

Aspen Fire Protection District

420 E Hopkins Avenue • Aspen, CO 81611 • 970-925-5532 • www.aspenfire.com



Board of Directors Work Session Meeting October 2nd, 2023

The Board of Directors of the Aspen Fire Protection District met for Work Session. The meeting was open to the public in person and virtually via Zoom.

Meeting called to order by John Ward at 12:12pm.

Roll Call:

- Board of Directors Present: John Ward, Parker Lathrop, Dave “Wabs” Walbert, Emily Taylor
- Board of Directors Absent: Charles Cunniffe
- Staff/Volunteers Present: Rick, Balentine, Jake Andersen, Nikki Lapin, Jan Schubert, Jan Legersky, Amanda Perusse, Scott Arthur, Ken Josselyn, Michael Holmes, Arnold Nimmo, David Richardson (zoom).
- Public/Others: Richard Peterson

2024 Draft Budget Review

The board reviewed the 2024 draft budget.

Chief Balentine provided an overview of the major line items and changes from the previous year.

Discussion around:

- District Staff: Includes a 10% inflation salary increase. There was a new salary study recently completed which will be presented to the Board soon in order for the Board to discuss the salary philosophy moving forward.
- Additional Staffing: Request for an additional Lieutenant and Firefighter per shift and one FT Fire Inspector for the prevention team, based on internal surveys and community priorities, to fill in gaps, provide added safety for our members and improve response time to calls and wildfire. Discussion on the opportunity to improve staffing and response time, and the importance of considering internal and public surveys. Deputy Chief Andersen will give a presentation at the next Board meeting on 10/10/23 to provide information on why adding more personnel is important and necessary for the organization’s future.
- The Director of Wildfire Resiliency position is now full-time and partially funded by grants and donations from a FEMA Grant and Forest Service Grant.
- Gradually increase the budget over time rather than implementing a large tax increase all at once. The total expense is estimated to increase by over \$3 million in the next year.

Request for a formal budget presentation at the next board meeting on 10/10/2023.

Discussion on the need to clarify options and find a solution that satisfies the District and our members.

MOTION: Motion by John Ward to adjourn at 1:46pm
Second: Wabs
Discussion: None
Vote: All approved.

*** A full recording of this meeting can be requested by contacting the District Administrator at nikki.lapin@aspenfire.com or by calling 970-925-5532.

AFPD Board Budget Works Session
October 2nd, 2023

- 1) 31102 Allocation to Cap Fund \$600K Unchanged 2023/2024?
Based on current inflation this is most likely underfunded
- 2) 31103 Allocation to Housing Fund: Mill levy allocation of .425 Mills 2023 Actual = \$1,255,748/ 2024= \$2,048,390 **Increase of \$792,642**
- 3) 31104 Allocation to GF: 2023= \$4,289,361/2024=\$7,129,446
Increase of \$2,480,085
- 4) 31105 Allocation to Emergency Reserve **\$50 K Unchanged**
- 5) 31107 Allocation to GF FPPA: 2023 \$150K/2024 \$250K.
Anticipation of added benefits to Retired Vols based on Actuarial.
- 6) 31109 Allocation to Treasurer fee:2023 \$325,756/2024 \$530,412
Based on actual Funds collected by the county.
- 7) Total General Property Tax: 2023 \$6,515,117/ 2024 \$10,708,248
Increase of \$4,093,131 (Approx 63%)
- 8) 38501 Pano Unchanged 2023/2024 final **costs and contributions TBD**
- 9) 38101 Grants Includes **FEMA Grant and Forest Service Grant augmenting salary of Director of Wildfire Resiliency**
- 10) 38103 CDPA-DFPC \$165K **cost offset for potential seasonal wild fire positions in 2024**
- 11) District Staff: Includes 10% Inflation salary increase. Note: New salary study just came in which may prompt **District Board meeting to discuss salary philosophy moving forward**
- 12) 2 Additional FF positions per shifts include 1 Lt position and one FF Position. Based on internal, consultants and community survey on their top priorities. **A) quick response B) Adequately Trained, C) Adequately Staffed.** (In line with 2018 72% Mill levy approvals)
- 13) Addition of one FTE Fire Inspector based on demonstrated need.

- 14) Moved Director of Wildfire Resiliency position from pilot program to Full time Position based on demonstrated need. Previously approved by BOD (Funded Partially from State Forest Service Grant)
- 15) BOTTOM LINE: If all items approved for advancement in 2024 budget Surplus of \$1208,707 for allocation from GF and Aforementioned increase in Housing Fund of \$792,642= **TOTAL \$2,001,249**
- 16) NOTE: These are estimates only for consideration. Factors such as outcome of PROP HH could have some negative impact although minimal to final GF and Housing Fund totals.

PREPARED BASED ON CURRENT AND PROPOSED 2023/2024 BUDGET ESTIMATES

Rick Balentine Fire Chief/CEO ASPEN FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT