeting. Jake has been meeting with each board member to explain in further detail.
- Salary Review - Jan gave a review of the salary and benefits budget and how the numbers compare from each spreadsheet.
- Pano AI - This number may change as there may be contributions from other agencies.
- Additional Position: Staff is proposing Administrative/Executive Assistant position. Discussion of moving Nikki to a dedicated Human Resource Director position and Jan Schubert to Finance Director.
- FPPA - Discussion of keeping funding at 80-85%. It was suggested keeping it at \$250,000. The minimum contribution is \$141,000. The state contributes \$40,000. After discussion it will be kept at \$150,000. The next actuarial will be received in July.
- Assessed Property Tax: Preliminary assessed property tax is reflected in the draft budget, but the final will be received in November prior to final budget due.
- LOSAP - Proposing to up it by 25%. The FPPA was increased, and salaries increased by 10%.
- Nikki gave an overview of the Employee Wellness program and importance of increasing this benefit to include Peer Support programming.
- Fire Prevention requested a new piece of equipment for fire extinguisher training.
- Vehicle Replacement – Discussion of replacing white Dodge truck with electric vehicle.
- C.O.R.E. Reimbursement - There is \$50,000 coming back from CORE on Fire Place project.
- Wish List - Hose washer, ice maker and workout equipment are some other capital item requests that Rick will review and bring to board next month.
- WFAC - Question if any surplus can go into this fund. Steve would like to see the program continue. This was set up as a two-year pilot program. There is a question if the position could be moved to district. The board suggested tracking hours and funds contributed. There was further review of WFAC. Rick will work with Ali on a better breakout.
- Chief Contract - The contract will be up the end of December.

February Board Meeting

This will be held on February 9th at 5:00pm due to board members out of town.

Special Event:

Elks Club is doing a special ceremony for Dick Merritt on Thursday, October 20th at 5:00pm. Honor Guard will be presenting him as an honorary Honor Guard member.

**MOTION: Motion by Parker to adjourn at 4:11pm. Steve second.
Vote: All approved.**

***** A full recording of this meeting can be requested by contacting the District Administrator at nikki.lapin@aspensfire.com or by calling 970-925-5532.**