



Jefferson County Fire Protection District No. 2

Commissioner Marcia Kelbon
Board Chair

Commissioner Melody Bacchus
Commissioner Art Frank

P.O. Box 433, Quilcene, WA 98376 ■ 360-765-3333

**MINUTES of the SPECIAL MEETING of the BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
of JEFFERSON COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO. 2
held at BOB WILSON STATION 21 in QUILCENE, WA
on MARCH 23, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.
in JOINT SESSION with the BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
of JEFFERSON COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO. 4
and OFFICIALS of JEFFERSON COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO. 5**

ATTENDANCE DISTRICT 2:

Commissioner/Chair Kelbon
Commissioner Bacchus
Commissioner Frank
Chief McKern
Secretary Rewitzer
Office Assistant Brush

Deputy Chief D. Svetich
Lt. Winn
FF/EMT T. Svetich (via Zoom)
Alex Morris, IAFF Local 2032 Vice President (via Zoom)
Caton White, IAFF Local 2032 President (via Zoom)

ATTENDANCE DISTRICT 4:

Commissioner/Chair Matheson
Commissioner Gleason
Commissioner Ventura
Chief T. Manly
Secretary C. Manly

Administrative Assistant B. Ellis (via Zoom)
Lt. J. Ellis
Lt. C. Dolan
FF/EMT Dotson
EMT P. Dolan

ATTENDANCE DISTRICT 5:

Commissioner C. Carson
Chief Knoepfle

CALL TO ORDER:

Commissioner Kelbon called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Commissioner Kelbon led the pledge.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

No comments received.

REGIONAL ALS PROGRAM:

Chief Manly led a second joint board discussion on the establishment of a regional ALS program between Districts 2, 4, and 5. There were four topics of discussion: provide an update on regional ALS exploration; share baseline operational and financial information; discuss the regional paramedic sprint-car concept; and determine whether the Boards wish to continue evaluation.

Chief Manly provided an update regarding regional ALS exploration noting that regional call volume is sufficient to support the program with the benefit of providing better quality ALS care to patients sooner. Chief Manly highlighted the benefits of hiring a Firefighter/Paramedic versus a Paramedic, noting this resource would be available for all three Districts for both fire and EMS calls and that the medic would not leave the Regional District (2, 4, and 5) for mutual aid calls. The new model is intended to supplement existing services rather than replace them.

Regarding interagency coordination, Chief Manly stressed the need for a clear operational leadership structure along with cost and revenue sharing amongst the three Districts. An exit strategy must also be defined in the event the program is non-sustainable.

Commissioner Bacchus led a discussion regarding the SAFER grant and the costs it would cover. While employee and employee gear costs would be covered, additional equipment costs (e.g. a sprint car) would not. A separate grant could be submitted to cover equipment costs. It was also noted that the three Districts would apply for one regional grant versus three individual District grants, increasing the probability of receiving the grant. The funding model for the Regional ALS program will be explicitly detailed in the grant application.

Chief Manly discussed the regional paramedic sprint car concept noting it would be based at Quilcene Fire Rescue due to its central location. Commissioner Kelbon led a discussion regarding the response strategy of the new paramedic. Chief Manly explained the medic would respond to fire calls within Districts 2, 4, and 5 but would not respond to mutual aid calls outside these Districts. It was further noted that one District would be the employer, but the new medic would work for all three Districts.

Commissioner Ventura noted two added benefits of the program: (1) additional training and career pathways for existing career staff, and (2) additional resilience for the region during a natural disaster. Chief Knoepfle further asserted the additional resources would be helpful during Hood Canal Bridge closures.

Commissioner Kelbon led a discussion regarding recruitment of new hires and competitive wages. IAFF Local 2032 President White noted the challenges of hiring a single-role Paramedic versus a dual-role Firefighter/Paramedic due to decreased wages for a single-role hire. He also stressed the importance of recruiting citizens who are locally invested.

Commissioner Frank and Commissioner Ventura led a discussion on program funding based on the assumption that the SAFER grant will not be available. It was recommended to budget the program without the benefit of grant money for two years to assess its feasibility.

To continue moving forward, Chief Manly recommended the creation of a Joint Board of all Board members from each District. A smaller user group amongst the Board Members could then be formed to report back to each District. Chief Manly noted leveraging existing successful Regional ALS models in lieu of inventing a new one.

To conclude the meeting, the Chiefs agreed to meet with legal counsel, Brian Snure, to discuss a working Regional ALS model along with expected legal fees incurred throughout the process. Commissioner Frank suggested that one Commissioner should also attend the meeting.

The next Joint Board Meetings are scheduled for 6:00 p.m., April 13, 2026, and 6:00 p.m., April 27, 2026, and will be held at Station 21 in Quilcene, WA.

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

No items were discussed.

ADJOURNMENT:

Commissioner Gleason moved, Commissioner Bacchus seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 7:14 p.m. The motion carried.

APPROVED this ____ day of _____, 20____ by the Board of Fire Commissioners of Jefferson County Fire Protection District No. 2, then signed by those members present at the meeting:

BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
JEFFERSON CO. FIRE PROTECTION DIST. #2

MARCIA KELBON, Commissioner/Chair

ATTEST:

MELODY BACCHUS, Commissioner

ROBERT REWITZER, District Secretary

ART FRANK, Commissioner

DRAFT