The minutes of the regular meeting of the Fire Commissioners of Walla Walla County Fire District No. 4 held on October 14, 2026, at Station 41.

The meeting was called to order at 4:18 p.m. by Chairman Myrick. Commissioners Farrens and Hector were present at Station 41 and Secretary/Chief John Golden. Guests include Deputy Chief Brandon McKinney, Deputy Chief Adam Woiblet, and Brian Jones in person.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Myrick.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES
The meeting agenda and minutes of the regular meeting of September 23, 2026, were motioned for approval by Commissioner Hector. Commissioner Farrens seconded the motion and was carried.

SECRETARY'S REPORT
The Commissioners' activity reports were reviewed and approved by each commissioner. Commissioner Farrens had 1 additional activity that was not accounted for; that will be reconciled next month.

Reminder about the WFCA conference next week in Spokane.

Public Budget meeting October 28th at 3:45pm.

CHIEF'S REPORT
Fire and EMS incidents for September: Total Calls: 134; EMS 95 with 36 transports; Fire 39

Laelen Torrance has turned in her letter of resignation, effective Oct. 28th. She has accepted a position with Spokane Fire District #8.

Todd had to have a second emergency surgery last week on his retina. He is out the rest of this week.

Work is beginning behind Jerry Anhorn's house to improve a crossing of Mill Creek and bank stabilization. D4 is in support of this work by the County and several other agencies. Chief Golden wrote a letter of support back in May. This crossing allows D4 to access the backside of Klicker Mtn and was used in the 2015 Blue Creek Fire. It has also been used on other fires as well.

D4 has received a Public Records Request regarding all of our vendor payments since Jan 1, 2025. D4 will be complying with this request and will be sending the information when possible.

Station alerting moving forward. Been gathering supplies, setting up, and has started to hook the system into our existing infrastructure. Crews will start running wires soon.

D4 is looking into changing our alert and response apps. The contract with I Am Responding is running out this year and provides a good opportunity to move on from this software. Active 9-1-1 is a solid alternative and could actually be cheaper to purchase.

WW Grain Growers and CHS have $20,000 that will be given to D4 so that we can help purchase AED machines to be put up in public places. D4 is merely the purchaser and will work with WWGG to determine best ideas for placement.

A new contract for fire protection for the Department of Transportation at the airport has been signed by Chief Golden. The duration is for two years.

DC McKinney reported on the status of our state mobilizations and payments, etc.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS
Last meeting a motion was presented, voted on, and carried to increase the ambulance transport fee for mileage. A formal resolution (2026-05) was signed by all three Commissioners. Chief Golden will report the new rates to the Office of Insurance Commissioner as required.

NEW BUSINESS
The annual ARFF rate increase was presented by Chief Golden. According to the contract, D4 has the option to increase the rate according to the wages and benefits increase on the Local 4514 contract. Chief Golden suggested that D4 raise the rate 5%, which is the maximum allowable by the ARFF contract with the Port. Commissioner Farrens motioned to increase ARFF contract by 5% for 2027, Commissioner Hector seconded and the motion was carried. Chief Golden will inform Airport Manager Jennifer Skoglund of the Commissioner's decision.

Approval of DC McKinney's OT on the Hatch Grade fire, we will be receiving reimbursement from the state for the mobilization. Commissioner Hector motioned to approve overtime. Commissioner Farrens seconded the motion and was carried.

Discussion took place regarding the health insurance benefit increase for 2027. Chief Golden presented an option involving an MOU with the Local 4514. Commissioner Hector motioned to allow for an MOU regarding the % that the District will pay toward dependent medical coverage. The exact language and numbers will be voted on during the next meeting allowing the union to review the numbers. Commissioner Farrens seconded the motion and the motion was carried.

Payroll and expense vouchers numbered 261001001 through 2610010054 were presented for payment. Chief Golden reviewed some of the big-ticket items. Commissioner Farrens asked if NAPA needed to be changed to Kuhl for future records. Commissioner Hector motioned to approve the expense vouchers. Commissioner Farrens seconded the motion and was carried. The total for these were $263,276.99.

AUDIENCE INPUT
None.
At 4:56 PM Chairman Myrick called for an executive session as allowed by RCW 42.30.110(1)(g) to review the performance of a public employee. The executive session will be for 20 minutes.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:16 PM

The next regular Walla Walla County Fire District No. 4 Commissioner Meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 28th at 4:00 P.M.

Submitted by: Chief John Golden

Approved by: _____, Chairman