MINUTES
ORANGE COUNTY FIRE AUTHORITY

Board of Directors Regular Meeting
Thursday, September 24, 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 September 24, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. by Chair Sweeney.

INVOCATION:
OCFA Chaplain Kent Kraning provided the Invocation.

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

ROLL CALL:
Clerk of the Authority Liliana Escobedo conducted the roll call.

Present:

Joshua Sweeney, Laguna Hills, Chair
Nitesh Patel, La Palma, Vice Chair
Mike Munzing, Aliso Viejo
Connor Traut, Buena Park
Donald P. Wagner, County of Orange
David Burke, Cypress
George Brietigam III, Garden Grove
Betty Martinez Franco, Irvine
Kelly Jennings, Laguna Niguel
Mark Tettemer, Lake Forest
Bob Ruesch, Mission Viejo
Bradley McGirr, Rancho Santa Margarita
Victor Cabral, San Clemente
Austin Lumbard, Tustin
Robert Frackelton, Villa Park
Lisa Landau, Seal Beach ***arrived at 6:04 p.m.***
Chi Charlie Nguyen, Westminster ***arrived at 6:35 p.m.***

Absent:

Katrina Foley, County of Orange
Mike Frost, Dana Point
Shari L. Horne, Laguna Woods
Shelley Hasselbrink, Los Alamitos
Sergio Farias, San Juan Capistrano
Phil Bacerra, Santa Ana
Dave Shawver, Stanton
Tara Campbell, Yorba Linda

Staff:

Interim Fire Chief TJ McGovern
Deputy Chief Ryan Bishop
Assistant Chief Sara Kennedy
Assistant Chief Stephanie Holloman
Assistant Chief Matt Olson
Clerk of the Authority Liliana Escobedo
Deputy Chief Robert C. Cortez
Assistant Chief Jim Ruane
Assistant Chief Rob Capobianco
Assistant Chief Cheyne Maule
General Counsel David Kendig

REPORTS

A. Report from the Budget and Finance Committee

Committee Chair Patel reported at its September 9, 2026 Budget and Finance Committee meeting, the Committee reviewed and with a unanimous vote, forwarded the Carryover of FY 2025-26 Projects in Progress to the Board of Directors for approval.

B. Report from the Fire Chief

- 9/11 and Upcoming Firefighter Memorial Remembrance Ceremonies
- OCFA Strategic Goals – FY 2025-26 4th Quarter
- Wildfire Resource Center Groundbreaking
- Introduction of Assistant Chief of EMS/Training, Cheyne Maule
- US&R / Technical Rescue Presentation – Battalion Chief Mike Yeun

Interim Fire Chief McGovern shared 9/11 and Upcoming Firefighter Memorial Remembrance Ceremonies, presented the 4th Quarter Strategic Goals, reported on the groundbreaking of the Wildlife Resource Center, and introduced the new Assistant Chief EMS/Training, Cheyne Maule. Battalion Chief Yeun gave a presentation on US&R / Technical Rescue Operations.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chris Hamm, Local 3631 President, expressed his appreciation for Chief McGovern and OCFA staff who attended the service honoring Kevin Skinner in Colorado Springs.

1. PRESENTATION

None.

2. CONSENT CALENDAR

On motion by Director Munzing and second by Director Ruesch, the Board approved (17-0) Agenda Item Nos. 2A-2I (Directors Foley, Horne, Farias, Shawver, Frost, Hasselbrink, Bacerra, Campbell, and Nguyen absent).

A. Minutes for the Board of Directors Meeting

The record will show that any Director not in attendance at the meeting of the Minutes will be registered as an abstention, unless otherwise indicated.

Action: Approve the Minutes for the June 25, 2026, Regular Meeting as submitted.

B. Appointment of Clerk for the Orange County Fire Authority

Action: Approve and adopt the proposed Resolution entitled A RESOLUTION OF THE ORANGE COUNTY FIRE AUTHORITY, ORANGE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA, APPOINTING A CLERK FOR THE ORANGE COUNTY FIRE AUTHORITY appointing Liliana Escobedo as Clerk of the Authority.

