South Davis Metro Fire Service Area

The South Davis Metro Fire Service Area Administrative Committee held a meeting on April 27th, 2026, at 3:00 p.m., located at 255 South 100 West, Bountiful 84010

COMMITTEE
Bryce Haderlie - Chair
Ken Leetham – Vice Chair
Brant Hanson
Duane Huffman
Gary Hill
Scott Parke

STAFF PRESENT
Jeff Larsen, Interim Chief
Jessica Hardy, Finance/HR Director
Hunter Stone, Data Analyst/Accountant
Todd Godfrey, Hayes Godfrey Bell, PC
Nikki Thompson, Administrative Assistant

Summary- April 27th

The South Davis Metro Fire Administrative Committee met to review and approve several capital improvement projects and finalize the property tax impact statement for the FY 2026-27 budget. The committee recommended four capital projects totaling approximately $86,543 to the Board, including technology upgrades, carpet replacements, and a security gate installation. The primary focus was on the property tax impact statement showing a proposed increase of $1,301,970 (16.07% rate increase from 0.538 to 0.608) with $596,306 in fund balance use to address a $1.898 million budget shortfall. The statement includes department-level expenditure breakdowns as required by new state legislation, with increases primarily covering salaries, benefits, a new deputy fire chief position, and operating costs. The committee unanimously recommended 'option 3' to the board, as described, which balances the property tax increase with strategic fund balance usage while maintaining appropriate reserve levels.

Administrative Actions

- The April 27th meeting minutes were approved following a motion by Mr. Leetham and a second by Mr. Hanson.

Capital Improvement Project Approvals

- The RDP project ($26,532.61) will transition 11 computers from VMware Horizon (no longer supported) to RDP through ETS, with $1,750/month recurring costs included in the colocation agreement. 01:58

- Station 82 carpet replacement is needed as the carpet hasn't been replaced since the building was constructed in 2009. Wall 2 Wall Commercial Flooring's bid of $13,183 was selected over Lemco's $18,966, using remnants from Station 81. 03:27
- A security gate at Station 82 ($24,604) is needed due to unwanted visitors accessing the back parking area where staff vehicles park. Buchanan Access Systems was selected over a lower bid because their quote includes cutting the driveway and installing electrical conduit. 04:31 Station 85 previously had security incidents with people attempting to access employee vehicles before a gate was installed two years ago.
- Station 85 carpet replacement would use $25,000 in reallocated funds from the completed exterior/interior painting project at Station 85 (originally budgeted at $75,000). The carpet has not been replaced since 2007. 09:08

Property Tax Impact Statement

- The FY 2026-27 budget has a projected $1.898 million shortfall, proposing to use $596,306 in fund balance and collect $1,301,970 through property tax increase to balance the general fund. 12:11
- The property tax rate would increase from 0.538 to 0.608 (16.07% increase), with department-level breakdowns showing allocations: Administration ($273K), Operations ($714K), Logistics ($56K), Communications ($37K), Fire Prevention ($89K), and others. 13:01
- The fund balance use increased from the original $421,000 to $596,306 to precisely tie property tax revenue to budget increases, accounting for a $174,000 decrease in other revenue sources compared to the prior year. 14:32
- The statement format was approved by the Tax Commission, showing the certified rate revenue of $8,031,000 and breaking down the $1.3 million increase across major categories: salaries/benefits ($1 million+), new Deputy Fire Chief ($239K), and operating expenditures ($255K). 16:15
- Discussion centered on whether to include a paragraph explaining impacts if the tax increase doesn't pass. The committee agreed this isn't required under current law and could create confusion or false expectations about board decisions. 21:05
- The Committee emphasized the importance of explaining revenue growth constraints for fire districts, which lack sales tax and other economy-tied revenue sources that cities enjoy, making regular property tax adjustments necessary to maintain service levels. 30:29

Budget Options Discussion

- Three budget options were presented: the recommended option 3, a 100% coverage option, and a three-year option. The committee discussed all three to provide the board with full context on alternatives. 27:32
- The Committee unanimously recommended option 3, which they characterized as providing the necessary revenue while demonstrating fiscal responsibility through strategic fund balance usage rather than excessive property tax increases. 31:52
- The Board of Trustees and Public Hearing meeting is scheduled for August 3rd for final budget and property tax rate approval. The Committee's recommendation provides flexibility for the Board to adjust the interim budget adoption deadline. 36:00

Chief Report
Nothing to report

Chair Report
Nothing to report

The meeting was adjourned with a motion by Mr. Hill and seconded by Mr. Hanson.

Bryce Haderlie – Chair

N. Thompson
Nicole Thompson, Secretary

Decisions

- *Approved the minutes from the April 27, 2026, Administrative Committee meeting. 01:12*
- *Recommended approval of the RDP project ($26,532.61 plus $1,750/month recurring) to transition 11 computers from VMware Horizon to RDP through ETS. 03:14*
- *Recommended approval of Station 82 carpet replacement project for $13,183. 04:20*
- *Recommended approval of Station 82 security gate installation to Buchanan Access Systems for $24,604 (selected over lower bid due to inclusion of electrical conduit work). 08:50*
- *Recommended approval to reallocate $25,000 in remaining funds from Station 85 painting project to replace carpet at Station 85 for $22,223. 11:49*
- *The property tax impact statement will show an 'estimated proposed property tax rate' rather than just 'proposed rate' to clarify the rate may adjust based on final property valuations. 19:02*
- *The Committee agreed to remove the paragraph explaining what happens if the property tax increase isn't approved, pending confirmation from the tax commission. 22:43*
- *Recommended the property tax impact statement (option 3) showing $1,301,970 property tax increase and $596,306 fund balance use to address the $1.898 million budget shortfall. 32:20*
- *Recommended budget option 3 with the use of fund balance in the amount of $596,306 as reflected in the property tax impact statement. 33:31*