

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
GROOM CREEK FIRE DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

December 3, 2024, 6:00 pm

1110 E. Friendly Pines Road, Prescott, AZ

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order on December 3, 2024, at 6:00 pm by Board Chairman Andy Lamar.

Note the following acronyms are used throughout this document: GCFD = Groom Creek Fire District, GCFFA = Groom Creek Fire Fighters Association, PSPRS = Public Service Personnel Retirement System, Hazmat = Hazardous Materials

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

Present at the meeting were Chairman Andy Lamar, Clerk Annette Starr, and Board Member Mick Gleason. This constitutes a quorum and the meeting was continued and chaired by Chairman Lamar according to district bylaws. Also present were District Fire Chief Ernesto Manzanedo and Assistant Chief Nate Hallowell.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairman Lamar made a motion to approve the regular meeting minutes of November 5, 2024, seconded by Board Member Gleason. The motion carried unanimously.

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

A community member suggested updating the District Website.

PUBLIC APPEARANCES

None.

CHIEF'S REPORT

- **Calls for service:** For the month of November – 3 EMS calls, 1 motor vehicle accident, 3 illegal burns, 1 odor investigations, 1 false alarm, 6 public assists, 2 move ups.
- **Chipotle fundraiser:** Chief Manzanedo was asked by Pat Degraff to remind the community of a fundraiser that will take place at the Prescott Chipotle on February 1, 2025. Chipotle will donate 20% of their sales, after the first \$150.00, on all in person and online orders place between 4 and 8 pm that mention the fundraiser for GCFD.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Financial report for October 2024, given by Chief Ernesto Manzanedo.

		Capital Reserve	
General Fund	(281,961.47)	Undesignated	\$2,324.28
Line of Credit	\$0	Engine Fund	<u>\$26,139.73</u>
OneAZ – Checking	\$29,998.30	Total	\$28,464.01
OneAZ – Savings	\$5.00		

Chief Manzanedo reminded the board that \$150,138 was transferred between accounts in September to cover operational costs. After some discussion on the best time to move the money back to the capital reserve from general fund, it was determined that the board would need to request the money be moved. The board then requested that it be done, and Chief Manzanedo agreed to move the amount of \$150,138 back to the undesignated capital reserve fund in the following week.

Chairman Lamar made a motion to approve the financial report given, seconded by Board Member Gleason. The motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Fire Engine Fundraising Committee Report: Given by Board Member Gleason, who discussed the committees plans for the Groomapalooza event that is tentatively planned for May 16, 2026. The reason for it being moved from the Fall of 2025 to May of 2026, is due to the fact that a lot of planning and logistics need to go into a first event of this size, and the desire to do the best job so that it be as successful as possible. The weather also played a part in the decision to hold the event in May. Assistant Chief Hallowell added that he will be contacting the college to verify if the new date will work for them. He talked again about the visit to the college's property, and their willingness to help us make this a great event. The college is planning to put astroturf on the field, which would be a great benefit to the event. A community member asked for clarification on what the event will be, and he stated that it will be a bands, beer, brats, and bounce house type of event, that takes place on the college's big field.

It will be an opportunity to bring your chairs and family for a day of fun and music. When a community member asked why May and not June or July, he answered that families are more likely to be in town, the weather wouldn't be as hot and May would be less likely to conflict with other community events. Board Member Gleason added that Assistant Chief Hallowell has done a really good job of dividing up responsibilities, and that will contribute to making this a great event. He called upon the community to get involved and that the next meeting will be on January 8, 2025.

NEW BUSINESS

1. New engine acquisition: The report was given by Assistant Chief Hallowell. We have a newly appointed interim apparatus team of Max Fitzmaurice and Stuart Cox, and they were able to locate a possible brand new fire engine from a company in Louisiana for the very competitive price of \$500,000.00. This new fire engine would come with everything our department would need, but would not include more costly and unnecessary additions, and could be built in eight months. The new engine is a four-wheel drive, with a Cummings engine, Allison transmission and would include all decals. The water capacity is 500 more gallons than our current engine, and is slightly longer, but will still fit in the engine bay. Nate did some background checking on the company, and talked with another fire department that ordered an engine with this company and they have had nothing but a great experience. Assistant Chief Hallowell also looked into financing, and found a couple of possible options. First option is with OneAZ Credit union, with a 6.575% interest rate, with .5% fees on a 10-year loan. The payment would be about \$60,00.00 a year. The second option is with Elite Financial Group who is offering a 6.07% interest rate for 10 years. Chief Manzanedo added that after the down payment we would still have money in the bank, and the yearly payment of \$65,000.00 would be under our \$75,000.00 budget. Board Chairman Lamar asked if the Fire District would have to pay sales tax on acquisitions like this, and Chief Manzanedo said that he has it on very good authority that we do not, but he will check into it. Chairman Lamar then asked if we would have to pay a higher insurance rate, and Chief Manzanedo said that our current rate would not change. Chairman Lamar also asked if the current financing would allow for refinancing should interest rates go down, and they said that would be possible. Chairman Lamar then asked about where we are in the process, and what are the next steps to continue moving forward. Assistant Chief Hallowell, said that we are in the very beginning steps, and Chief Manzanedo said that they will have a proposal for by the next board meeting. Chairman Lamar then asked if we decide to go forward with this builder, at what point do we need to pay them in full. Chief Manzanedo said that they will have all of the answers at the next meeting. Chairman Lamar asked what the expense would be to get the engine here. Assistant Chief Hallowell said that they would go to Louisiana and do a final inspection of the engine, and they would drive it back. The expenses would include plane fare, gas, lodging and food. Clerk Starr was asked if she had any questions, and she said that the two questions she has were answered through Chairman Lamar's questions. Board Member Gleason was asked if he had any questions, and he said no.

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

There was a question about the City of Prescott's latest engine having clean cab technology, and would this new engine have it. Assistant Chief Hallowell said that it would not, but because we have the ability to thoroughly wash the packs, it would not be necessary. Another person asked if there was a possibility of a used engine, and Chief Manzanedo said that we would still be in the same situation we are in now if we went with a used engine. Another community member expressed concern that the price of the new engine seemed too good to be true, and Chief Manzanedo said that this company in Louisiana saw that there was a need, due to the fact that so many agencies were having to wait years for a new engine, so this company is filling the need by doing custom builds for smaller agencies in less time.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Chairman Lamar mentioned and gave thanks to Susan Seideman, Pat Gregory, Laura Flood and Doug and Bobbie Keeling for their generous donations.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Lamar made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Board Member Gleason. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:43 pm.

Prepared by:

Annette Starr, Board Clerk
Groom Creek Fire District