

Meeting Minutes for
Rico Fire Protection District
Regular Meeting: June 15th, 2026

The regular Rico Fire Protection District Meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. by Chair Tyler Lapp.

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

Guests Present: RVFD Fire Chief Todd Jones, RFPD Administrator David Kunz Allyn Svoboda (remote)

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

Approval of Minutes: Maria Casanova moved to approve the minutes for the May 18th, 2026 regular meeting; Paul Ruud seconded the motion. Approval was unanimous.

Public Comment: No public comment.

Approval of Financial Report and Accounts Payable: Kunz presented (4) additional bills for payment: \$10,609.43 to Flying Phoenix (fireworks); \$23.69 to Cascade Fire Equipment (shipping for wildland fire gear); \$1800.00 to Los Pinos Fire (Fire Academy tuition); \$960.00 to TSFA (meals). Paul Ruud moved to approve the financial report and pay the bills as presented, plus 4 additional. Sarah Eckles seconded the motion. Approval was unanimous.

Administrative Report (Administrator David Kunz): The application for Exemption from Audit was approved. Ambulance inspection for new State license scheduled for 6/17. FEMA AFG funding request for brush truck submitted. EMTS grant is awaiting Statement of Work from State. CFSDPG reimbursement request submitted. Fourth of July prep continues. All other items on agenda.

Grants (awarded):

CFSDPG: (State grant for firefighter disease prevention). \$2539.40 (100%) in funding for highway visibility vests and personal safety lighting. All equipment is received, reimbursement request submitted. Closeout 10/31/26.

El Pomar (Wildland fire): Request for \$5,981.83 for wildland fire equipment; awarded \$5000.00. Fulfillment almost complete.

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.

CDPHE EMTS: Kunz applied for \$10,486.00 (50/50 match) in communications funding to replace/upgrade (4) mobile radios. Funding announcement has been made, RFPD is waiting for a Statement of Work from the State. Closeout 6/30/27.

Grants (submitted applications):

FEMA Assistance to Firefighters grant (AFG) submitted: request for funds to replace brush truck. Awards announcement by 9/30.

Fire Chief Report (Fire Chief Todd Jones):

Runs: (3) calls: MVA truck versus elk; SAR in Navajo Basin; stroke in Scotch Creek.

Training: Fire Academy in Durango (October); Tri-State will be held 7/30 – 8/1 in Grants, NM.

Equipment: 924 motor failure. Vehicle will be sold, possibly to TOR. 931 is set up to do some brush fire response but still carries most extrication equipment. Possibility of a State-funded brush unit as an interim response unit. Mancos still may donate a tanker. If that is donated, Tanker 927 could go to West Fork.

Old Business:

Transfer of Lots to RFPD from Town of Rico: Should be good to go for the closing.

Proposed new Fire Station Construction and Financing: No revised plans yet from Tom Bulk. Other options could include Mike McCallister out of Durango. Container storage as interim solution? Chief Jones would like to get a quote for the metal “shell” of a building to include pad, metal structure, doors: 60' x 60' footprint, would prefer a drive-through layout.

New Business:

Replacement of 924 (Brush Truck): Discussed under Chief's report.

Pension Board Meeting Schedule: TBD post-August regular meeting. Benn Vernadakis has met the age and service requirements to qualify for pension. The Pension Board would consist of the RFPD board plus two firefighters.

The next regular RFPD meeting is scheduled for July 20th, 2026.

A motion to adjourn was made by at 7:51 PM. by Sarah Eckles; seconded by Maria Casanova.

Chairman

Secretary