

**GOLDER RANCH FIRE DISTRICT
GOVERNING BOARD MEETING
SPECIAL BUDGET STUDY SESSION
MEETING MINUTES**

**Monday, May 4, 2026, 9:00 a.m.
1600 E. Hanley Boulevard Oro Valley, AZ 85737**

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Chairperson Vicki Cox Golder called the meeting to order on Monday, May 4, 2026, at 9:00 a.m.

Members Present: Chairperson Vicki Cox Golder, Vice-Chairperson Wally Vette, Board Clerk Sandra Outlaw, Board Member Steve Brady, and Board Member Tom Shellenberger

Staff Present: Fire Chief Tom Brandhuber, Assistant Chief Perry, Assistant Chief Grissom, Assistant Chief Cesarek, Local 3832 President Jones, Fire Marshal Akins, Deputy Chief Rutherford, Deputy Chief Jarrold, Deputy Chief Wilson, Acting Finance Director Sargent, HR Director Delong, Technology Director Martinez, Battalion Chief Spanarella, Battalion Chief Hastings, Division Chief Taylor, Division Chief Leslie, Division Chief North, Division Chief Charnoki, Project Manager Holland, Community Relations Supervisor Camarillo, Fleet Maintenance Supervisor Raney, and Board Services Supervisor Ortiz

2. SALUTE AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Those in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. CALL TO THE PUBLIC

There were no public issues presented.

4. REGULAR BUSINESS

A. BUDGET STUDY SESSION

Chief Brandhuber began the meeting with a few announcements. He recognized all suppression personnel for National Fallen Firefighters Memorial, which was the past weekend. He also noted May 15 is Arizona Peace Officers Memorial Day for all first responders. Chief Brandhuber thanked first responders for the sacrifices they made. He acknowledged the proposed budget had a significant mill rate increase and said he did not take it lightly. The mill rate increase did two things: allowed the District to take care



of its personnel with salary increases and allowed the District to pay for an increase in healthcare costs. So, the increase in the mill rate was to take care of staff both in salary and healthcare costs.

Assistant Chief Perry began the presentation by stating the proposed budget was a change from past budgets. He and staff wanted to make sure there was clarity in trending costs. He disclosed there were major budget changes. The fuel expenses were moved to the Fleet program. All employee related expenses were allocated to the Human Resources program. Medical costs have increased significantly in the past year. A separate line item for Health Savings Account (HSA) contributions was created to keep track of this expense. The goal (of the changed budget) was full visibility. For staffing updates, there will be a reference to Full Time Employees (FTE) rather than bodies, which had been the reference in the past. When part-time employees are referenced, they will be considered a half-time equivalent. No additional FTEs were proposed in the budget. One FTE was transferred to Facilities, where there was a need. Another previously approved FTE was eliminated. This position may be needed in the future, however, staff recognized the significant increase in the budget. The Operations and Maintenance (O&M) increase was attributed strictly to fund salaries and increased healthcare costs. Last year, \$3 million was budgeted for healthcare; actual costs were \$4.6 million. So, the budget had to be increased considerably for healthcare. In addition, there was a need to better fund the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). Staff will ask the Board to consider a new Principles of Sound Financial Management policy. With the change in the plan, funds will be reallocated to invest in the Capital Improvement Plan. Sinking funds will be used to itemize pension funds, healthcare, etc. In addition, there will be banking changes made to attempt to increase interest earned on District money.

Assistant Chief Perry asked the Board if there were any questions.

Vice-Chairperson Vette asked how many hours a part-time employee works.

Assistant Chief Perry answered, a part-time employee works 20 hours a week.

In reference to the District pension contingency fund, Chairperson Cox Golder asked where this was budgeted and how much money was in the fund. She inquired if the District had adequate money for those that have retired and if it will be enough for those who will retire in the future.

Assistant Chief Perry replied, the District recently had approximately \$4.3 million in the fund. The District recently paid \$4 million to pay down the liability. The last assessment for 2025 showed the District was 90% funded.

Chief Brandhuber elaborated \$280,000 was remaining in the Public Agency Retirement Services (PARS) account. If the financial policy is updated, more money could be allocated to pension liability. He projected the next report will show the District funded at 93%. Also included in the budget is a plan to be 100% funded by 2036.



Assistant Chief Perry stated a \$67 million dollar budget was proposed, \$67,397,299. There were some net assessed value increases in the District, however, they were not as significant as staff would have liked. It was lower than staff would have liked, though it increased by about 4% the past year.

