



JOINT MEETING OF THE CONFIRE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE

TUESDAY, MAY 26, 2026 – 1:00 P.M.

598 S. TIPPECANOE AVE., 1ST FLOOR ASSEMBLY ROOM, SAN BERNARDINO, CA

MINUTES

ROLL CALL

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Madam Chair – Lynne Kennedy – City of Rancho Cucamonga
Vice Chair – Phill Dupper – City of Loma Linda, *Arrived at 1:25 PM*
Dan Leary, Director – Apple Valley Fire Protection District
Harvey Luth, Director – Chino Valley Fire District
David Toro, Director – City of Colton
Marc Shaw, Director – City of Redlands
Andy Carrizales, Director – City of Rialto
Joe Baca, Jr., Director – San Bernardino County
Elizabeth Becerra, Director – City of Victorville

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Chair - Chief Dan Harker, Loma Linda Fire Department
Vice Chair – Chief Rich Sessler, Redlands Fire Department
Chief Buddy Peratt, Apple Valley Fire Protection District
Chief Dave Williams, Chino Valley Fire District, *Exited at 2:25 PM*
Chief Justin Weems, Colton Fire Department
Chief Mike McCliman, Rancho Cucamonga Fire Department
Chief Chris Jensen, Rialto Fire Department
Chief Bertral Washington, San Bernardino County Fire
Chief Bobby Clemmer, Victorville Fire Department

CALL TO ORDER

- a. Flag Salute
- b. Roll call/Introductions

PUBLIC COMMENT

An opportunity provided for persons in the audience to make brief statements to the Board of Directors and Administrative Committee. (Limited to 3 minutes for each speaker)

INFORMATION RELATIVE TO POSSIBLE CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Agenda items may require Board Member abstentions due to conflict of interests and financial interests. Board Member/Administrative Committee abstentions shall be stated under this item for recordation on the appropriate item.

Director Joe Baca Jr. recused himself from Closed Session.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS CONSENT ITEMS

The following items are considered routine and non-controversial and will be voted upon at one time by the Board of Directors. An item may be removed by a Board Member or member of the public for discussion and appropriate action.

1. Approve the Joint Meeting of the CONFIRE Board of Directors and Administrative Committee Minutes of February 24, 2025
2. CONFIRE Operations Statement as of April 30, 2026
3. Fund Balance Report as of April 30, 2026
4. YTD Call Summary
5. YTD Answer Time
6. YTD Billable Incidents
7. Call Processing Time Analysis – April 2026
8. ECNS Report – April 2026

ACTION REQUEST: The Administrative Committee requests the Board accept and approve consent items 1 thru 8.

ACTION: *The CONFIRE Board of Directors accepts and approves consent items 1 thru 8.*

Motion by: *Director Joe Baca Jr.*

Second: *Director Marc Shaw*

Lynne Kennedy – Yes

Phill Dupper – Absent

Dan Leary – Yes

Harvey Luth - Yes

David Toro– Yes

Marc Shaw – Yes

Andy Carrizales – Yes

Joe Baca, Jr. - Yes

Elizabeth Becerra - Yes

Ayes: 8

Noes: 0

Abstain: 0

Absent: 1, Director Phill Dupper

Motion Approved

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION

9. Communications – Angela Haddad: Ashley Fisher, Dispatcher
Manny Vasquez, Dispatcher

Dispatchers Ashley Fisher and Manny Vasquez were both recognized as nominees for Dispatcher of the Year by IAED Navigator. International Academies of Emergency Dispatch (IAED) serves as a global networking, educational, and professional development hub for 911 public safety telecommunicators, communications center leaders, and emergency response innovators. For two CONFIRE dispatchers to receive this nomination is a great honor.

DIRECTOR UPDATE - CONFIRE Director to give an update on the various activities within CONFIRE.

