

MINUTES

THE CITY-COUNTY OF BUTTE-SILVER BOW FIRE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

APRIL 11, 2023 @ 5:30 P.M. – BUSINESS CENTER – ROOM 201 (ACROSS FROM FIRE ST 1)

1. CALL TO ORDER

- A motion to call the Meeting to order at 5:36 P.M. by Dan Callahan and Chad Silk second the motion. All were in favor of the motion; Dan Callahan started the meeting.

2. Roll call via Sign-in Sheet:

- **Member Present:**

Dan Callahan, BSB Commissioner

Jerry Brothers, Home Atherton VFD

Lee Sullivan, BSB Career Fire Dept.

George Stone, Terra Verde VFD

Chad Silk, BSB Career Fire Dept.

Chis Mjelde, BSB Career Fire Dept.

- **Member Absent:**

Joel Worth, Boulevard VFD

John Sorich, BSB Commissioner, Chairperson

Justine Fortune, BSB Commissioner

- **Guest Present:**

Zach Osborne, Fire Chief

Shawn Coates, BSB Career Fire Dept.

Jason Willoughby, Race Track VFD

Joe Pat Schalk, Race Track VFD

Riley Hash, BSB Career Fire Dept.

Ted Bury, Big Butte VFD

Gary (Twoie) Mattern, Race Track VFD

3. Reading and Approval of Minutes

- A motion was made by Chris Mjelde to approve the Minutes for March 7, 2023, meeting. George Stone seconded the motion. All were in favor of the motion.
 - The March 7, 2023, minutes were unanimously approved.

4. Public Comment on any Item on the Agenda

- None

5. Secretary/Treasurer's Report

- April 10, 2023 (FY2023 Report) balance in the TIFID Fund is \$201,776.20.
- Zach: This is the true balance now that the 8 Kenwood Radios are purchased.
- Dan C: Everything outstanding is paid for?
- Zach: Yes, this is the budget going into this year's cycle.
- George: My understanding is no more money is coming in, correct?
- Zach: No more is coming in, correct.

6. VFD Radio Update:

- Zach: So, the 8 Radios came in from the 2022 TIFID. I went through lots of different options in my mind of what was the fairway to distribute them and what I ended up doing was going back through the 2022 TIFID requests, so not all departments even requested radios in 2022, and I'll just go down my list here: Big Butte, Centerville, Floral Park, and Little Basin Creek did not request radios. Boulevard, Home Atherton, Race Track, Rocker, and Terra Verde did request radios. Boulevard did

end up receiving that grant, so they are pretty good right now. How I ended up making my decision on where the 8 radios are going, four departments didn't even put in for the radios last year, so those four departments won't get these eight. Boulevard did but like I said they received the grant; they don't need any of these 8. Rocker did put in last year, but they did not put in this year, when talking with Chief Butch Bury this year about the radios and the CAD system. Personally, Rocker just needs to figure something out, they didn't even know that they had two new radios that were 800 MHz, one is missing a \$8,000.00 radio that was given to Rocker, is missing. So, until they figure something out, they won't receive any of these eight. Out of the eight last year's requests:

- Home Atherton - 3
- Race Track -3
- Terra Verde -2

So, those eight radios are in my office, you can come after the meeting and pick the radios up. Those are the 2022 Radio requests and have nothing to do with 2023 requests. If anybody has questions, concerns, comments on those eight, go ahead or we can continue.

- Dan C: I have a comment on the lost radio, What's?.....
- Zach: I am not blaming anybody, I don't know who to blame, Butch Bury was not the Chief at the time when they received the radios. I called all the Chief's two weeks ago prior to the CAD system and the new response plan for meetings and ended up having good meetings, not only talking about the response plan but multiple other stuff. Well Rocker, we ended up talking about radios and Butch said we are having trouble, we need some radio training, and he was wondering if Chad was going to do radio training as part of one of his monthly trainings. I said, that's on his schedule to get that done. Obviously, we all need some radio training and I said how are you guys, are you efficient with using the two new ones? He said I don't even know what the two new ones are. I said now they're the Motorola bright green (I have one sitting on my desk) they are these ones right here, are you set up, he doesn't know. Lee Sullivan went out there the next shift, and they found one of the two. So, we are missing an \$8,000.00 radio.
- Dan C: So, did they talk to the previous chief?
- Zach: Hopefully that is getting figured out, I was going to give them a few weeks, I was on vacation last week, so. Hopefully they can contact that previous chief. I think he is out of town I don't think he lives here anymore.
- Jerry B: He goes to Alaska.
- Zach: Tom? Yes, and the assistant Chief is Marko Weitzel, who is a Career Firefighter now and said he is not aware of any of it. Hopefully it gets tracked down, I would hate to think that we are scrambling for radios, and we lost one.
- George: You might want to talk to Bud Eveland too, who's the Assistant Chief there now. He has been around for years, so he should know something about it, maybe.
- Zach: Like I said, I was going to give him a week or two to try to figure it out themselves and then I was going to follow up, cross our fingers, I would hate to think that we lost one.