Assistant Chief Perry explained the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) is one of the most significant investments the District is making. It increased 118%. This was due to an attempt to fund the sinking fund for significant expenses such as engines, station builds, remodels, etc. So hopefully the mill rate will not have to be burdened when a purchase is made. There was a \$7 million increase in labor, benefits, and employee development. This was due to Chief Brandhuber's commitment to increase salaries based on the salary survey. There were issues with the initial company hired, Segal; they were eventually terminated. The District consulted with HR Know again. They were able to provide good research. Due to higher costs of living in the Phoenix valley, the District was not able to reach the 101% salary match with the agencies in the Phoenix valley; however, the salaries were within 101% of the agencies in the Tucson area, and the salaries were above Northwest Fire District.

Chairperson Cox Golder inquired about the salary survey, she mentioned the Governing Board had not seen the salary survey.

Chief Brandhuber responded, due to the compressed time frame, HR Know did research to collect salary comparators. Staff internally calculated and determined salaries. Staff did not have the company, HR Know, calculate salaries because staff already knew what the requirements were in the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). In order to save money, it (calculating salaries) was committed to being done internally. The MOU with the Union will be approved in August pending negotiations. At that time, staff will know how much the Board approved for the budget and use it to determine the final figures of the compensation plan. Staff have been working on the salary schedules. They have a monetary amount they think they need to be able to manage. They will discuss it with Labor after the budget is adopted to make any final changes, knowing what the final budget is. The only items HR Know provided in their survey were the mid, min, and max of the six other comparators and their shift schedules. Staff did not spend the money (paying the salary survey company) because it was not known how much was allocated (to salaries).

Vice-Chairperson Vette asked if the Board could see the report.

Chairperson Cox Golder stated it is important for the Board to see it.

Chief Brandhuber asked for clarification on what the Board would like.

Vice-Chairperson Vette said they would like to see everything that was used to make the decisions.

Chief Brandhuber replied staff would get it to the Board that afternoon.



Assistant Chief Perry mentioned another change that was made to the budget was the debt service. It will be shown in the revenues as well as the expenditures sections. That way, it is shown how much is spent on the debt service. It is something the District has paid the entire time with the bond mill rate. There was no increase for that line item. Assistant Chief Perry explained there was approximately a \$340,000 decrease in the professional services line item. This line item included fees for credit cards (processing fees), consultants, and contracts for business services. The vehicle and equipment expense was approximately a \$230,000 increase. The supplies and consumables had a \$410,000 decrease.

He stated all budget managers were asked to scrub their O&M budgets, knowing there were significant increases for salaries and healthcare costs. From that, \$800,000 was identified and removed from the O&M budgets last year. That was reflected in the proposed budget. He said staff were trying to fine tune the budgets and stay on track with what was actually spent.

He continued to explain the budget: the license fees and renewals line item was increased by \$372,000. The utilities line item was increased by \$64,000. Repairs and maintenance were decreased by \$156,000. There was a \$77,000 increase for the commercial insurance due to an increase in cyber insurance and similar items. He concluded the explanation of the summary budget and offered to answer any questions. The Board did not have any questions.

Assistant Chief Perry proceeded to the mill rate page. He stated a \$67 million dollar budget was proposed. The mill rate, needed to balance (the proposed budget), entailed a \$.12 cent increase. The O&M mill rate was \$2.55 and would be increased to \$2.67. That would go to fund increases in salaries and healthcare costs. However, the bond rate was lowered from \$.11 cents to \$.09 cents, so a total of a \$.10 cent increase was proposed. The proposed aggregate mill rate was \$2.76 up from \$2.66 last year.

Chief Perry proceeded to the staffing overview report. One position budgeted last year was eliminated. There were 319.5 FTEs last year, 318.5 FTEs were proposed for FY 26/27. There was a significant increase in the 5-year full-time equivalent trend, due to the increase in Community Resource Technicians. In the two-year trend for FTEs by program, a variance showed between Emergency Medical Services (EMS) response and fire response. Positions were budgeted in the EMS program to show the staffing of the ambulances. These positions were reallocated from the Fire Response program.

Assistant Chief Perry explained there was a new program, the 191 Budget Reserve program. These were capital reserve dollars, sinking funds, and bond funds. They have been reserved in their own fund so they cannot be used for O&M expenses. However, they will be available should they be needed. He said there would be a sinking fund for apparatus, sinking funds for maintenance, and sinking funds for legal fees. They would all be contingency funds.



Vice-Chairperson Vette asked if the money would be placed where the District could earn interest.

