

MINUTES OF THE
April 13, 2026
MEETING OF THE FORSYTH COUNTY
FIRE COMMISSION

* * * * *

The Fire Commission met in regular session at 10:00 a.m. on Monday, April 13, 2026, in the meeting room at Forsyth County Fire Division Station 9, 3000 Aviation Drive, Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

PRESENT:

Walt Beroth, Chair
Andrew Gray, Vice Chair
Eddie Bottoms, Member
Fred Franklin, Member
Don Martin, Member
Steven Roberson, Member
Gary Styers, Member
Brian Tuttle, Member
Carl Walker, Member
David Williamson, Member

ABSENT:

Richard Linville, Member
Shane Moore, Member

The Deputy County Manager, Fire Services Director, and Assistant Fire Chief of Operations were also present.

Chair Beroth called the meeting to order and welcomed those in attendance.

Commissioner Bottoms led the invocation and pledge of allegiance.

1. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Minutes from the April 2, 2026 meeting of the Fire Commission were presented. There were no corrections or additions. Commissioner Martin moved that the minutes be accepted as presented. Commissioner Tuttle seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

The public is invited to make comments regarding the business of the Fire Commission. Speakers are given three minutes to make their comments, and the public comment portion of the meeting is to last no longer than 30-minutes.

There were no speakers signed up to make public comments to the Fire Commission.

3. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN DISCUSSION

Assistant Chief Vogler reviewed the proposed Capital Improvement Plan and recommendations for FY26, FY27, and beyond that was presented during the April 2, 2026 meeting with commissioners. Deputy County Manager Haney continued the discussion by presenting three models for Capital Improvement Plan execution for the FY27 budget.

- **Model 1:** Funds CIP with all existing fund balance, fills funding gap with tax rate adjustment, and redirects ARPA truck initially slated for Union Cross to Piney Grove.
- **Model 2:** Funds CIP with all existing fund balance, increase tax rate by \$.01 to add \$1,964,783, redirect ARPA truck initially slated for Union Cross to Piney Grove, and address \$870,449 funding gap with potential additional fund balance or tax rate capacity, or defer items to FY28
- **Model 3:** Finance \$3,675,000, redirect ARPA truck initially slated for Union Cross to Piney Grove, and utilize a portion of the existing fund balance.

Commissioner Styers motioned to recommend Model 1 for funding the CIP for FY27. He also included in the motion that the ARPA truck slated for Union Cross FD be redirected to Piney Grove FD, as well as utilizing existing fund balance to purchase self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) and a Utility Terrain Vehicle (UTV) in FY26. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Martin. After the continued discussion, Chair Beroth called the motion for a vote of the Commission. The motion to recommend the utilization Model 1 along with the action directing apparatus to Piney Grove FD and purchasing SCBA and a UTV in FY26 passed with 8 votes “for” and 1 abstention.

Commissioner Styers also motioned that the Fire Commission recommend the adoption of the 15-20 year Capital Improvement plan in which the County purchases and owns all capital equipment moving

forward, and the individual departments maintain and insure the equipment through existing coverage and agreements. Language would also be added to the fire services contract reaffirming this change in policy. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Gray. Chair Beroth called the motion for a vote of the Commission. The motion to adopt the Capital Improvement Plan passed unanimously.

4. FY27 CONTRACT EXTENSION DISCUSSION

Chief Brock Smith reviewed information regarding a proposed one-year extension of the current fire service contract. Staff recommendations for additions were presented to the Commission. The Commission was also asked to prepare to provide additional recommendations and feedback for the one-year extension. The Fire Commission will work toward a more thorough contract agreement during FY27 for adoption for FY28 and beyond.

5. NEW BUSINESS

Commissioners were asked about discussion priorities and actions for the Fire Commission during the FY27 budget year. Commissioners expressed a willingness to address the following:

- Utilization of County Fire personnel
- Execution of mergers between fire departments where appropriate
- Volunteer recruitment and retention
- Adopting a standard level of fire service for the County

Chair Beroth also requested that the Commission adopt a regular meeting schedule and for County Staff to continue working on a method to archive the meetings for public review.

The next scheduled meeting of the Forsyth County Fire Commission will be May 4, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. in the meeting room at Forsyth County Fire Division Station 9, 3000 Aviation Drive, Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

* * * * *

There being no further business to come before the Commission, Commissioner Franklin moved for adjournment. Vice Chair Gray seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

Signed by:

Walt Beroth

0AB7E9511E4B404...
F. Walter Beroth, Chair
Forsyth County Fire Commission

Signed by:

Philip C. Vogler

06792AE0E0ED471...
Philip C. Vogler, Assistant Fire Chief
Interim Secretary to the Forsyth County Fire Commission