7. VFD IT Committee Update:

- Lee: CAD is live are you planning on a date to get that stuff in for the new internet paging system?"
- Jerry B: We wanted to see what was happening first. He is ready and able to go anytime.
- Lee: So, do you guys want to pick a date, or do you guys still want to wait?
- Jerry B: How is the CAD working, is everything smooth or...?
- Lee: Nothing is ever smooth.
- Zach: We are two week in, we are going to have growing pains for a while, I would guess. There have been little mistakes, nothing major. Like I said last month, we are just such a small part that, you know I had a meeting with the sheriff this morning and his mind is about blown, it is a big

change over for them, not so much for us. It is a change for us, but not nothing even close to being compared to them.

- George: Are they having major problems?
- Zach: No, no problems, it is just a lot of work transferring data from SWIFT to this new CAD, where we didn't have data in SWIFT. We have data in our own fire software, so it wasn't near the change. So, we are two weeks in and two weeks from now, I can't tell you if we are going to have less problems or more problems. I don't think that there is an absolute perfect time for you guys to set up that trail period. I don't know how much more it will tax the dispatchers.
- Lee: It shouldn't, I mean, set up they might be involved a little bit, but as far as dispatching and stuff, it runs off other equipment automatically. So, it should be done.
- Zach: If you guys need it, get those trail periods going and see if we can narrow something down.
- Jerry B: We need it.
- George: Seems like we heard that they weren't super excited about putting it into dispatch.
- Jerry B: Should we just set it up for it to come in sometime next month?
- Zach: That would be fine.
- Jerry B: With everything going on, I hate to throw another deal in the middle of it, but I will set it up for next month.
- Lee: Yeah, I'd call up there and see if they're Ok with that and go from there.
- Zach: Those are the questions I don't have an answer to? So, McPherson is retiring at the end of May, I don't know how much he'll even be around at all between now and the end of May.
- George: Do they know who is replacing him?
- Zach: No, they haven't even posted the job opening. They just lost their two senior dispatchers and they're going through the change in the CAD system. So, it is a lot for them, but I don't know if five months from now is going to be any better.
- Gary: That makes it easier, I do a lot of work for Dillon and talk to a Dillon dispatcher, and they run Iamresponding. They say that it's easier to do, the text paging for them, because basically whatever they're typing they're just sending it and it automatically sends it out to their entire department. So, it's easier for the dispatcher, said by a dispatcher that runs that system daily. She said it's 10 times easier than anything else, she said that she wishes that she didn't have to talk on the radio she wishes she could do that and send out.
- Jerry B: Iamresponding is on the very bottom of the list because they do not have any broadcast of what's going on at the fire and stuff.
- Gary: Dillon loves it, this is just from experience in dealing with another department that runs it and loves that system. I like the way that they have their system set up, they have screens on the inside of their stations. It shows if guys aren't available, it shows show their name on the board and say that they're available for response for how far out they are, 10, 15, or 20 minutes. So, I think a system like that would be awesome.
- George: Iamresponding does not handle the 800 MHz side of it. So, that's why we have to kind of put them on the bottom because in Dillon they don't do 800 MHz, I don't believe.
- Gary: Yeah, I get where you are coming from.
- Zach: I think all three of them have the capabilities of getting a screen in the system at the stations.
- Jerry B: Yes, the screens and all of that, Iamresponding is the only one that doesn't broadcast what's going on the radio.
- Gary: I don't know if SafeAlert is on there, but that's what we have currently for Race Track and it is no good.
- Jerry B: It is totally out the door.
- George: That's a whole different thing that's going away, and this basically will replace SafeAlert whatever/whenever one we end up picking. SafeAlert doesn't have any of the other capabilities that Iamresponding and others have.

