



Fire District 1
Steering Council Meeting

7750 N. Wyandotte Way
Park City, KS 67147
316-660-3473

October 02, 2025

Fire District 1 Attendees: Chief Doug Williams, Deputy Chief Ray Hensley, Capt. Maroun Faissal with Latitude, and Clerk Janelle Davey

Fire District 1 Steering Council Expected Attendees: Jesse Miller/Bel Aire, Russ Lowen/Goddard, Susie Sutton/Haysville, ***Vacant***/Maize, Katie Bowen/Park City, Jeff Witherspoon/Member at Large #2 SCAC, BJ Bryant/Member at Large #4 Aircraft Manufacturing, ***Vacant***/Member at Large #1 Unincorporated Area, Katy Jackman Tyndell/Member at Large #3 Unincorporated Area

Special Guests:

Overview of Discussions:

The Sedgwick County Fire District One steering council meeting began with roll call and approval of previous meeting minutes.

The Sedgwick County Fire District One Steering Council meeting discussed consolidating the fire district with Cheney, Clearwater, Colwich, Mount Hope, and Valley Center. Chief Williams highlighted safety concerns, citing instances of fires where local volunteers failed to respond, and the financial burden on the district. The council approved a resolution supporting consolidation, emphasizing the need for adequate staffing and resources.

Chief Williams also updated on new equipment, including a \$3 million investment in three new pumpers, and the introduction of a new K9 officer, Latitude, trained to detect accelerants.

The meeting concluded with a motion to adjourn.

I. Call to Order: Chairman Katy Jackman Tyndell at 1800

II. Roll Call

<u>Steering Council</u>	<u>Roll Call</u>
Katy Jackman Tyndell	Present
Jeff Witherspoon	Present
Katie Bowen	Absent
BJ Bryant	Present

Russ Lowen	Present
Jesse Miller	Absent
Susie Sutton	Present
Vacant	
Vacant	

III. Pledge of Allegiance

IV. **Approval of previous meeting minutes**

Event:	Previous Meeting Minutes
Motion:	Susie Sutton
Second:	Russ Lowen
Katy Jackman Tyndell	Aye
Jeff Witherspoon	Aye
Katie Bowen	Absent
BJ Bryant	Aye
Russ Lowen	Aye
Jesse Miller	Absent
Susie Sutton	Aye
Vacant	
Vacant	

V. Discussion of Consolidating the Fire District with Cheney, Clearwater, Colwich, Mount Hope, and Valley Center

Motion: Proposed to move the Resolution of the Sedgwick County Fire District Number One Steering Council in Support of Fire District Consolidation forward.

Event:	Support of Fire District Consolidation
Motion:	Russ Lowen
Second:	Katy Jackman Tyndell
Katy Jackman Tyndell	Aye
Jeff Witherspoon	Aye
Katie Bowen	Absent
BJ Bryant	Aye
Russ Lowen	Aye
Jesse Miller	Absent
Susie Sutton	Aye

Vacant	
Vacant	

VI. Fire Chief Update

- i. SCFD1 Training Center
- ii. K-9 Latitude Introduction

VI. Meeting Adjournment

Event:	Meeting Adjournment
Motion:	Jeff Witherspoon
Second:	Russ Lowen
Katy Jackman Tyndell	Aye
Jeff Witherspoon	Aye
Katie Bowen	Absent
BJ Bryant	Aye
Russ Lowen	Aye
Jesse Miller	Absent
Susie Sutton	Aye
Vacant	
Vacant	

Meeting adjourned at 1902

**Resolution of the Sedgwick County Fire District Number One Steering Council
In Support of Fire District Consolidation**

WHEREAS, Sedgwick County Fire District Number One is comprised of highly trained and dedicated firefighters, led by Chief Doug Williams and his leadership team, who provide critical emergency services to multiple cities and unincorporated areas outside the Wichita city limits; and

WHEREAS, several localities within the geographic boundaries of Sedgwick County Fire District One—including the Cities of Cheney, Clearwater, Mount Hope, Colwich, Valley Center, and Townships of Erie, Grand River, Greeley, Morton, Ninnescah, and Union—currently receive fire protection through contractual mutual aid or automatic aid agreements rather than full membership in the Fire District; and

WHEREAS, these arrangements have resulted in recurring operational challenges, including insufficient volunteer firefighter turnout, lack of consistent training, and inadequate equipment and manpower, all of which create safety risks for both citizens and professional firefighters; and

WHEREAS, the inequity of current taxing structures means that some communities are receiving significant emergency services from Sedgwick County Fire District Number One without contributing to the Fire District mill levy, placing a disproportionate financial and operational burden on Fire District taxpayers and staff; and

WHEREAS, disparities in insurance ratings (ISO scores), potential increases in insurance costs, and the overall growth and urbanization of Sedgwick County further underscore the need for a long-term, sustainable, and equitable solution; and

WHEREAS, Fire District leadership as well as the Sedgwick County Commission, sitting as the governing body of Sedgwick County Fire District Number One (i.e., the Fire Board), have expressed a commitment to convening discussions with the affected municipalities to address the challenges of the current system and to establish a clear framework for consolidation;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Sedgwick County Fire District Number One Steering Council expresses its full support for the leadership of Chief Doug Williams and the Sedgwick County Commission acting in their capacity as the Fire Board in their efforts to pursue consolidation of Sedgwick County Fire District One; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Steering Council strongly recommends that the Cities of Cheney, Clearwater, Mount Hope, Colwich, Valley Center, and Townships of Erie, Grand River, Greeley, Morton, Ninnescah, and Union be formally incorporated into Sedgwick County Fire District Number One to ensure equitable taxation, consistent training and service delivery, improved safety for both firefighters and citizens, and long-term sustainability of fire protection services; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Steering Council urges county leadership and Fire District officials to define a clear and timely path toward consolidation, and to communicate the benefits, costs, and safety implications transparently with all affected communities.

Adopted this 2nd day of October, 2025, by the Sedgwick County Fire District Number One Steering Council