C. Acceptance of Fiscal Year 2026 Department of Homeland Security/Federal Emergency Management Agency's Urban Search & Rescue Readiness Cooperative Agreement Funding

Action:
1. Approve and adopt the proposed Resolution to accept the Department of Homeland Security/Federal Emergency Management Agency's Readiness Cooperative Agreement funding.
2. Approve a budget adjustment to the FY 2026/27 General Fund (121) budget increasing revenues and expenditures by $1,898,333.

D. CalOES-Negotiated Equipment Reimbursement Rate Adjustment

Action: Approve and adopt the Updated Equipment Cost Reimbursement Rates to be effective October 1, 2026.

E. Carryover of FY 2025-26 Projects in Progress

Action:
1. Approve a budget adjustment in the FY 2026/27 General Fund (121) to adjust revenues by $6,551,051 and expenditures by $6,661,883.
2. Approve a budget adjustment in the FY 2026/27 General Fund CIP (12110) to adjust expenditures by $12,706,424.
3. Approve a budget adjustment in the FY 2026/27 Fire Stations and Facilities Fund (123) to adjust expenditures by $27,997,932.
4. Approve a budget adjustment in the FY 2026/27 Communications and Information Systems Fund (124) to adjust expenditures by $7,612,805.
5. Approve a budget adjustment in the FY 2026/27 Fire Apparatus Fund (133) to adjust expenditures by $13,193,452.
6. Approve a budget adjustment in the FY 2026/27 Settlement Agreement Fund (139) to adjust expenditures by $1,500,000.
7. Approve a budget adjustment in the FY 2026/27 Structural Fire Entitlement Fund (171)

to adjust expenditures by $2,421,581.

F. Assignment of State Fire Protection Agreement Regarding Fire Protection Services of State Responsibility Areas

Action: Approve and authorize the Board Chair to sign the Assignment of State Fire Protection Agreement assigning to OCFA the County's three-year agreement with CAL FIRE to provide wildland fire protection in the State Responsibility Areas.

G. Senate Bill 707 Public Participation and Outreach Plan

Action: Review and approve the Senate Bill 707 Proposed Strategic Plan.

H. Proclamation for Fire Prevention Week

Action: Approve proclamation designating October 4-10, 2026, as Fire Prevention Week.

I. Biennial Review and Adoption of Revised Conflict of Interest Code

Action:
1. Adopt the proposed Resolution entitled A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE ORANGE COUNTY FIRE AUTHORITY ADOPTING A CONFLICT OF INTEREST CODE WHICH SUPERSEDES ALL PRIOR CONFLICT OF INTEREST CODES, and;
2. Direct the Clerk of the Authority to submit the adopted Resolution to the Orange County Board of Supervisors, as the Code reviewing body, for approval.

Interim Fire Chief McGovern introduced Liliana Escobedo and welcomed her as the Clerk of the Authority.

3. DISCUSSION CALENDAR

A. Approval of Memorandum of Understanding with the Orange County Professional Firefighters Association

Deputy Chief Cortez presented the item and responded to questions from the Board.

Director Tettemer expressed concerns over the term length, its long term effects on cash contract cities and that the budget does not reflect all the capital demands on OCFA.

Director Frackelton noted he had many comments and questions and asked for more time before Board action.

A motion was made by Director McGirr and seconded by Director Jennings to approve the MOU as presented.

Director Traut noted months have been spent developing this agreement and staff has advised the terms are consistent with Board direction and supports the item. Chair Sweeney agreed with these comments.

A substitute motion was made by Director Frackelton to continue the item to the November Board meeting for additional time to review the proposed MOU. The motion failed for lack of a second.

Upon the original motion by Director McGirr and seconded by Director Jennings, the Board voted (15-1-1) to approve the proposed MOU between the Orange County Fire Authority and the Orange County Professional Firefighters Association for a term of March 19, 2027, through March 11, 2032 (Director Tettemer voting no, Director Frackelton abstained, and Directors Foley, Horne, Farias, Shawver, Frost, Hasselbrink, Bacerra, and Campbell absent).

B. One-Year Pilot Program Update on Rapid Intervention Injury Management and Navigation Services

Assistant Chief Holloman provided a presentation for an update on this program and responded to questions from the Board. While the Board supported the overall program intention, they expressed concerns with the low participation in relation to the program cost.

Chair Sweeney offered the opportunity for public comment.