- Zach: We pay Iamresponding and SafeAlert currently, they could be replaced with whichever you pick.
- George: Boulevard runs both, basically. SafeAlert is pretty much what most of the volunteer departments are on, not Iamresponding, just Boulevard is on both. I think it works well for them, knowing what guys are doing. Other than that, hopefully the new system will be a step up from that and everyone will be able to use it.
- Zach: Ok, hopefully, I mean I foresee it happening, I want it to happen and it's in my mind, in my vision, it's key to go with the new response plan. It would sure be nice for you guys to know that a guy is 30 seconds from the station, instead of leaving with one or two guys in an engine or tender. Ok, I'm looking at the screen now, I see if I just wait 30 seconds, we'll have another guy. Good to hear, I am glad it's finally moving forward a little bit.
- Dan C: I have a question, so when that time comes is everybody going to be at the same time or is every individual department must be their own, or how's that???
- Jerry B: It will totally go in; Everyone, we've got a pretty good list as far as through SafeAlert. We will have to have someone that will have to be an administrator up at the dispatch for taking people on and taking people off when they leave and then they come in this the only thing.
- Lee: You might be able to do that remotely from your house or station depending on who you guys select to be an administrator, you probably don't have to be up at dispatch updating your lists.
- Dan C: So, each department won't have to have somebody there?
- George: My understanding on the eDispatch is that is the only one that I've really been training on, but they have been explaining that I think depending on how we were set up, we can set it up where each department has control of their portion of it or their station, or not. It all depends on how we want to set it up. It might take care of your situation too, if there is one person from each department who should take that on, I think we can set it up that way.
- Dan C: Do we need to notify them of that, or should they know that?
- Jerry B: We will handle all of that down the road. I personally don't want each department taking care of everything.
- George: That is probably not a great plan.
- Jerry B: We will lose more than a radio. I do have one more thing the gentleman from Iamresponding is going to the Montana Emergency Management Forum in May. He is coming on May 9-11, he said that he would come over and meet with us if anybody is interested in doing that, I'll bring it up at the Fire Council to see if any of the Chiefs want to do it. Would anyone here be interested if I set that up?
- Zach: I received that same email; I would refer to our IT Team because what he would be saying would probably be over my head. When that time comes yes, maybe you could just be the contact for him, so he is not receiving emails from both me and you and then you can let me know when he is coming, and I can send someone, and I will come if I'm available.
- George: Would he be available to help with the installation at that time?
- Lee: Are you doing Iamresponding anytime soon?
- George: Oh, that's Iamresponding, that's right.
- Jerry B: Without the fill in, as far as I was concerned, they're pretty much off the board.
- Lee: We could ask him those questions while he is here.
- Jerry B: I believe it's coming but if we don't have pagers, it is just 100% necessary to have the other section. Well, I will set it up, that will be on me.
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8. Training Updates:

- Chad: I will start with the training report, I haven't been doing a good job in the last month of getting a training set up. I was late for the meeting because I was trying to send out an email for the training

in April. We had some computer problems in the B/C room. So, I will send that out either today or tomorrow, later in April, I think April 26th, Copper Mountain again for the first portion of radio communications with old and new radios, so we can get on the same page. The longer portion of that will be on where we stopped with water supply last year. There were still some kinks that we needed to work out last year. There's been some more fires in rural areas that hopefully things have gone better because of the training and then maybe some other things that we can fix or identify that are more important than what we are training on now. We also have, I believe, an ISO water shuttle requirement this summer, so hopefully we can identify, either where it's at, what's going to happen with that and that can be our end goal throughout the summer to train for that. They will kind of give us a goal to make sure that we're efficient at that. So, I apologize about the training, but we'll have one in April, pick back up and we'll go from there.

