



Fire District 1 **Steering Council Meeting**

7750 N. Wyandotte Way
Park City, KS 67147316-660-3473

August 06, 2026

Fire District 1 Attendees: Chief Doug Williams, Fire Marshal Brad Crisp, Deputy Chief Kevin Nelson, Deputy Chief Ray Hensley, and Clerk Janelle Davey

Fire District 1 Steering Council Expected Attendees: Kent Koehler/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, **Vacant**/Member at Large #3 Unincorporated Area

Special Guests:

Overview of Discussions:

The Sedgwick County Fire District One Steering Council meeting was called to order by Chairman Jeff Witherspoon. Chairman Jeff Witherspoon asked for approval of previous meeting minutes to which the vote passed unanimously.

Chief Williams provided an update on the draft of generic mutual aid agreement currently being reviewed by legal and surrounding jurisdictions including Valley Center, Mount Hope, Clearwater, and Cheney. Key technical changes in the new draft include: A requirement for cities/districts to maintain adequate staffing, specifically anticipating no less than 10 qualified responders per incident. A protocol requiring local responders to arrive on scene and perform a size-up before requesting aid, preventing automatic requests upon hearing smoke.

Chief Williams also addressed township service issues, noting that the district will not negotiate or subcontract with cities for township responses in those Townships that are contracted by cities. Instead, townships must either petition to join the district, form a paid contract directly with the district, or have individual property owners annex.

Chief Williams detailed recent tensions regarding Valley Center's fire coverage and their recent town hall meeting. While some residents expressed support for joining the district, there is significant debate regarding costs and autonomy. Valley Center's financial situation was discussed; despite their desire for independence, current data suggests they may struggle to afford a self-sustained department and

necessary equipment. Chief Williams noted that if Valley Center joins by 2027 via contract rather than taxation, it would cost approximately \$1 million to cover nine personnel.

Chief Williams reviewed current budget projections and equipment procurement status.

The district expects approximately \$1,273,000 in excess funds due to higher-than-anticipated tax payments being diverted into the special equipment fund. The BoCC approved the purchase of two pumpers and one tanker totaling \$3.3 million; however, delivery timelines are significantly delayed, with one order expected in 49 months and another in 17 months. Current budget projections remain stable with a \$5 million contingency fund untouched.

The meeting concluded with a motion to adjourn, setting the next meeting for September 03, 2026.

I. **Call to Order: Chairman Jeff Weatherspoon at 1803**

II. **Roll Call**

<u>Steering Council</u>	Roll Call
Jeff Witherspoon	Present
Katie Bowen	Present
BJ Bryant	Present
Russ Lowen	Present
Kent Koehler	Present
Susie Sutton	Arrived 1810
<i>Vacant</i>	
<i>Vacant</i>	
<i>Vacant</i>	

III. Pledge of Allegiance

IV. Approval of previous meeting minutes

Event:	Previous Meeting Minutes
Motion:	Russ Lowen
Second:	Kent Koehler
Jeff Witherspoon	Aye
Katie Bowen	Aye
BJ Bryant	Aye
Russ Lowen	Aye
Kent Koehler	Aye
Susie Sutton	Absent
<i>Vacant</i>	

<i>Vacant</i>	
<i>Vacant</i>	

V. Fire Chief Update

- i. Project for Aid Agreements/Consolidation of Fire District
 - 1. Valley Center Town Hall update
- ii. 2027 Budget Update – Financial Forecast
 - 1. County Manager budget request update
- iii. Fire District Strategic Plan – Planning Workshop # 2
- iv. Apparatus Purchase
- v. Current budget update/status
- vi. Updates to Council Outside of Meeting

VI. **Meeting Adjournment**

Event:	Meeting Adjournment
Motion:	Kent Koehler
Second:	Russ Lowen
Jeff Witherspoon	Aye
Katie Bowen	Aye
BJ Bryant	Aye
Russ Lowen	Aye
Kent Koehler	Aye
Susie Sutton	Aye
<i>Vacant</i>	
<i>Vacant</i>	
<i>Vacant</i>	

Meeting adjourned at 1920