- *International Academies of Emergency Dispatch (IAED) hosted its Navigator 2026 conference at the MGM Grand Hotel in Las Vegas. The theme was “Raising the Stakes: Excellence for Every Emergency.” Having two CONFIRE dispatchers recognized for rising above and beyond in front of over 1,700 peers is amazing.*
- *Thanked all Board Members and Chiefs for staying engaged with the ambulance contract. It has been a long journey which started in 2023. We now have a go live date of October 1st. Millions of residents will be positively affected.*
- *Implementation team will engage starting June 1st.*
- *This will be the largest ambulance transition in California history.*
- *CONFIRE has applied for the Department of Transportation’s Civic Roads Grant for ECNS funding. If approved will bring back to the Board.*
- *Reminded the Board that June 2nd is the Valley Communications Center ribbon cutting ceremony. This is a state-of-the-art facility that will position us for growth into the future.*
- *CONFIRE is currently in negotiations to acquire the current Miro way campus to serve as the CONFIRE/Priority Joint Headquarters.*

NEW BUSINESS

10. Request for Proposal – Arrowbear Lake Fire Department – Nathan Cooke – **ACTION ITEM**

ACTION REQUEST: Upon completion of a pending (draft) standard agreement, authorize the CONFIRE Interim Executive Director to enter into a formal agreement to provide emergency communications services for Arrowbear Lake Fire Department.

Arrowbear Lake Fire Department is a small combination career/volunteer fire department in the San Bernardino Mountains on Highway 330 between Running Springs and the Big Bear Lake/Fawnskin area. It serves the community of Arrowbear lake under the authority of the Arrowbear Park County Water District. The department responds to

approximately 174 fire and emergency medical calls per year. It is currently dispatched by CAL FIRE San Bernardino Unit Emergency Communications Center (ECC)

Arrowbear Lake Fire made a formal request for proposal from CONFIRE in a letter dated March 14, 2023. At that time the agency opted not to enter into an agreement with CONFIRE after some initial discussions. In November of 2025, Arrowbear Lake contacted CONFIRE requesting to revisit the original request for a proposal.

CONFIRE has provided an estimate for such services to Arrowbear Lake, who have indicated a desire to move forward with an agreement. The agency has a need to begin services with CONFIRE no later than June 30, 2026. CONFIRE Board Policy 5.003 "Qualifications for Status as a Contracting Party" requires an agency requesting a dispatch services agreement to be sponsored by a member agency and be approved by the Board of Directors. Arrowbear Lake Fire is requesting such an endorsement from the San Bernardino County Fire District.

The agreement with Arrowbear lake Fire would be formatted in a manner consistent with similar agreements with current Contracting Agencies such as Big Bear Fire Authority and Montclair Fire Department. These agreements have been developed and vetted by CONFIRE's legal counsel and utilized successfully for many years.

Arrowbear Lake's low call volume will have minimal impact on daily operations at CONFIRE. Dispatching for Arrowbear lake will improve operations between its neighboring agencies (Running Springs, San Bernardino County, and Big Bear) by having all the agencies in the vicinity dispatched by CONFIRE.

It is recommended that the CONFIRE Board of Directors authorize the CONFIRE Interim Executive Director to enter into an agreement with Arrowbear lake Fire Department pending the receipt of a letter of support from a member agency and a final agreement by the Arrowbear Lake Board of Directors, or its designee.

Fiscal Impact

CONFIRE will be compensated by Arrowbear lake Fire per the signed agreement. The estimated cost to Arrowbear Lake Fire Department is between \$20,000-\$30,000 per year based on optional services it may or may not choose to utilize. CONFIRE will not add staffing to accommodate this new agency, thus the fiscal impact will be negligible.

ACTION: *The CONFIRE Board of Directors authorizes the CONFIRE Interim Executive Director to enter into a formal agreement to provide emergency communications services for Arrowbear Lake Fire Department.*

Motion by: *Director Joe Baca Jr.*

Second: *Director Marc Shaw*

Lynne Kennedy – Yes

Phill Dupper – Absent
Dan Leary – Yes
Harvey Luth - Yes
David Toro– Yes
Marc Shaw - Yes
Andy Carrizales – Yes
Joe Baca, Jr. - Yes
Elizabeth Becerra - Yes

Ayes: 8

Noes: 0

Abstain: 0

Absent: 1, Director Phill Dupper

Motion Approved

11. CONFIRE EMS Division Loan Agreement – City of Ontario – Damian Parsons – ACTION ITEM

ACTION REQUEST: Authorize the Chairperson to sign and execute the revised loan from the City of Ontario in the amount of \$20,000,000 for ambulance operation startup costs.

