

REGULAR MEETING  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
DE BEQUE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

DE BEQUE FIRE STATION  
MAY 11, 2026

**MINUTES**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Pursuant to notice, the regular board meeting of the De Beque Fire Protection District (DFPD) was called to order by Board Vice-President Koehler at 6:10 p.m. on Monday, May 11, 2026.

**OPEN WITH PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO FLAG:** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**ROLL CALL/ESTABLISH QUORUM:**

Cynthia Farris, Present; Dustin Koehler, Present; John “Dick” Latham, Present; Rebecca “Maria” Ramthun, Present; Michael Tanner, Absent. A quorum was present and the meeting, having been duly convened, was ready to proceed.

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Forest Matis, De Beque District Fire Chief; Secretary Kim Latham.

**ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

One addition was added to the Agenda – an ambulance supply and equipment policy that meets state standards is now required by the State (Colorado). Motion was made and seconded to approve the agenda as amended. Motion passed.

**MINUTES:**

Minutes were presented to the BOD for consideration for the regular board meeting of April 13, 2026. Motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes for April 13, 2026 as presented. Motion passed.

**FINANCE REPORTS**

Financial Reports were presented to the BOD for January – March of 2026. Board Secretary Ramthun noted that payroll is down for the first quarter compared to the budget. It was noted that the District does not have deployment wages (through March) and the new seasonal employees for deployment purposes were not on payroll through March, so payroll is down, but will catch up through fire season. It was also noted that money is moved from the EMS bank account, which is non-interest bearing, to the money market account, which is interest bearing. \$135,000 of that balance is set aside for our Family Alternative Long Term Leave account; the remaining amount is available to use as needed. It was also noted that expenditure for the insurance account is at 96% paid for the year, but that is because the total annual payments for general liability, auto insurance, and worker’s comp were made in January. Motion was made and seconded to approve the finance report as presented. Motion passed.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS (Non-Agenda Items)** None

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- 1) 2025 Audit
  - a. Discussion ensued regarding the 2025 audit. No vote was needed at this time.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

- 1) Wildland Pay Policy
  - a. Chief Matis has been developing a wildland fire deployment pay policy with our attorney and presented the policy to the BOD for consideration. Discussion ensued regarding the need to establish a policy that would match better with the federal government's requirements, specifically for deployment billing purposes.
  - b. Public Comments – None.
  - c. Motion was made and seconded to approve the Wildland Pay Policy as presented. Motion passed.
  - d. Motion was made and seconded to approve Resolution 2026-11, establishing the Wildland Pay Policy. Motion passed.
- 2) CDL Class Approval
  - a. Chief Matis would like to offer paid CDL classes to full-time employees. The District is required to have CDL drivers for the larger engines when leaving the State of Colorado. Currently there are only three employees who have CDL endorsements, which limits who can drive the larger engines when called to wildland fire deployments in other states. Because of cuts to tax funding the last few years, the District is heavily relying on wildland deployment income to keep District finances solvent. Discussion ensued.
  - b. Public Comments – None.
  - c. Motion was made and seconded to approve offering paid CDL classes to full-time employees desiring to get their CDL endorsement. Motion passed.
- 3) State Minimum requirement for an Ambulance Supply and Equipment Policy
  - a. The State is now requiring a minimum ambulance supply and equipment policy for districts that provide ambulance services. The required policy must be in place before any ambulance license approvals are provided. Chief Matis read to the Board the policy the State is requiring, of which the District is already in compliance. Discussion ensued. It is noted that next year the District will have to have a policy in place on how to decommission an ambulance before selling it. Motion was made and seconded to approve the minimum ambulance supply and equipment policy as required by the State. Motion passed.

## **FIRE CHIEF REPORT:**

- 1) Chief Matis
  - a. Calls in Mesa County were down for April, but overall calls are up compared to last year.
  - b. Fire danger is a real concern. Because of Chief Matis and Lieutenant Voorhees qualifications as Task Force Leaders, they could be called for disaster response throughout the US as needed, which is a different realm than wildland fire response teams but is within our scope as a District response resource and also enables us to offer training classes.
  - c. The District sent a wildland fire deployment team to South Dakota. The team has returned home. The Starlink Roam worked beautifully while the team was deployed. There were a few mechanical issues with the truck exhaust and with the fire engine, but nothing major. Everything is now in working order.
  - d. Chief Matis was out of office for two weeks in April.
  - e. There is a Mesa County Chief's meeting this month (May) and a regional fire meeting that will be discussing fire bans and anticipating what the fire season will look like this summer.
  - f. The District hired six seasonal employees; one took a full-time job elsewhere, and one was involved in an accident; so the District currently has four seasonal employees ready to start with the fifth anticipated to report for duty in five or six weeks. The District has been called to report a week earlier than anticipated to California, deploying around May 24,

- 2026 instead of June 1, 2026. The District anticipates sending a second truck out on deployment calls but will evaluate as called depending on our District needs and coverage.
- g. The District is offering training classes, including Ropes and other classes needed for fire training certifications.

**OTHER COMMENTS:** None

**BOARD COMMENTS:** Board Member Latham noted that there is a Wild Horse bike run scheduled for this weekend and the roads up Dry Fork and around the loop are not in great condition at this time. He asked that the crews on duty this weekend be aware that there may be multiple calls for accidents during this event. Chief Matis reported that the District has a plan in place for the activities planned for the weekend.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 7:11 p.m.

**Next regular meeting: Monday, June 8, 2026.**

**Approved by the De Beque Fire Protection Board of Directors on June 8, 2026.**

Board of Directors:

Board President Michael Tanner  
Board Vice-President Dustin Koehler  
Board Secretary Maria (Rebecca) Ramthun  
Board Member Cynthia Farris  
Board Member Dick (John R) Latham

It is noted that Board Member Cynthia Farris is also on the Board of Directors for the Town of De Beque. It is noted that the dual Board positions might be considered a conflict of interest in the event of interaction between the De Beque Fire Protection District and the Town of De Beque.

**This is an informational document designed to be accessible on our web site. Please contact the District office if you desire a copy of the signed document.**

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