Assistant Chief Perry answered yes. The money would be placed in a checking account. There would be arrangements with the bank to have a sweeping account that would, on a nightly basis, sweep the money to a money market account. However, there would still be the flexibility to pay what would be needed..

Assistant Chief Perry proceeded to the individual division budgets. Chief Perry presented the Chief's Office budget. The Chief's Office proposed a budget of \$1.3 million, a \$66,000 decrease from last year. The decrease was attributed to the legal expenses that were moved to line item 191.

Project Manager Holland explained there was an increase in the Project Management fund due to an increase in salaries and benefits. He mentioned his division will be hosting a Center for Public Safety Excellence (CPSE) training, which will help with the re-accreditation process.

Board Supervisor Ortiz presented the Board Services budget. She explained the budget was decreased by cutting expenses in the training and the independent medical exams (IMEs) line items. Finance allocated the elections costs to a contingency fund. If there is a contested election, the District must pay it. The costs will be covered by an allocation in the contingency fund. The IME line item was also substantially decreased; finance also allocated additional money in the contingency fund for this line item since it is difficult to budget for disabilities.

Chief Brandhuber explained certain line items were moved to a contingency fund so it wouldn't affect the mill rate.

HR Director Delong stated the Human Resources budget increased substantially due to a reallocation of all benefits costs to HR's budget. This was done to track these costs better.

Technology Director Martinez presented the Technology Department's budget. He explained there was a decrease in his department's budget by \$12,889. There were a few major increases; one item was for a third-party security audit. Much like the Finance division has an auditor conduct an audit, the Technology department will be doing the same thing. This will be done to validate Technology's security and ensure the division is providing the best service they can. The division also increased their budget for managed services. This is for third-party support in case the division needs to contact a vendor for assistance. One of the roles the previous IT Director and Director Martinez used to fill, was that of a network technician. Now, the Technology division is going to have to rely heavily on third-party vendors. The one position that was eliminated was an administrator position in the Technology program. This position was used to create a new position in Facilities.



Acting Finance Director Sargent presented the Finance Department's budget. He explained budget expenses were moved to the Human Resources division. He mentioned there will be increased costs to process payroll as well as fees to process credit card payments. There will also be increased costs associated with the auditor and the software, Paycom. More functions have been enabled in Paycom so there will be an increased cost associated. A consultant has been helping the Finance division build out MIP, the finance software platform.

Chief Brandhuber explained the additional functions of Paycom and how it will help staff, including assisting with tracking employee benefits and taxes.

Community Relations Supervisor Camarillo stated the Strategic Communications program proposed a decrease of \$12,595 in their budget. This was due to a reallocation of costs to the Community Engagement program and the addition of the Media Specialist position. The new position has enabled many services in-house.

Assistant Chief Perry explained the administrative overhead fund was an administrative overhead created for the Administrative Assistant position at Hanley, any related labor costs related, supply costs for the Hanley building, as well as any administrative supplies suppression picks up from Hanley. There was a \$138,000 decrease in this fund.

Assistant Chief Perry presented the budget reserve. He explained the budget reserve was created to include expenses that may or may not happen and items for the future. It was created so that it will not impact the mill rate. There was a bond fund of \$4 million for the Fleet and Professional Development remodel and refurbishment projects. There was an operational contingency fund for tools that may have to be replaced. There was an administrative contingency fund, which included line items such as elections, independent medical exams, legal fees, etc. There will also be a healthcare contingency fund and a pension contingency fund. One important thing he wanted to note was due to cash flow reasons and the delay in the County collecting cash, these items will not be fully funded until later in the year.

Chairperson Cox Golder expressed her concern that it appeared to be a large miscellaneous fund.

Assistant Chief Perry acknowledged her concern and noted the purpose of the funds were to break down the expenses.

Board Clerk Outlaw noted there was a Type 3 unit and an Air & Power truck listed in the budget reserve. She asked if they may not be replaced.

Assistant Chief Perry replied they were on the schedule to be replaced in the future. They were apparatus replacements listed in the sinking funds. Money will be placed in the fund each year until they are needed and then the District will have the money to pay for them.



Board Clerk Outlaw clarified that it was not a discretionary fund, it was a fund that was built up until the money was there to purchase the item.

Assistant Chief Perry verified she was correct. For apparatus and ,items of that nature it, was a sinking fund.

Chairperson Cox Golder asked if all the expenses had been identified and placed in the correct fund.

Assistant Chief Perry replied yes.