On December 5, 2023, the County of San Bernardino awarded CONFIRE the Advanced Life Support and Basic Life Support Ground Ambulance Services, Interfacility and Critical Care Transport Services for Exclusive Operating Areas in San Bernardino County contract (EMS Contract).

On September 12, 2024, the State Superior Court issued an injunction halting the implementation of services, which had been scheduled to begin on October 1, 2024.

On May 6, 2026, the State Superior Court lifted the injunction, allowing CONFIRE to reestablish the implementation process and proceed toward system deployment.

To adhere to the provisions, set forth in the EMS Contract and to fund the startup costs associated with providing these services, CONFIRE sought to secure a loan in an amount not-to-exceed \$20,000,000. On December 11, 2023, the Board of Directors authorized the execution of a loan agreement between CONFIRE and the City of Ontario in the amount of \$20,000,000.

The original contract has been revised to update terms and clarify the language.

Fiscal Impact

The loan funding would be deposited into the EMS Division Enterprise Fund (5020) and used for ambulance administration and operation-related expenses and payments. The term of the loan “Maturity Date” will be 2 years from payment of the first draw.

The 2026-27 EMS Fund (5020) budget includes the first-year costs for loan repayment.

ACTION: *The CONFIRE Board of Directors authorizes the Chairperson to sign and execute the revised loan from the City of Ontario in the amount of \$20,000,000 for ambulance operation startup costs.*

Motion by: *Director Andy Carrizales*

Second: *Director Elizabeth Becerra*

Lynne Kennedy – Yes

Phill Dupper – Absent

Dan Leary – Yes

Harvey Luth - Yes

David Toro– Yes

Marc Shaw - Yes

Andy Carrizales – Yes

Joe Baca, Jr. - Yes

Elizabeth Becerra - Yes

Ayes: *8*

Noes: *0*

Abstain: *0*

Absent: *1, Director Phill Dupper*

Motion Approved

12. Adoption of Exempt Compensation Plan – Damian Parsons – **ACTION ITEM**

ACTION REQUEST: Adopt the CONFIRE Exempt Compensation Plan, establishing compensation and terms and conditions of employment for Exempt Group employees.

Exempt employees at CONFIRE are currently compensated under the San Bernardino County Special Districts and Fire District Compensation Plan. That compensation framework was developed for San Bernardino County special districts and the San Bernardino County Fire Protection District and does not fully reflect CONFIRE's organizational structure, classifications, operational assignments, or administrative needs.

CONFIRE staff, in coordination with the County Human Resources Department, developed a CONFIRE-specific compensation plan based on the existing County framework.

Fiscal Impact

Approval of the CONFIRE Exempt Compensation Plan will result in approximately \$809,354 in new ongoing annual personnel costs for the projected 32 Exempt Plan positions. Most of these costs are associated with the proposed reorganization and attributed to the EMS Division 5020 Fund, including new and revised classifications

necessary to support expanded operational and administrative responsibilities. The projected cost also includes impacts associated with the proposed (2) 3% cost-of-living adjustments and the proposed reclassification of the ECC Chief and Finance Administration Director classifications.

ACTION: *The CONFIRE Board of Directors approves the adoption of the CONFIRE Exempt Compensation Plan as presented.*

Motion by: *Director Phill Dupper*

Second: *Director Andy Carrizales*

Lynne Kennedy – Yes

Phill Dupper – Yes, Arrived at 1:26 pm

Dan Leary – Yes

Harvey Luth - Yes

David Toro– Yes

Marc Shaw – Yes

Andy Carrizales – Yes

Joe Baca, Jr. - Yes

Elizabeth Becerra - Yes

Ayes: *9*

Noes: *0*

Abstain: *0*

Absent: *0*

Motion Approved

13. 2026-27 Budget Presentation – Nathan Cooke/Damian Parsons – **ACTION ITEM**

ACTION REQUEST: Approve the FY 2026-2027 Budget as presented.