- Dan C: I have a question, what is the ISO water shuttle?
- Chad: ISO is going to come in again and do their five-year review.
- Zach: ISO is just our insurance rating.
- Chad: So, they will review dispatch, fire, and the water system in Butte, part of the water system is moving water efficiently through tenders and port-a-tanks. So, they will set up a site where they want us to flow a certain amount of water, they will give us a destination where our fill site is at and then we must maintain a certain amount of water flowing. It is supposed to be for two hours, but they won't do it for two hours. If we can show that we're maintaining a certain amount of GPMs for a certain amount of time, they say here you go.
- Dan C: Do you pick one sit and go with that? Or do you do several sites?
- Chad: No, they have only done one site per year in the last 30 years, right.
- Dan C: Is that site predetermined?
- Chad: I don't know when she's going to come in, but she'll come in and identify where it's at, certain distances from the fill site to the operation and consider all the stuff that she considers, and she's got all that information in advance
- Zach: I will be working with the Chief's; she will probably meet with you guys. I think you have quite a little bit of paperwork to fill out and of course, the Water Company to do their water flow out of their hydrants and make sure that kind of stuff and then basically walk through a predetermined site and we can set up a date for later this summer.
- Chad: She'll go to dispatch too, I believe.
- George: They spend quite a bit of time at dispatch.
- Chad: Dispatch is only worth like 10 of the points, but I mean, she'll still go up there. The water system is worth like 40, and the Fire Department 60 of our total.
- Dan C: Do you get advance notice on the site? Should we have the Water Company make sure they do their flows prior to her coming possibly?
- Zach: Once I have my first meeting with her, I think I'll have a better idea. This is my first year going through it.
- Chad: I know in the past we have went through every plug flushed in to make sure that the 10 sites and Coates probably know better than anyone the 10 sites that she will pick to flow test. In the past, we went and flushed the hydrants and made sure that everything was good. Do you have any information on that, Coates? Do you remember when she or he came the last time?
- Shawn: I remember we had to pressure test all the pressure of the hydrants. We went off pressure instead of flow though because it was short notice.
- Dan C: So, in certain areas, they adjust the flow by the demand. When this happens, the Water Company will be part of the process, will they?
- Shawn: Yes, they have their own separate thing that they must be a part of.
- Chad: Like in the umbrella dispatch, water department, fire department and then she kind of figures out how it all works together. Well, we have gone there in the past and flushed hydrants or open

hydrants for them so she could get her flow pressure and residual pressure and things like that. So, we'll help but the water department, I think they're doing good. They usually do well, don't they?

- Shawn: Yes, last time they came, we had three months of preparation before.
- Dan C: It's not just a surprise show up and?
- Chad: No. They want you to succeed. Hopefully, if the Chief can, if she can let us know we'll make sure we're ready for it and we're going to, you know crush it and be good at it not just for that, but just for random given areas. Then, you know, if she's going to come every five years, for the next four years we can plan on once a year, picking a spot within our area and making sure that the water flow works in that given area.
- Dan C: Kind of like practice years.
- Chad: Yes, we should do that anyways regardless.
- Dan C: Good idea.

Call Volume Report:

- Report handed out for review.

9. 2023 Equipment & Training Fund Request Forms

- Chad: I have something quick before , if you don't mind.
- Dan C: Not a problem.
- Chad: With the requests, one of the things that I know has been brought up in the past, and it has always been brought up in Fire Advisory, pertaining to the TIFID is PPE, this is just my thought. It would be nice if we could get systems running how we do our hose. Like if you guys use hose, you come in drop hose off, you get brand new hose. It would be awesome if we could get to that point with the bottles. Where they are not Terra Verde's bottles or Home Atherton's bottles, they are just Butte Silver Bow's bottles. They have a number on them that get tested. The last time we trained up at the station, Melrose came in with three guys, first time I think we have trained with them ever. The training got done in about an hour, they had a 20-minute drive in and then they had to stay there and wait a little while longer, 20 minutes to fill their bottles, and then they left. It just brought to light, why don't we just have a system like our fire hose, to where Butte Silver Bow owns everything, Terra Verde doesn't own anything, Home Atherton doesn't own anything, the Career Department doesn't own anything, it is Butte Silver Bow's. So, it would be really nice to start having a headquarters for hoses, the SCBA bottles, which are going to be coming up after we get done with all this stuff in a couple of years and turnout gear in my opinion, to where we could have one area that has all of the turnouts that aren't being used, that could be viewed by the Chief if he is the one paying for the turnouts and if other member need different sizes, they are not just at Home Atherton, or not at Terra Verde. When Race Track might need some turnouts or they are not hunkered in at Little Basin Creek, so, we can start utilizing our resources a little bit better. I am making the motion before we get into this because I don't want any individual department to think that I don't think they need this, or they need that. If it is an emergency and someone needs a new set of turnouts right now, bring them up to the station so the Chief can see and if they need to be thrown out, they need to be thrown out. It would be great to have this selection of pagers, bottles, hose, bunker gear, helmet, gloves, and all of that at one location rather than spreading it out everywhere because I feel like we are not best utilizing the resources or the gear we have because there is so many homes throughout the county. I know that is not going to be a popular thing in this room. If I was running a business, that is how I would run it because it seems like it is the most efficient way to spend the money. That is what I am going to suggest to the committee, I don't know what we are going to do with that, but I want to just voice that before we get into all this. Does anyone have any comment on that?