Chris Hamm, Local 3631 President, supports the program; however, expressed concern with the effectiveness and efficiencies of the provider, citing excessive waiting times for treatment. Therefore, supports staff's recommendations to complete a new RFP process as there are a variety of vendors who provide this service.

Director Brietigam made a motion, seconded by Director Munzing to proceed with recommendation 4, directing staff to complete a new RFP process with refined scope of services for this program. Assistant Chief Holloman noted that due to the time required to complete the RFP process, suggested the program continue until the RFP is completed so services are not removed from employees currently utilizing the program.

Director Brietigam modified his motion, seconded by Director Munzing to include continuing the program on a month-to-month basis until the RFP is completed.

Vice Chair Patel made a substitute motion, seconded by Director Frackelton, to approve staff's recommendations as stated below:

1. Approve and authorize the Purchasing Manager to extend the current SCU-HS Rapid Intervention Injury Management and Navigation Services contract for an additional 6

months contingent upon continuation of the cost sharing Side Letter Agreement with OCPFA Local 3631, collect 6 months of program metrics, then return to the Board with updated results and recommendations.
2. Authorize staff to negotiate an extension of the OCPFA Local 3631 cost sharing Side Letter Agreement for the duration of the program.
3. Direct staff to include the necessary revenue and expenditure budget adjustments in the FY 2026-27 Mid-Year Budget Adjustment for Board approval during the Third Quarter of the fiscal year.
4. Direct staff to complete a new RFP process with refined scope of services for Rapid Intervention Injury Management and Navigation Services.

Prior to the roll call vote. Director Tettemer requested clarification as to whether the current cost-sharing arrangement would be maintained for the next six months, and received confirmation that the flat monthly fee would continue for that period.

On the motion by Vice Chair Patel and seconded by Director Frackelton, the motion passed unanimously by a 17-0 vote (Directors Foley, Horne, Farias, Shawver, Frost, Hasselbrink, Bacerra, and Campbell absent).

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Director Martinez Franco, on behalf of Irvine-based Maruchan Inc., presented a check to the OCFA for $100,000.

Director Traut requested consideration of agendizing changing Board Director appointments to a term length of two years.

Director McGirr formally congratulated newly promoted Assistant Chief Cheyne Maule.

Chair Sweeney recognized Kimberly Johnson for her time as Interim Clerk of the Authority.

RECESS TO CLOSED SESSION

The Board adjourned to Closed Session at 6:34 p.m.

General Counsel reported the Board would consider Items CS4, CS5, and CS7 as presented on the agenda.

CS1. [Deleted]

CS2. [Deleted]

CS3. [Deleted]

CS4. CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS pursuant to Government Code Section 54957.6

Negotiators:	Peter Brown, Liebert Cassidy, Robert C. Cortez, Deputy Chief/Administration and Support Bureau; and Stephanie Holloman, Assistant Chief/Human Resources Director
Employee Organization:	(1) Orange County Professional Firefighters Association, IAFF - Local 3631 (2) Orange County Employee Association (OCEA) (3) Orange County Fire Authority Managers Association (OCFAMA)

CS5. CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS pursuant to Government Code Section 54957.6

Negotiators:	Robert C. Cortez, Deputy Chief/Administration and Support Bureau; and Stephanie Holloman, Assistant Chief/Human Resources Director
Employee Organization:	Chiefs Officers Association (COA)

CS6. [Deleted]

CS7. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - PUBLIC EMPLOYEE APPOINTMENT/EMPLOYMENT, pursuant to Section 54957(b)(1) of the Government Code:

Title:	Fire Chief/Interim Fire Chief

The Board adjourned into Closed Session at 7:07 p.m.

Directors Martinez Franco left the meeting at 7:07 p.m.

The Board reconvened to Open Session at 8:01 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION REPORT: General Counsel Kendig reported on Item CS7, the Board unanimously appointed TJ McGovern to the position of Fire Chief, effective immediately, pending appointment of a new Fire Chief after the current recruitment is completed.

There were no other reportable actions taken in Closed Session.

ADJOURNMENT – Chair Sweeney adjourned the meeting at 8:03p.m. The next regular meeting of the Orange County Fire Authority Board of Directors will be on Thursday, October 22, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

Liliana Escobedo
Clerk of the Authority