Chief Brandhuber explained the new Principles of Sound Financial Management (PSFM) that the auditor, Lydia, from BeachFleischman has agreed to review; which states the contingency funds cannot be used for anything but what was listed, unless the Board approves it by resolution.

Assistant Chief Perry reiterated the budget reserve fund does not burden the mill rate. In the newly proposed Principles of Sound Financial Management, staff were proposing to use dollars from 40% to 25% in the reserve funds and reallocate the funds. The money would be assigned to their specific projects.

Community Risk Reduction's Deputy Chief Wilson presented the Community Engagement budget. He proposed a \$9,100 budget decrease due to the reallocation of funds. He said there was an increase in supplies and consumables, but other line items were cut by \$9,100.

Assistant Chief Perry commented since the budget was so small, the program may be rolled into the Community Education program next year. The program was initially created as its own program because it was thought to be a significant expense, however, it did not turn out to be.

Deputy Chief Wilson presented the Community Education budget. The program proposed a budget decrease of \$26,961 from last year. The budget was scrubbed, but they would still be able to provide good community and public education events and remain fiscally responsible.

Vice-Chairperson Vette asked if the division planned on rolling the Nymb1 program out to more than retirement communities.

Deputy Chief Wilson replied yes, his staff were working on presenting it to other communities.

Deputy Chief Wilson explained the budget of the Community Resource Technicians. He mentioned there was a \$2(4?),000 increase. The increase for \$24,000 is to purchase lock boxes that the public can purchase from the District. The boxes will be sold at cost and the funds will be recouped. Unfortunately, the prices are increasing. They used to be



\$70 and have increased to \$150 each. The turnaround time was approximately 4 months. The last order the District purchased were for 50 boxes and they were sold within a month. The increase in the budget was due to lock boxes.

Assistant Chief Perry said it was taking a while for residents to receive their lock boxes and there was a big demand for it so that is why staff decided to have the lock boxes flow through the District. An inventory can be kept on hand. It is a pass-through fund, no revenue is earned from it.

Vice-Chairperson Vette asked if the lock boxes were installed by the CRTs.

Assistant Chief Perry explained residents purchase and installs the lock box and they contact the District to secure the spare house key in it.

Deputy Chief Wilson mentioned 95 lock boxes were secured in the past month.

Deputy Chief Wilson presented the Community Risk Reduction's overhead budget. The proposed budget was a \$214,522 decrease due to the elimination of the Wildland Educator position. He hopes to bring it back in the future.

Chairperson Cox Golder inquired if the position was removed entirely.

Deputy Chief Wilson verified she was correct. He said for all four budgets, there was a total decrease of \$252,384.

Fire Marshal Akins stated Fire Prevention proposed a budget just over \$1.1 million dollars, a \$11,525 decrease. The decrease was for two reasons. First, although labor increased, the benefits were moved to the HR program. Second, she asked her staff to limit out-of-state continuing education to the National Fire Academy, which is free for the class, hotel room, and flight. The only cost would be for the meal tickets. This saved the program 10% in the O&M budget. The \$5,000 decrease was due to the benefits that were moved to HR. There was a decrease in the 6200 series because the International Code Council (ICC) licensing, which is how the division receives digital copies of the fire, mechanical, and building codes, was moved to the 7500 series. This is why an increase is shown there. There was a small decrease in the 6500 series because the division does not plan on having an inspector apprentice and they have additional costs due to equipment and training needs. There was a decrease in utilities due to Verizon costs and there was a small increase in professional services due to mailing costs for mailing food truck stickers. She accounted for outreach costs with the hopes of the District hosting a National Fire Academy class. The 9900 series reflects an increase in the fire hydrant costs. These were originally allocated to the capital reserve but they have been moved back to 9911.

Division Chief Charnoki presented the Health and Safety division's budget. He announced there was a 12% decrease from last year's budget of \$951,310 with savings of \$115,494. This does not affect the goal of all members receiving physicals. His division



proposed to do further health screenings, which was the EPISEEK multi-cancer detection test.

Vice-Chairperson Vette asked about the trial cancer test program in Phoenix.

Division Chief Charnoki replied the program was through Vincere. The test is \$6,100. EPISEEK gave the District a discount. Their multi-cancer detection tests cost \$800, but they charge the District \$400 per member. Suppression members over the age of 40 get the test and non-suppression members over the age of 45 have the option to get the test.