- Jerry B: I have one comment, I would really like to get back into our SCBA going through bringing them up, being all tested and everything. To my knowledge, nobody's marking their bottles like they used to, mine already have.
- George: We haven't received any new ones. Ours are all marked originally.
- Chad: I think there are some departments that mark their bottles and that is whatever.
- Jerry B: I don't see a problem whatsoever. I would like to have each month a different department bring up their SCBA's in and their gone through.
- Chad: To get them flow tested?
- Jerry B: To get them flow tested, all checked out, change batteries.
- Chad: Didn't we do this in the past?
- Jerry B: We always did it in the past.
- Chad: I don't want to blame everything on COVID but, wasn't there a reason that we stop? Does anyone remember?
- Joe Pat: I was told by Doble he was going to start that again, because of COVID.
- Chad: I don't know what happened with that, Chuck Janhunen retired, COVID hit, and it got just passed off. I think Doble is going to do it again. They need to be tested.
- George: He needs to get your guys done first and then, at least that is what he told me.
- Zach: Doble can't do it all on his own, we are sending three more members to get certified, I mean I can't start working on your SCBA's, I am not a certified tech. They must go through schooling and get certified. So, at the end of this month we have three guys getting certified in Portland, Portland is the closest place.
- George: I think from a liability standpoint.
- Zach: We couldn't do it with the manpower that we had certified.
- Jerry B: Say we did that and next month is Boulevard's, if you missed that month, it is your fault. If Rocker missed, it should show a black mark or something. All my bottles still have small knobs on them, remember we've got the refurbished ones and they got the small knobs and I have just been waiting for them to call to do that, and it changed.
- Zach: We should have technicians good to go in May and then we can start planning for that because it's not simple.
- Jerry B: Oh, without a doubt, if you guys just put a schedule out, just like the hose change.
- George: It would make sense to me, if you would only do half of your units at one time, maybe 2 sets of test per month for each department.
- Zach: Staying on the SCBA category like Chad was saying, if there is a fire, if we do training, it would sure be nice Station 1 has the cache of spare bottles. Instead of Boulevard wrapping their bottles in green tape to make them boulevard's bottles, they are really not, they are Butte Silver Bow's Fire Department bottles. Nobody should be wrapping or marking their bottles with anything. I mean it would be besides a number so that Matt Doble and the technician crew can track them, and if there is a fire or a training, just like hose, you guys come in, here we used 4 bottles, take these 4, we will fill while you guys can leave.
- Chris: You can drop them off and leave.
- Zach: Then we can fill the bottles and put them back on the shelf, just like a fire hose. Chad's idea for PPE to make it work the same as hose and SCBA is to me a great idea, I mean it is not picking on anybody, it is not doing anything. I have looked at a couple of departments that asked for gloves, hoods, boots, coats or pants and they may need them, they very well may need them. I have no idea because I don't see it, but on the other hand, there could be another department that might have 8 brand new sets of turnouts sitting in the Bay that aren't even out-of-the-box yet, we don't know. So, if it was all on a shelf and you know Twoie asked for two sets of turnouts, I could go to the shelf, what size do you need? We are not going to put anything on the shelf that is beat up. I mean, if it is

beat up it is out of service, it is going in the garbage. It is a great idea, I like it, it would get us far more organized and utilize our funding far better than it has in the past.

- Chris: Probably could get good discounts too by the time you start ordering 3 from this place and 6 of that brand and 4 of another brand.
- Zach: The bad thing is I have the final stamp and I don't have a clue who's got what. I don't know what is, in what condition.
- Dan C: Well, it has already proven itself for the fire hoses, right?
- Chad: It is super convenient, I mean, you guys would know better than anyone, you're the ones coming up.
- Dan C: Why make them any different?
- Chad: The nice thing too is if we had everything in front of us and we didn't have a set of this size for a smaller or larger individual the Chief can go up there and look and say, ok, we need to budget this year for three sets and then at least he knows what to budget for and we could get like a nice cache of turnouts.
- Dan C: My question is, isn't the SCBA's adjusted to each person?
- Zach: Not the pack, just the mask.
- Chris: There is a small, medium, or large mask, not a lot of variety but there are a few sizes.
- Dan C: That would not be an issue either.
- Jerry B: Most of the volunteers don't have individual masks for everybody.
- Dan C: Your suggestion looks like most of us agree to it, where does it go from here though? Does each department have to agree to it? Where do we go from here?
- Chad: It would be great to get on the same page and go forward with it. So, one we can start making room for it and then if individual department, when they bring their SCBA's up and their fire hose up to just start filtering in some of the turnout gear, it is going to take a while, right. So, again if someone needs something right now, bring it in and we'll get the sizes or whatever size you need, if it is bad.
- Zach: If you need it right now and we don't have that size, you will get it in about 2 years, unfortunately.
- Chad: That is another thing too, if a volunteer department has a member that wants to join and they don't have a turnout set that fits them, if there is a cache that is up there, you can get it that day, rather than waiting 16 months to get the turnout gear, that is how long it has been taking, it is terrible. So, as far as getting the gear up there, I don't know, that is above me, but make a motion to bring it to Fire Council and see who wants to participate, and then make sure that if we are going to do this, it is for the right reason and it is not to take anyone's gear. No one owns the gear, I mean, that needs to be perfectly clear.
- Jerry B: I will automatically bring it to the Fire Council.
- Dan C: The question is: you are going to get a few that say no I don't want to do that. So, it is not going to work if we do some and some don't.
- Zach: It needs to be a complete line.
- Dan C: How do we get to that?
- Chris: Remind them it is Butte Silver Bow's gear first, it is not personal to them. There are other advantages I see is like gloves and hoods are pretty universal, you know very little variation in sizes, but when we go on those runners where you're getting fire after fire after fire and the gloves are wet and waiting in line, give us your wet gloves, we will give you dry gloves and we will just dry, we will wash and cycle that versus you know your coat that is your size, cycle them through.
- Shawn: The best part of the analogy is we could wash the gear as well that would be cutting out on the cancer.
- Chris: In our extractor, that percentage is universal.
- George: I think the bottle inventory will be easy to do, we still might have some problems.

