

MINUTES

ORANGE COUNTY FIRE AUTHORITY

Board of Directors Regular Meeting
Thursday, February 26, 2026
6:00 P.M.

Regional Fire Operations and Training Center
Board Room
1 Fire Authority Road
Irvine, CA 92602

CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Orange County Fire Authority Board of Directors was called to order on February 26, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

INVOCATION: Senior Chaplain Dave Keehn provided the Invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Director Munzing led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL: Clerk of the Authority Maria D. Huizar conducted the roll call.

Present:

Joshua Sweeney, Laguna Hills, Chair	Nitesh Patel, La Palma, Vice Chair
Phil Bacerra, Santa Ana	George Brietigam III, Garden Grove
David Burke, Cypress	Victor Cabral, San Clemente
Tara Campbell, Yorba Linda	Sergio Farias, San Juan Capistrano
Katrina Foley, County of Orange	Betty Martinez Franco, Irvine
Robert Frackelton, Villa Park	Mike Frost, Dana Point
Shari L. Horne, Laguna Woods	Kelly Jennings, Laguna Niguel
Austin Lombard, Tustin	Mike Munzing, Aliso Viejo
Bradley McGirr, Rancho Santa Margarita	Chi Charlie Nguyen, Westminster
Bob Ruesch, Mission Viejo	Dave Shawver, Stanton
Mark Tettemer, Lake Forest	Connor Traut, Buena Park

Absent:

Shelley Hasselbrink, Los Alamitos	Lisa Landau, Seal Beach
Donald P. Wagner, County of Orange	

Also present were:

Interim Fire Chief TJ McGovern	Deputy Chief Robert C. Cortez
Assistant Chief Baryic Hunter	Assistant Chief Jim Ruane
Assistant Chief Felicia Bryant	Assistant Chief Sara Kennedy
Assistant Chief Rob Capobianco	Assistant Chief Matt Olson
Assistant Chief Mike Summers	Assistant Chief Stephanie Holloman
Clerk of the Authority Maria D. Huizar	General Counsel David Kendig

Director Tetterer presented the item of the Standards of Cover for the Air Operations Fleet asking for staff to provide an analysis of the replacement and cost factors of two helicopters as potentially necessary in the future.

On motion of Director Tetterer and second by Director Frackelton, and by unanimous vote of 21-0 (Directors Ruesch, Hasselbrink, Landau and Wagner absent) the Board directed staff to prepare a staff report for the Boards consideration on the Standards of Cover for the Air Operations Fleet.

B. Board of Director Requested Item (Frackelton) - Board Meeting Teleconferencing (FILE 11.20)

Director Frackelton presented the item regarding teleconferencing of Board meetings and discussed the concept of expanding teleconferencing options. He recommended that the Board direct staff to return with a recommendation regarding teleconferencing for special meetings and to consider the potential use of teleconferencing for committee meetings. Discussion ensued. Director Foley offered friendly amendment to direct staff to analyze the requirements of California Senate Bill 707, which will require a Zoom option for meetings beginning July 1, 2026, and to evaluate whether the Board may wish to consider remote participation by Board members consistent with the criteria outlined in the legislation.

On motion by Director Frackelton, seconded by Director Foley, and by unanimous vote of 21-0 (Directors Reusch, Landau, Hasselbrink, and Wagner absent) the Board directed staff to conduct an analysis of the issues discussed related to teleconferencing, including an analysis of the requirements of California Senate Bill 707 with options for consideration.

C. Seventh Amendment to the Advanced Life Support Services Billing Agreement with Falck Mobile Health Corp. dba Care Ambulance Service, Inc. (FILE 18.05A4)

Assistant Chief Capobianco presented the report.

On motion of Director Foley and second by Director Patel, the Board voted 21-0 (Directors Reusch, Landau, Hasselbrink and Wagner absent) to approve the Seventh Amendment to the Advanced Life Support Services Billing Agreement with Falck Mobile Health Corp. to extend the term of the agreement retroactively from September 1, 2025, until the earlier of: (1) the effective date of a new Advanced Life Support Services Billing Agreement between OCFA and Falck Mobile Health Corp. or (2) until terminated by either party upon thirty (30) days' notice.

RECESS TO CLOSED SESSION AT 6:35 P.M.

General Counsel reported the Board would consider CS2 and CS3 as presented on the agenda.

General Counsel Kendig provided the required summary, noting that approval of the proposed Interim Fire Chief Employment Agreement would establish a base salary of \$399,522.24, payable in equal installments, effective January 22, 2026, the date of appointment. The agreement would also provide that the Interim Fire Chief continue to receive the same benefits available to Executive Management employees as outlined in the OCFA Personnel and Salary Resolution, as may be amended by the Board of Directors, and consistent with applicable public employment pension requirements. These fringe benefits include sick leave at the same accrual rate as other Executive Management employees, paid annual leave and vacation at the same accrual rates as other Executive Management employees, and continued participation in the OCERS retirement safety plan for classic members. The agreement also provides that if the Interim Fire Chief is removed from the interim position prior to December 1, 2026, OCFA would implement one of the following options while continuing to provide the same salary and benefits received as Interim Fire Chief: (1) placement on administrative leave through December 1, 2026; (2) assignment to a special project or assignment through December 1, 2026; or (3) return to the former position of Deputy Chief of the Emergency Operations Bureau through December 1, 2026.

Director Ruesch arrived 7:03 p.m.

On motion of Director Traut and second by Director Munzing, approved unanimously 22-0 (Directors Wagner, Hasselbrink and Landau absent) to approve an employment agreement for Interim Fire Chief with Terry "TJ" McGovern.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

- Director Brietigam commended the crew of Fire Station 84 for the professional care and attention they provided during an incident involving a member of his family.
- Director Martinez Franco expressed appreciation to the Orange County Fire Authority for their assistance and cooperation with the FBI during a joint investigation related to an incident in the City of Irvine.

ADJOURNMENT – Chair Sweeney adjourned the meeting at 7:03 p.m. The next regular meeting of the Orange County Fire Authority Board of Directors will be on Thursday, March 26, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.



Maria D. Huizar, CMC
Clerk of the Authority