

APPROVED 06252024

**MINUTES
SUN CITY FIRE DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
TUESDAY, MAY 21, 2024
9:00 A.M.**

CALL TO ORDER: Chairperson Tim Wilmes

ROLL CALL:

Members Present: Tim Wilmes, Stephen Arnold (arrived at 9:12 am), Phil La Barbera, Phil Griswold.

Members Absent: David VanderNaalt, with notice.

Staff Present: Fire Chief Rob Schmitz, Acting Assistant Chief Jason Casey, Human Resources Manager Lisa Neubert, United Sun Cities Fire Fighters Association (USCFFA) Vice President Brandon Crossno and Trustee Chris Marin.

BUSINESS CONDUCTED:

- I. Dominic Filosa from James Vincent group gave an overview of the draft FY2025 budget. The assessed valuation for FY2025 is \$435,795,792, an increase of 6.15% from FY2024. The tax rate is tentatively set at \$3.750 for FY2025 and the Bond Tax Rate is \$0.1611.
- II. Mr. Filosa presented the revenue side of the draft FY2025 budget. The total revenue for FY2025 is \$21,272,342. Revenues consist of:
 - A. Real Estate Tax Levy - \$16,342,342
 - B. Fire District Assistance Tax - \$400,000
 - C. Net from Ambulance Operations - \$3,600,000
 - D. Other Services (Prevention, Grants, etc.) - \$930,000
- III. Mr. Filosa then presented the expense side of the draft FY2025 budget. The total expense for FY2025 is \$21,267,342. Expenses consist of:
 - A. Personnel Costs - \$17,503,891

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- B. Buildings & Land – \$336,573
- C. Fleet & Equipment - \$867,140
- D. Communications – \$832,858
- E. Meetings, Travel, Training - \$389,408
- F. Administration – \$569,508
- G. Contingency Allocation & Capital Outlay – \$772,965

IV. Fire Chief Schmitz reviewed changes in the expense side of the budget from FY2024 as follows:

- A. A five percent (5%) cost of living adjustment (COLA) was applied to the entire pay scale. Two positions, office manager and fleet mechanic, were individually adjusted to compete with the market rate.
- B. Paramedic skills pay was increased from \$8,000 to \$9,000 annually.
- C. The employer health savings account (HSA) contribution was increased by \$600 annually per plan participant. The deductible for the high deductible health plan (HDHP) health plan has increased steadily for the past several years to meet IRS guidelines. This is the first increase to the employer contribution since being established at \$1,200 for employee only coverage and \$2,400 for employee plus dependent coverage. The new annual employer contribution amount will be \$1,800 for employee only coverage and \$3,000 for employee plus dependent coverage for HDHP participants.
- D. Public Safety Personnel Retirement System employer contribution rates have increased to 25.41% for Tier 1 & 2 employees and 17.67% for Tier 3 employees.
- E. A budget line item of \$50,000 has been established for the Craig Tiger Act mental health benefits that are mandated by the Arizona Revised Statutes.

V. Board member Phil LaBarbera made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:54 a.m. Board clerk Stephen Arnold seconded the motion. The board voted to adjourn the meeting at 10:45 a.m. (M: Phil LaBarbera/S: Stephen Arnold) Vote – Aye: Tim Wilmes, Stephen Arnold, Phil LaBarbera, Phil Griswold. Nay: None.)

FOR THE BOARD

Stephen Arnold

**Stephen Arnold
Clerk of the Board**

SA/lbn