- Shawn: The bottles are already halfway done, I helped Chucky do the bottles before he retired, it is already started.
- George: Turnouts is going to be a little...that is probably of all of them the most complicated because there is different sizes and all the sort of stuff, will be a little more involved, but like the SCBA's and of course, there's a variety of SCBA's around too. That is kind of one problem swapping SCBA's for a while.
- Chad: 90% of the department can benefit, we got to, we got to adjust to them.
- Zach: I am looking at the manpower on a few departments, there is just a few department that have single digit manpower and you know, I don't know, Ted is here today, so I am not picking on somebody that is not here, Ted got 9 member in 2022, I don't know if he has 7 sets of turnouts at his station or 27 sets. If it is 27, I mean we need to put those in, somewhere, instead of buying brand new ones for a department that is asking for them. We are going to spend money out of the last remaining bit of the TIFID to supply a department with turnout(s) when there could be turnout(s) floating around out there. I know for a fact there is, there is turnout(s) out there that have not been used.
- Chris: Are these new turnout(s) for new members, is this person going to stick around? Are they going to be volunteer firefighters in 14 months? So, maybe we will give them the used set out of the cache, if they are around in a couple of years, but that would probably be more up to the Chiefs than anything else. Maybe we look at a coat that fits better.
- Jerry B: Our deal is when somebody comes in, they get just a set, they can't really do anything for the first year, and if they show up after that first year, then we will start to upgrade.
- Chris: There you go, just keep all of that.
- Gary: That doesn't solve my problem for this year, and you don't want our gear that is sitting in the lockers right now. We still have guys responding to calls that are gear from 2004.
- Chad: I get all of that, but we need to eventually get to the point where we are not there, right?
- Gary: I love the idea, but it doesn't solve my problem today.
- Zach: Even if we order turnouts, it will not be here for 2 years.
- Gary: At least it is coming.
- Jerry B: When we do this, we will need to stop marking departments on them.
- Chad: Yes, we can.
- Jerry B: So, if we do order them this year, we should not put departments names on them.
- Chad: The names could like Velcro or button off.
- Dan C: What do we do with the ones that are already marked? Are there ways of fixing that?
- Chad: Don't they come off the tag off the back.
- Zach: Ours Velcro off.
- Joe Pat: The newer ones have tails that come off.
- George: Our have no name on them, it is not a big deal for us.
- Dan C: Do we need a motion to move forward with this idea, or do you just take it to Fire Council?
- Jerry B: If we take it to the Fire Council and put it on the agenda for next month, then it will be a little more serious.
- Dan C: I think one of the questions is, is before we move forward with this, do we need an answer? Before we make decisions on these requests, we need to know where we are going.
- Chad: It will make a difference a whole lot, I mean if they are a year or two out, we don't know if there is something that is floating around so you guys could use something.
- Joe Pat: If they are a year or two out, they will be there for our members that have been there for a while can get them and the people who are just joining can be rotated into their old gear.
- Chad: Yes, they should get older gear.
- Joe Pat: Which is how we are doing it.