Chief Brandhuber stated a project that is being worked on at the chief level with Banner Hospital, was to imitate what Vincere does in Phoenix and create a similar program in the Tucson area. This would create savings by multiple people participating in it. This is something in the discussion and developmental stages. Chief Brandhuber, the Tucson Fire Chief, and the Northwest Fire District Chief are working on mimicking a similar program in the Tucson area.

Vice-Chairperson Vette thanked Chief Brandhuber and said he was glad they were still working on it.

Fleet Maintenance Supervisor Raney presented the Fleet Maintenance's budget and explained there was an approximate \$150,000 decrease in the budget from last year due to employee related expenses reallocated to HR's budget. The District's fuel costs were reallocated to Fleet's budget, so the budget looks different from last year.

Division Chief North presented the Facilities division's budget. Last year, there were 19 different budgets, these were consolidated into one. Facilities was able to keep the budget at the same level as the previous year.

Assistant Chief Perry added Facilities and Procurement were able to scrub approximately \$800,00.

Chairperson Cox Golder asked what Operative IQ was.

Division Chief North explained Operative IQ was a facilities module used to submit purchase orders and track supplies.

Division Chief North presented the Procurement division's budget.

Chief Cesarek recognized the Procurement team and the work they have done to ensure inventory is tracked. The work that they do is tracked in the OPIQ software. This has translated into continued cost savings because there is a better process of knowing where all the supplies and consumable items are in the warehouse.



Assistant Chief Perry presented Support Services' overhead budget. It had a \$140,000 increase. The budget included the salaries for Division Chief North and Division Chief Rutherford as well as any expenses for training and expenses of this nature for them.

The Governing Board took a brief recess at 10:01 a.m.

The Governing Board resumed the meeting at 10:11 a.m.

Assistant Chief Perry presented the Operations budget. He explained this was the largest portion of the District's budget. The \$4 million budget decrease was an artificial decrease because 36 FTEs were moved to the EMS program in order to budget more appropriately.

Deputy Chief Jarrold said the budget showed a \$120,000 variance in the professional services line item. These were the Pima County Wireless Integrated Network (PCWIN) fees the District pays monthly for each radio to be on the PCWIN system. This expense was transferred from Procurement's budget. It is a fee that has been paid for years, it was just moved from another division.

Division Chief Taylor presented the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) division's budget. He noted a \$5 million increase; \$4.8 million was due to staffing reallocations. There was an increase in the supplies line item, this was an actual cost increase due to usage. The costs for supplies have increased. There was also an increase due to a cost reallocation for Verizon from the Technology division's budget. His program cut training costs by limiting training to EMS centric training and education that EMS staff are required to attend to maintain certifications. The equipment expenses line item was lowered based on previous years' expenses.

Battalion Chief Hastings proposed approximately a \$163,000 Special Operations' budget, just under a \$57,000 decrease from the previous year. He explained the bulk of the budget goes to overtime and equipment. Overtime expenses were cut by 16% and the O&M went down by 35% so, the Special Operations budget decreased by 26%.

Assistant Chief Perry said some of the increase in cost for the wildland budget was due to reallocation of funds from the fire response fund. He said staff were trying to budget it similar to the enterprise fund and account for the value the wildland program provides.

Battalion Chief Spanarella presented the Wildland division's budget. He stated the \$473,432 was not an actual increase, it was expenses moved from other areas into the Wildland division's budget. The Wildland team was trying to be flush and earn as much revenue as they spent on expenses. There were some basic expenses increases and trending increases. The changes will allow the Wildland division to track their expenses more accurately.



Division Chief Leslie presented the Professional Development budget and noted an approximate \$131,000 decreased budget due to cost cuts in training. There was an increase for electronic equipment needed for the remodel of the Training division.

Assistant Chief Perry presented the Emergency Response overhead budget. He said it included the Operation's Manager and the previously approved position to support him, as well as a few other FTE chief officers. Another position budgeted in the fund was the Alarm Room Captain. He explained there was a \$487,485 decrease due to the reallocation of funds to the capital budget.

Board Member Shellenberger said there appeared to be a lot of cuts. He asked if it was real savings or if it was all reallocations.

Assistant Chief Perry replied there was a real savings of \$887,000.

Board Member Shellenberger commended the staff. He acknowledged it was a lot of work and said to keep up the good work.