Finance/Administration Director, Damian Parsons reviewed a PowerPoint presentation detailing the proposed budget of \$203,488,684. This budget includes 7 funds:

- *Fund 5008 – General Fund (Operations) \$15,803,846*
- *Fund 5009 – Equipment Reserve, \$410,000*
- *Fund 5010 – General Reserve, \$1,202,200*
- *Fund 5011 – Term Benefit Reserve, \$1,069,775*
- *Fund 5019 – CAD to CAD, \$225,112*
- *Fund 5020 – Emergency Medical Services, \$198,137,458*
- *Fund 5030 – Emergency Communications Nurse System, \$2,335,171*

Interim Executive Director Nathan Cooke and Finance/Administration Director Damian Parsons highlighted new initiatives and strategic goals, while stressing key priorities for

the 2026-27 budget year. The presented budget shows fiscal responsibility while focusing on transparency.

ACTION: *The CONFIRE Board of Directors approves the 2026-27 budget as presented.*

Motion by: *Director Phill Dupper*

Second: *Director Andy Carrizales*

Lynne Kennedy – Yes

Phill Dupper – Yes

Dan Leary – Yes

Harvey Luth – No

David Toro– Yes

Marc Shaw – Yes

Andy Carrizales – Yes

Joe Baca, Jr. - Yes

Elizabeth Becerra - Yes

Ayes: 8

Noes: 1-Director Harvey Luth

Abstain: 0

Absent: 0

Motion Approved

14. FY 2026-27 Budget Resolution 2026-01 – Damian Parsons – **ACTION ITEM**

ACTION REQUEST: The CONFIRE Administrative Committee requests the CONFIRE Board of Directors accept and adopt Resolution 2026-01, Adoption of Annual Budget for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2027.

ACTION: *The CONFIRE Board of Directors approves and adopts Resolution 2026-01, FY 2026-27 budget as presented.*

Motion by: *Director Andy Carrizales*

Second: *Director Phill Dupper*

Lynne Kennedy – Yes

Phill Dupper – Yes

Dan Leary – Yes

Harvey Luth - No

David Toro– Yes

Marc Shaw – Yes

Andy Carrizales – Yes

Joe Baca, Jr. - Yes

Elizabeth Becerra - Yes

Ayes: 8

Noes: 1, Director Harvey Luth

Abstain: 0

Absent: 0

Motion Approved

CLOSED SESSION

**Director Joe Baca Jr. recused himself from Closed Session.*

***The Board of Directors and Administrative Committee entered Closed Session at 1:58 p.m.*

15. Review and update Existing Litigation – Government Code section 54956.9: AMR Lawsuit

**The Board of Directors and Administrative Committee came out of Closed Session at 2:23 p.m.*

No reportable action from Closed Session.

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE CONSENT ITEMS

The following items are considered routine and non-controversial and will be voted upon at one time by the Administrative Committee. An item may be removed by a Committee Member or member of the public for discussion and appropriate action.

16. Approve Administrative Committee Minutes of April 28, 2026.
17. CONFIRE Operations Statement as of April 30, 2026.
18. Fund Balance Report as of April 30, 2026.
19. YTD Call Summary
20. YTD Answer Time
21. YTD Billable Incidents
22. Call Processing Time Analysis – April 2026
23. ECNS Report – April 2026
24. Amendment to Consultant Agreement - Mat Fratus Consulting

Motion to accept all items on Consent.

Motion by: *Chief Buddy Peratt*

Second: *Chief Rich Sessler*

Ayes: 8

No: 0

Abstain: 0

Absent: 1, *Chief Dave Williams*

Motion Approved

NEW BUSINESS

25. Agreement between CONFIRE and CVFD for Chief Dean Smith – Nathan Cooke – **ACTION ITEM**

On December 5, 2023, the County of San Bernardino awarded CONFIRE the Advanced life Support and Basic Life Support Ground Ambulance Services, Interfacility and Critical Care Transport Services for Exclusive Operating Areas in San Bernardino County contract (EMS Contract).

On September 12, 2024, the State Superior Court issued an injunction halting the implementation of services.