- Chad: I guess what I was just saying is if there is newer gear than what they have out there, we might be able to solve your problem earlier. I don't know if there is. I don't know if all the gear is like your guys in your storage or it is old and it needs to be updated, I don't know if that is how it is everywhere, I don't think it is, but I don't know the answer.
- Zach: It is not just the volunteers, I mean, Mjelde a Career guy who has gone one more calls, than volunteers, that is just how it is, you are running 2008 boots and bunker gear. It is a problem; they are expensive, and they take a long time to get in. It is what it is.
- Dan C: Well, it is just a common-sense routine that would and should work for everybody once we get into it, but we got to get there.
- Zach: My issue that I see is me calling up one of the Chief's and saying can I have Butte Silver Bow turnouts so we can store them at Station 1, and they are going to say they are our turnouts. I can just see that problem already happening and that is going to be my issue, but we have got to start somewhere, and it is a great idea.
- Dan C: The people that are here agree with it so maybe there will be many more that will agree, we might have a few hold outs but what do we do there?
- George: I have sort of a suggestion that I think maybe what we need to try to do is run this just the major main problem is on the volunteer side and that is where the extras would be located probably too. The people that need them, why don't we have them bring a list, have a list for the Fire Council and see if other departments can fulfill that.
- Gary: We have tried that before in the past and we have gotten nowhere with the other departments, especially Race Track itself, we seem to be the alien of the group, so we have tried it.
- George: I don't think anybody's ever asked me.
- Gary: We have asked, and nothing has ever come of it.
- Dan C: If Zach is the organizer, maybe we might get a little different response.
- Chris: That is us too, have the Career guys go through their lockers, and see if maybe a guy has extra pants or something.
- Zach: I know what you guys have; I am in that station.
- Dan C: There is one way of finding out, you know before COVID a few of us went to every department out there, we took a tour of every department out there. We kind of saw what they have for inventory.
- Jerry B: I would love to get that going because we learned a lot.
- Dan C: It is definitely time consuming.
- Chad: That is the thing, if we are doing that kind of stuff because we want to see the SCBAs' and the turnout gear and stuff, it would be less time consuming, you are going there to see the trucks and the location and not this and that, right.
- Chris: The Chief and Mr. Fortune, I don't think been in every station.
- Zach: We did it for one-night last year.
- Jerry B: We went to Boulevard and Race Track I think.
- Chris: I think we need to start somewhere; it is going to be growing pains today and tomorrow.
- Dan C: It is a good idea, just a commonsense routine that should work for everybody if we are all on board. I don't know what happens when not everyone is on board, I don't know where you would go from there.
- Chad: Just deal with it if we run into it.
- Shawn: If 90% is on board the 10% is going to have to pull because they will be not getting any gear.
- Chad: Not just new gear, everything, financially restrained.
- Dan C: Well, I mean they still must, you know, if they just get into the pattern and routine, it just makes sense.
- George: We can fill tanks at the Training Center but, that's about the only two, the uptown station or the training center have the compressors that can handle the high pressure.

- Dan C: I guess like you said, we will deal with that when we cross that bridge.
- George: But I would be just as happy to let you guys do it.
- Jason: You need to come up with some kind of board to start managing this, we really are not represented here, because we don't participate in the Silver Bow Fire Council and to be left out on the sidelines in the back consistently all the time is kind of ridiculous, so there needs to be some movement forward. There should be some sort of representation for the districts and the voice for them outside the Fire Council.
- Zach: Outside of Fire Council?
- Jason: Because you know there is some decisions stuff happening here. It looks like it is starting to move there and positive and good ideas here, but still no real representation.
- Jerry B: But that is you guys.
- George: You know when the meetings are.
- Jason: Sure, that group doesn't really represent us, and this group on this side really doesn't represent us either, although we could move past that and be positive, but you need to come up with some sort of board that will manage this differently, so you don't have to go to volunteer group and back here to evolve, nothing is going to change.
- Dan C: Do you recommend adding some more people to this?
- Jason: I think you need to find representation for every district on here, Big Butte, Rocker needs to be on here.
- Jerry B: Everyone is represented here through the Fire Council. I mean we have got that in place and you guys are the only ones that won't do it.
- Gary: Yes, we backed out of fire council tonight where our representation? We don't go to the Fire Council; we haven't participated in the Fire Council in years. We are not represented at this table.
- Jerry B: But that is your choice.
- Gary: It is, we could go to the Fire Council and be a part of the Angry Guy Group, where all it is, is we complain about everything and nothing ever gets solved. It has been the same argument for the last 25 years that I've been a member of the Fire Department.
- Dan C: So, would you guys recommend that each department have somebody on this? This is an advisory board; we just give advice.
- Jerry B: This is part of the Charter, they are the ones that said 3 Commissioners, 3 Volunteers and 3 Career.
- Zach: Could you guys as a Fire Advisory Committee on certain meetings request a member from each department.
- Lee: We could probably set up like a sub-committee of this committee.
- George: We have done that in the past, but it doesn't happen.
- Gary: I think what Jason is saying and I agree with him on this too, if we are going to do this, I like the plan, but it doesn't solve issues as of right now. I like the plan, but if we are going to do it, we should have a subcommittee, call it that, that has representation of each department that way that would be a fair and just way of saying all right we have this gear. Let's bring this in and let's go through it this way. You know our current SCBA's are 2013?
- Joe Pat: 2012
- Gary: So, we are due for some SCBA in a couple of years anyway. So, right now us putting ours into the rotation doesn't make a whole lot of sense, but in a few years, it is going to make a whole lot of sense because we are going to be out.
- Chad: For sure.
- Gary: Planning a future of this is a great idea, to get it up off the ground.
- Chad: What if, we give the ok right now to do it, to allow the Chief to be able to be in contact with each representative of each department and he can give a report on a monthly Chiefs report of any of the issues. This is the issue this month, they're going to be next month and the month after that. To