Assistant Chief Perry concluded the presentation of the O&M budget and proceeded to the Capital Improvement Plan's (CIP) budget. It was broken into different categories. The first fund was the general fund; those were capital improvement funds that will be funded through the O&M tax levy. This included an extractor platform at Station 373, station air monitoring (which was one of the strategic goals to get air quality monitoring at each of the stations), IT equipment such as microwave equipment, Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) bottles that need to be replaced on an annual basis, and a cascade system that will allow crews to fill their SCBA bottles located at Station 370. Some handicapped access needs to be redone at some of the stations. The fund also included security updates and the Quasar building improvements. These are projects that will be implemented in the upcoming fiscal year, which is why it will be impacting the O&M levy.

Assistant Chief Cesarek clarified the extractor platform, the station air monitoring, the IT equipment, and the SCBA bottles are all expenses that will be spent in the current fiscal year. They were expenses that were approved by the Board last year. His team is working to complete the projects. The Quasar build-out was in progress; permits were approved and received from Pima County the previous week. Costs for the Quasar building may roll over into next fiscal year.

Assistant Chief Perry said the next group of capital projects were alternate funded capital projects. They included the bond funded Fleet and Professional Development refurbishment projects. This phase included the ladder truck which will be funded by the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds, which was \$1.676 million. These projects did not burden the mill rate; they were funds the District had.

Assistant Chief Perry proceeded to the report for capital projects funded by sinking funds. This was where the projects for the 191 program were listed.



Assistant Chief Cesarek said one of the items staff reviewed were vehicle replacements and the asset list. They were trying to figure out a way to determine how and when to get new vehicles, ensure funding will be in place, and properly time the receipt of the vehicles. Staff may create a separate asset list with strictly vehicles.

Assistant Chief Perry presented the budget reserve projects. These were projects from the 191 program. They were funds that the District had that the Board authorized in the past. These were funds that the District may not have to expend on an annual basis, but they need to be identified just in case.

Assistant Chief Cesarek explained the next portion of the proposed budget was the capital leases. One of the leases was a Motorola lease. The lease allows staff to upgrade the radios on a regular basis with the cost of purchasing them for \$1.4 million dollars. The lease was a much more fiscally responsible approach to it. The mechanical compression devices were already in place. These were the devices the crews used. This was the LUCAS device and the EMS division was responsible for that. The leases also included a lease for cardiac monitors to ensure the District had up-to-date monitors. There was an Enterprise lease for vehicles; \$30,000 was added to program 185 for a total of \$215,000. Fleet Supervisor Charlie Raney identified 14-15 vehicles the District owned that cost a lot to maintain. Some of them were 13-15 years old and finding parts for them became a challenge. What staff decided to do to address the issue was to add money to the lease fund, sell 3-4 vehicles each year for the next three years and get newly leased vehicles to replace the 15 District owned vehicles. Any money made from the sale of the vehicles would be applied to the program. The Stryker cots were for the EMS division. The lease was for the motorized and power lift and load systems in the ambulances. The Canon copier leases were for the larger copy machines at North Admin, Hanley, and South Admin.

Assistant Chief Perry stated the lease program was using a reallocation of reserves funds. This will be based on the new Principles of Sound Financial Management that will be proposed to the Board.

Chief Brandhuber said in research done by staff, Gatsby recommends a 19% reserve fund. The District was funded at 40%. He recommended lowering the reserve funds to 25%. It was still more than what Gatsby recommended. He felt comfortable that it would provide the District with enough funds in case of a catastrophic issue. He wanted to use the funds in the most efficient and effective way. Chief Brandhuber explained healthcare costs and noted the PPO plan will be eliminated. One high-deductible health savings plan will be used and an increased deductible for the health savings plan will be implemented. The increases in costs were being passed on to the District and personnel. He said there will be mandatory open enrollment meetings for all District employees. He explained there was a misconception that the District had Cigna insurance. He said that Cigna processes the District's claims and allows the District to use their discounted rate programs.



Vice-Chairperson Vette expressed his appreciation for the tremendous effort made by staff to make changes. He said everyone did a great job.

Union President Jones thanked staff and division heads for all their work. He said a lean budget was presented, matter of fact, he would argue it was not going up enough.

Board Clerk Outlaw thanked everyone for their hard work and the new strategic business plan. She expressed it was important to provide the best services for the public.

Chairperson Cox Golder thanked the staff. She commented it was a great budget moving forward and she appreciated everyone's hard work.

Board Member Brady thanked everyone.

Assistant Chief Perry thanked the budget managers and thanked Acting Finance Director Jeff Sargent for all his hard work.

5. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Board Member Brady to adjourn the meeting at 10:45 a.m.

MOTION SECONDED by Vice-Chairperson Vette

MOTION CARRIED 5/0



Sandra Outlaw, Clerk of the Board
Golder Ranch Fire District

