Meeting Minutes for
Rico Fire Protection District
Regular Meeting: October 19th, 2026

The regular Rico Fire Protection District Meeting was called to order at 7:13 PM by Chair Tyler Lapp.

Roll Call: RFPD Board members Maria Casanova, Sarah Eckles, Tyler Lapp. Gregg Anderson was absent due to travel. Paul Ruud was absent.

Guests Present: RVFD Fire Chief Todd Jones, RFPD Administrator David Kunz.

Approval of Agenda: Sarah Eckles moved to approve the agenda as written, Maria Casanova seconded the motion. Approval was unanimous.

Approval of Minutes: Maria Casanova moved to approve the minutes for the September 21st, 2026 regular meeting; Sarah Eckles seconded the motion. Approval was unanimous.

Public Comment: No public comment.

Approval of Financial Report and Accounts Payable: Kunz presented three additional bills for payment: $135.00 to the Colorado Dep't of Fire Prevention and Control (re certification fees for firefighters Bulk and Guertin, to be covered by Telluride Foundation grant); $227.92 to Jagged Edge Mountaineering for SAR equipment (2 rolls webbing); $1160.00 to Sarah Eckles as reimbursement for Fire Academy lodging (also under TF grant). Maria Casanova moved to approve the financial report for October and to pay the bills as presented (plus three additional). Tyler Lapp seconded the motion. Approval was unanimous.

Administrative Report (Administrator David Kunz)**:** Kunz submitted a Telluride Foundation Community Capital grant request for $25,000.00. He plans to request funding from the Rico Center as well. The Board suggested an ask of $70,000.00. All other items on agenda.

Grants (awarded):
Telluride Foundation FY 2026 (Community): $5,000.00 in training funds. Fulfillment started. Additional training opportunities to include Ropes class, fire academy, and TSFA. Closeout 11/15/26, unless RFPD applies for additional TF funds, in which case 10/9/26.
CDPHE EMTS: Kunz applied for $10,486.00 (50/50 match) in communications funding to replace/upgrade (4) dual-band mobile radios. RFPD has received a purchase order and is OK to fulfill. RFPD board is good with going ahead with refurbed Motorola units. Closeout 6/30/27.

Grants (submitted applications):
Telluride Foundation Community Capital grant request for $25,000 towards the Brush Truck project.

Fire Chief Report (Fire Chief Todd Jones)**:**
Runs: Single public assist call to a female having a panic attack.
Training: pending CPR training with Scottie Larsen.
Equipment: Jones will try to get a bid to replace tank on 927.

Old Business:
Proposed new Fire Station Construction and Financing: Benn Vernadakis may have a contact for a sealed building.

Sale of 924/replacement of Brush Truck: General agreement to offer 924 to the Town for $1500.00. Kunz is working on $95,000.00 of grant funding towards the project. RFPD also received a donation of $7500.00 from the Neers, a promise of $10,000.00 from Scott Burger, and may be able to approach Michael Halcoussis for funding

toward the project.

New Business:

2027 budget worksession: Assessed values are slightly down, which will result in a 2% decline in mill levy revenue. The Board reviewed draft revenues and expenses for 2027. In general, it seems that there will be money left for capital projects (brush truck) in the budget.

The Board suggested raising the 2027 fuel budget to $3500.00. The Board also discussed the cost of the eventual replacement of the Department's SCBA units, as well as a number of possible means for doing so. The current SCBA units are manufactured by Scott. It is not clear if the existing SCBA bottles would work on new Scott frames. Most surrounding departments have switched to MSA units, and Rico may wish to switch to MSA to improve compatibility or an improved feature set. A single SCBA unit with 2 bottles would likely exceed $10,000; Rico would need 10 (or more) SCBA units. There was some discussion of potential funding scenarios, and the advantages/disadvantages of phasing old units out over time.

Sarah Eckles stated that firefighter boots with improved traction would be helpful during winter highway responses. She added that the training budget should be increased, in part due to firefighters' live fire training. Kunz commented that the 2026 training budget had an additional $5,000.00 due to Telluride Foundation funding; that money, plus the 2026 budget line item was $10,000 for training and travel, which has been almost all spent.

The Fire Department Thanksgiving dinner is scheduled for November 21st.

A motion to adjourn the regular meeting was made by Sarah Eckles at 8:24 PM; seconded by Maria Casanova. Approval was unanimous.

The next regular RFPD meeting is scheduled for November 16th, 2026.

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Chairman Secretary