



**JEFFERSON COUNTY  
FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO. 1  
(EAST JEFFERSON FIRE RESCUE)**

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES FROM NOVEMBER 19, 2024**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Stinson called the meeting to order at 4:00PM. In Person & Virtual via “ZOOM”, call in number 1 (253) 215-8782, Meeting ID 847 2159 8900 passcode 417267.

**COMMISSIONERS & ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF**

**Commissioners:** Deborah Stinson, Geoff Masci, Ed Davis, Dave Seabrook and Steve Craig.

**Admin Staff:** Chief Black, HR/Business Manager Stewart, CRM Wittenberg and District Secretary Cray

**Absent:** Commissioner Gene Carmody and Finance Director Lirio.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Finance Director Lirio is absent due to an illness, Chief Black, Tanya Cray and Commissioner Stinson will fill in as presenters.

**A. 2026 Budget Presentation:** Chief Black reviewed the budgeting process and challenges such as the 1% cap on annual property tax revenue for Fire Districts. The district's main source of revenue comes from property taxes, which is over 80% of the total revenue received. This combined with inflation of expenses at a higher rate than 1%, causes fund balance to be eaten away.

The budget committee met 6 times to review over \$1.8 million in requests. 59% were approved and 17% were partially approved, the rest were postponed or denied. 2026 budget recommendations include a community risk assessment, the financing of two fire engines, software, equipment replacement and necessary facilities maintenance. Some items that were postponed include: facility maintenance, radio replacements and a Fire Code Inspector FTE.

The recommended 2026 budget includes a \$1.3 million deficit. Conservative budgeting has us ending 2025 with an estimated \$330,000 surplus. It was noted that after 2025 we will have a fully funded Reserve Fund and can discontinue transferring funds into that account, to focus on building our Capital Funds. Financing vehicles is not sustainable forever, our Capital funds are being built up to purchase vehicles with cash and save the district money on interest.

**C. Public Comment** – Jean Ball commented that the number of employees may be a hurdle for us in the upcoming election. Roger Short questioned if the former Short's Farm that was purchased by the Port would be on the tax rolls.

**GOOD OF THE ORDER** – None.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Commissioner Stinson** adjourned the meeting at 4:36PM.

**Jefferson County Fire District 1**

*Deborah Stinson*

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Deborah Stinson, Chair

*Geoff Masci*

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Geoffrey Masci, Commissioner

*Gene Carmody*

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Gene Carmody, Commissioner

**ATTEST:**

*Tanya Cray*

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Tanya Cray, District Secretary

*Dave Seabrook*

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Dave Seabrook, Vice Chairman

*Steve Craig*

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Steve Craig, Commissioner

*Ed Davis*

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Ed Davis, Commissioner