

WILLIAMS FIRE PROTECTION AUTHORITY
810 E Street, Williams, California
Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors
Monday, March 16, 2026

MINUTES

A regular meeting of the Williams Fire Protection Authority Board of Directors was called to order at 1730 hours by Chairperson, Allen Gobel.

Directors Present: Kate Dunlap, Allen Gobel, Jeremiah Karlonas, Kelly Lewis, Don Parsons

Alternates Present: Nick Mayes

Staff/Firefighters Present: Chief Gilbert, Kara Alvernaz, John Alvernaz, Ben Mayes, Angel Flores, Adan Tortolino, Esteban Tinoco, Jonathan Lievanos, Daniel Lara, Stephanie Vogl

Other Present: Yvonne Kimball (Williams City Administrator), Stephen Marsh, family members of firefighters being given Oath of Office (didn't attend entire meeting).

Chief Gilbert introduced and administered the "Oath of Office" to firefighters Jonathan Lievanos, Daniel Lara and Stephanie Vogl.

Public Comments – Stephen Marsh expressed his concern as a neighboring landowner to the Janus Solar Project regarding EIR, process and guidelines and stated that he felt the project was not providing the required training.

Don Parsons moved to approve the minutes of the February 17, 2026 regular meeting. Motion was 2nd by Kate Dunlap. **Motion passed. Ayes 5 Noes 0 Absent 0 by the following vote: Dunlap – aye, Gobel – aye, Karlonas – aye, Lewis – aye, Parsons – aye.**

The Financial Reports dated 2/28/2026 and the 2/1 – 2/28/2026 Check Register were presented and discussed. Kelly Lewis moved to approve the Financial Reports and Check Register listing Check # 21229 – 21326 out of Columbia Bank Checking xxx1215 totaling \$447,700.19, Check # 240 – 242 out of Columbia Bank Impact Fee Fund xxx1223 totaling \$270,469.28 and Check # 1017 totaling \$42,905.64 out of Columbia Bank Capital Equipment Replacement Fund xxx6829. Motion was 2nd by Kate Dunlap. **Motion passed. Ayes 5 Noes 0 Absent 0 by the following vote: Dunlap – aye, Gobel – aye, Karlonas – aye, Lewis – aye, Parsons – aye.**

The updated 2025-26 Mutual Aid Reimbursement Report was presented and discussed.

Kara asked the board to consider moving the Strike Team Payroll Fund and Capital Equipment Replacement Fund money markets accounts currently with Columbia Bank to Tri Counties Bank. Columbia rate is currently .01% APY. Tri Counties Bank is offering 1.8% APY on balances over \$100,000. Rate is reduced is balance falls below \$100,000 but the account will stay the same account number. \$2500 minimum balance. Kate Dunlap moved to approve moving the Columbia Bank Strike Team Payroll fund and the Columbia Bank Capital Equipment Replacement Fund to money market accounts with Tri Counties Bank. Motion was 2nd by Don Parsons. **Motion passed. Ayes 5 Noes 0 Absent 0 by the following vote: Dunlap – aye, Gobel – aye, Karlonas – aye, Lewis – aye, Parsons – aye.**

Chief's Report:

- No stat reports presented. Briefed on recent structure fire.
- Briefed on development project updates.
- Announced that the station ground breaking will be on 4/13/26.
- Reported that he and 3 firefighters will go to LA to inspect the new water tender on 3/25/26. The water tender will be delivered the following week.
- Announced that the Volunteers Association are discussing a possible tax measure.

Chief Gilbert presented a report and board members received a proposal from Capitol Public Finance Group for conducting a Development Impact Fee Study and a BESS/SOLAR Project Cost Mitigation. Discussion followed. It would take approximately 6 months to be completed. Jeremiah Karlonas moved to accept the proposal from Capital PFG and authorize Chief Gilbert to have Capital PFG prepare the study and mitigation. Motion was 2nd by Kelly Lewis. **Motion passed. Ayes 5 Noes 0 Absent 0 by the following vote: Dunlap – aye, Gobel – aye, Karlonas – aye, Lewis – aye, Parsons – aye.**

Discussion was held regarding station project budget and change order process. Kate Dunlap moved to set the station project at \$6.4 million and that all change orders and invoices are to be approved by the project manager, Chief Gilbert and Board Member Kelly Lewis. Motion was 2nd by Don Parsons. **Motion passed. Ayes 5 Noes 0 Absent 0 by the following vote: Dunlap – aye, Gobel – aye, Karlonas – aye, Lewis – aye, Parsons – aye.**

Chief Gilbert presented reports on a proposed training center project that will be located next to the new fire station. He announced that Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation has approved to move forward and submit final documentation to support the training project. If final approval is received, Yocha Dehe will fund \$500,000 towards the proposed training center project. He stated that there should be \$600,000 left from fire station funds that could be put towards the training center. Chief Gilbert stated that with impact fees coming in on development projects, there should be enough funds to fund the project. The command staff has been designing a training facility/tower and has researched at least 3 different vendors that build the NFPA towers that are modular shipping containers. They have learned that Forge Fire is the only company that will certify the tower for NFPA standards. Forge Fire estimate for the training tower project is \$1,499,225.84. Kate Dunlap moved to approve estimate from Forge Fire & Company contingent on final approval by 4/1/26 from Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation for \$500,000 towards the training center project. Motion was 2nd by Don Parsons. **Motion passed. Ayes 5 Noes 0 Absent 0 by the following vote: Dunlap – aye, Gobel – aye, Karlonas – aye, Lewis – aye, Parsons – aye.**

Chief Gilbert announced that Charlie Morrow had to replace Keenan Jorge on the Citizens Advisory Committee. The committee met on March 12, 2026. Board members were given a written report from the Williams Fire Protection Authority Fire Suppression and Protection Services Assessment District Citizens' Oversight Committee. The committee stated that they recommend that the rate not be increase at this time due to the status of the economy of the local agricultural community.

The Board was given a Benefit Assessment Rate History Report, which included the current SFE rate of \$96.89. The report showed different proposed increase rates to the SFE unit, which could be increased to a maximum rate to \$103.96. Discussion followed. Don Parsons made a motion to increase the SFE unit rate by 3% which would increase the rate to \$99.80 per SFE unit. for 2026-2027. Motion was 2nd by Kate Dunlap. **Motion passed. Ayes 5 Noes 0 Absent 0 by the following vote: Dunlap – aye, Gobel – aye, Karlonas – aye, Lewis – aye, Parsons – aye.**

The 2026-2027 Preliminary Operating Budget was presented and discussed. Kelly Lewis moved to adopt the 2026-2027 Preliminary Operating Budget of \$1,787,329. Motion was 2nd by Don Parsons. **Motion passed. Ayes 5 Noes 0 Absent 0 by the following vote: Dunlap – aye, Gobel – aye, Karlonas – aye, Lewis – aye, Parsons – aye.**

Chief Gilbert introduced Yvonne Kimball, new city administrator for City of Williams.

The meeting was adjourned at 1841 hours in memory of longtime honorary exempt firefighter Ramon Arias.

Allen Gobel, Chairperson

Jeffery Gilbert, Secretary