On May 6, 2026, the State Superior Court lifted the injunction, allowing CONFIRE to re-establish the implementation process and proceed toward system deployment.

To organize a successful transition, San Bernardino County Fire Chiefs will use the incident command system to organize resources and have selected Chief Smith to serve as the Operations Section Chief for the CONFIRE EMS Division Implementation Team.

This implementation team has already begun working on the project. Priorities have been identified for Chief Smith to build the foundation and included in the scope of work for the consulting agreement:

- a. Work with CONFIRE Staff and Implementation Team members to ensure all aspects of the County Ground Ambulance Contract are fulfilled prior to implementation on October 1, 2026.*
- b. Coordinate and work with Priority Ambulance staff on all aspects of their obligations related to the requirements in the Contract, to ensure all obligations of agreement prior to October 1, 2026.*
- c. Perform all duties and functions related to serving as the Deputy Incident Commander for the CONFIRE EMS Division Implementation Team.*

Fiscal Impact

Total costs for the five-month term will not exceed \$185,000. The current year costs are estimated at \$33,959 and will be paid by the balance of the loan to the EMS Fund 5020 from the General Reserve Fund (5010)

The remaining costs, estimated at \$151,041 for the budget year 2026-27 will be paid from the EMS Fund 5020 operating budget.

Motion to authorize the Interim Executive Director to execute and enter into an agreement between CONFIRE and Chino Valley Independent Fire District (CVFD), to authorize Dean Smith to serve as Operations Section Chief for the CONFIRE Ambulance

Contract Implementation Team. Amount not to exceed \$185,000 for the initial five-month term.

Motion by: *Chief Bertral Washington*

Second: *Chief Mike McCliman*

Ayes: 8

No: 0

Abstain: 0

Absent: 1, *Chief Dave Williams*

Motion Approved

26. Consulting Services from Division Chief Joe Barna – Nathan Cooke – **ACTION ITEM**

Effective May 2, 2026, the San Bernardino County Fire Protection District agreed to assign Division Chief, Joe Barna to CONFIRE to provide consulting services in support and the administration and implementation of the Advanced Life Support and Basic Life Support Ground Ambulance Services, Interfacility and Critical Care Transport Services for Exclusive Operating Areas in San Bernardino County contract (EMS Contract).

Division Chief Barna was previously assigned to the Ground Ambulance Services implementation team where he performed a critical role in establishing the administrative and financial policies and processes for the ambulance services.

On May 6, 2026, the State Superior Court lifted the injunction, allowing CONFIRE to re-establish the implementation process and proceed toward system deployment.

The implementation team has already begun working on the project. Chief Barna will resume the implementation of administrative and financial policies and processes in support of the Ground Ambulance Services contract.

The current contract (No. 23-1183) between the San Bernardino County Fire Protection District and CONFIRE allows for each entity to pay for the provision of additional services, therefore a new agreement for these services is not necessary. CONFIRE will reimburse San Bernardino the not-to-exceed amount of \$535,692 for the twelve-month period.

Fiscal Impact

The current year costs for these services two months is approximately \$89,282 and will be paid by the balance of the loan to the EMS fund 5020 from the General Reserve Fund (5010)

All costs for these services for budget year 2026-27 will be paid from the EMS Fund 5020 operating budget.

Motion to authorize the reimbursement of salary and benefits costs in the amount not to exceed \$535,692 to the San Bernardino County Fire Protection District for the services of Joe Barna retroactive to May 2, 2026, for a twelve-month term ending on May 1, 2027.

Motion by: *Chief Buddy Peratt*

Second: *Chief Rich Sessler*

Ayes: 8

No: 0

Abstain: 0

Absent: 1, *Chief Dave Williams*

Motion Approved

ROUND TABLE

CLOSED SESSION

***No Closed Session*

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the Joint Meeting of the CONFIRE Board of Directors and Administrative Committee.

The meeting adjourned at 2:41 p.m.

Upcoming Meeting: Administrative Committee Meeting, Tuesday, June 23, 2026 @ 1:00 p.m.
Loma Linda EOC, 25541 Barton Rd., Loma Linda, CA

 /s/ Liz Berry
Liz Berry
Clerk of the Board