

Southern Park County
Fire Protection District
SPCFPD Board of Directors
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Kenneth C. Thomas, Board Chair
Mike Brandt, Secretary/Treasurer
Elaine Campbell, Director
Vince Johnston, Director
Mike Parrish, Director

SOUTHERN PARK COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
Special Board of Directors Meeting
2022 Jun 23 @ 6:00 P.M.

1) Introduction of Visitors

None

2) Attendees:

Board members present:

Ken Thomas
Mike Brandt
Elaine Campbell
Vince Johnston
Mike Parrish

Excused Board Member:

Department members present

Chief Aric Stahly
Ric Scheffel
Aaron Mandel

3) Call to Order:

Meeting called to order at 6:05 PM by Board Chair Ken Thomas.

4) Approval of Agenda:

Mr. Brandt moved to approve the agenda as published, second by Mr. Thomas; motion carried.

5) New Business

Discuss/approve purchase of new brush truck (see [attachment 1](#))

With the sale of the UniMog for \$36,500 and expected income of ~\$4,000 for services rendered at the High Park fire, purchase of this unit at \$40,500 is revenue neutral. Expect to need less than \$4,000 to outfit with hose, nozzles, fittings.

The unit is functional and meets all state requirements. As stated in the attachment it is useful as a Type 6 Brush Engine. It is newer date of manufacture than all other vehicles.

Discussion regarding aims for the department with regard to community needs – EMS vs. Fire. Chief feels the existing 3 ambulances are in fair condition and a replacement ambulance is budgeted for 2023.

S.P.C.F.P.D. Mission Statement:

The Mission of the Southern Park County Fire Protection District is to provide fire protection and emergency rescue operations within its 240 square mile district boundaries; encourage fire and human caused disaster prevention through community education; ensure the existence of a properly trained team of primarily volunteer firefighters who are able to, and motivated to, respond professionally and work safely; acquire and maintain the necessary equipment; and provide mutual aid to neighboring fire and emergency services departments, as requested.

The flexibility given by a replacement brush truck will give the department added capability after sale of the UniMog.

Mr. Johnson moved to approve a budget of \$44,500 for the truck and the associated expected repairs. Second by Mr. Parrish, motion carried.

6) Public Input

7) Adjourn meeting: Meeting adjourned at 7:38 p.m. by Board Chair Thomas.

Attachment 1:



**Southern Park County Fire Protection District
Guffey Colorado**

Special Board Meeting 23 June 2022

Information Pertinent to Potential Purchase of Used Type 6 Brush Engine:

Wildland fire danger poses the single biggest threat to our rural community. Fire danger is not static; it fluctuates with weather trends- daily, seasonal, and long-term. Currently we are in drought conditions, and both the seasonal and long-term trends are not promising. Our response capabilities (both equipment and personnel) need to be commensurate with the threat.

As the fire chief, my first priority in training the influx of new volunteers was to get them ready for a potential wildland fire. This department now has more red-carded members than it has in several years. The next task is to upgrade our wildland fire equipment. Our “classic” vehicles do not inspire confidence in the Colorado DFPC, mutual aid partners, or potential volunteers.

A later-model, certified, dedicated brush engine:

- a. Has a pump powerful enough to supply a progressive hose lay up a significant slope. This reduces or eliminates the need to drive a UTV/squad truck over dangerous terrain.
- b. Will be more reliable with less maintenance costs, in all likelihood.
- c. Will give us more confidence with the state, mutual aid partners, and crew, as well as potential volunteers.
- d. Will eventually give us optional income (one we have staffing) at \$73/hr and \$584/day on a state surge request or federal incident.

This potential purchase of the 2011 Ford F550 chassis equipped with BFX Wildland System:

- a. Will replace/upgrade a valuable piece of wildland equipment.
- b. Will not derail or interfere with our progression to upgrade our structure engines, purchase another tender, or upgrade/purchase new ambulance.
- c. Will be the first piece toward the chief’s vision of replacing multi-tools with specific equipment dedicated toward certain tasks.
- d. Will allow us to transform one of our squad trucks into a true rescue unit.
- e. Will promote confidence and morale of the current wildland staff, as well as potential volunteers.

2011 Ford F550 Brush Engine Specifications:

1. F550 6.7l Powerstroke Diesel and chassis are in stellar condition
2. < 60K miles
3. Powerplant top end rebuild in 2021
 - a. New turbo unit
 - b. New intercooler
4. Comfortably seats up to 5 crew members
5. BFX professionally built fire box with Kubota diesel pump, hose reel, and cabinets specifically designed for wildland fire gear- hand tools, pre-assembled hose lay bags, etc.
6. Will cost less than \$4k to outfit with hose, fittings, nozzles, etc.
7. \$40,500 price tag is free of broker fees, and about \$10,000 less than book value as the truck sits (without some minor repairs and cleaning)
8. Tires are not in need of replacement
9. BFX box needs minor repair and paint; I have a retired 40-yr body shop owner who is a local resident and offered to help if requested.
10. Truck rims need paint.
11. Truck is no longer being deployed due to potential EGR issue when idling for extended periods (4-6 hours). BMFPD cannot delete EGR due to local regulations, and the fact that the bulk of their deployment is to California.

When this chief expressed desire for better wildland apparatus, he was told to “sell the Uni-Mog” and use that money toward a new brush engine. This significant upgrade comes at a minimal cost to the taxpayers of this fire district (potentially 5k for repairs and outfitting). The maintenance liability of the Uni-Mog has been mitigated, but that piece of our fleet needs to be replaced. This purchase does not derail or hinder any progress toward the CIP projects of replacing a tender, structure engine, or ambulance.

Alternatives:

1. Purchase another UTV/trailer combo. The time and staffing it requires to deploy our current UTV makes this option impractical, as these vehicles require towing to scene, and do not have the firefighting capacity of a type 6 brush engine.
2. Spend \$100k + to build a new type 6 that meets state and federal certifications.
3. Spend \$60-100k on a different used Type 6 brush engine.
4. Use the money from sale of Uni-Mog to upgrade our existing equipment, which would do nothing to change the department image with the state or local partners.