where just even being put on the agenda of a Chiefs report there is representation that way that has no conflict with anyone else in the room or through the email, or through a phone call of the Chief and yourselves and yourselves and yourself as a representative? Because if we have a full board of every representative to figure out what we are going to do these turnouts, you guys know how that is going to roll too, right? So, it is going to be a full board meeting of every department, it gets to the point where the more heads that are in it, it's going to be a real pain in the butt to figure out. What if we just try going forward approving this? Approving the turnout situation, voting on it, seeing how it works for just the turnout(s) itself, for the next three months. See if it is working and then have a revision date in the three months. It is working or it is not working, it worked for this, it is not going to work for that. I don't know what else to do, I mean, I don't know.

- Jason: I just think that maybe you as a Director of Fire Services should come up with a different mechanism for managing the overall picture instead of a Fire Advisory Board, to make or accomplish changes whatever it looks like maybe consultation with the Volunteers Fire Council a Chief that is not associated with that what so ever, but probably should still have a voice and a say, because I don't know when the last time they reached out and talked back and forth and got any consensus or made a plan to benefit everybody. Because these ideas are awesome for a whole group. But it doesn't necessarily include these guys, and if you're going back to the Fire Council and then you pop back, it is just slow to make change, way slow. You need to have some way to make real decisions in a timely manner.
- Zach: There has been no change for how long? We are just trying to start the ball rolling with these ideas that people have now.
- Jason: No, they are great, the process is painfully slow.
- George: In all fairness, you may not agree on everything that is going on, like the Fire Council, but if you don't participate, you know I have been on it for 20 some years too, and it gets frustrating that thing don't happen, and the same stuff gets gone over. When I first was on the Fire Council and they are still addressing some of the same old stuff, you know, and that gets frustrating. But if you don't participate nothing is going to happen.
- Gary: If there were change in the ideas of Fire Council and they progressed, we would still be part of the Fire Council, but like I said, 25 years ago I walked into one of those meetings, I go walk into one of those meetings right now and it would be the exact same thing. That was 25 years ago.
- Jerry B: You could say the same thing about this committee.
- Dan C: I totally agree with Jason's idea that the more involvement the better.
- Jason: I know that the board would be unwieldy if you put everybody in there, but you need to have some at least a thought to find a solution.
- Dan C: But participation is big, and it hard to get , if you look at what the Charter says, there is supposed to be 3 Councilmen on here. The last three months there has been one Councilman show up. So, the rules can say whatever they want but you have got to get the right people to participate and that is big. If you guys can get the right people to participate, I don't know why you couldn't be a part of one of these meetings.
- Zach: So, there is Fire Council, that I have never been to one, ideas get....
- George: All of this stuff gets brought to them for one thing.
- Zach: So, you guys don't go to the Fire Council, you have had great representation, representing this meeting, even though you are not on the committee, neither am I. But you come here, and you still have a voice that people listen to. I am open to it; I don't know if is starting another one? So, would your idea be like me leading it with all the Chiefs?
- Jason: Well, I don't know what that solution is, one way in here that we would have representation, in that propose some sort of different, but maybe that might need to happen and if people choose to participate, but at least they have the door open to show up.

- George: Well, I know there was always in the past, like with Jeff. We always had, it might have been every quarter or whatever, but we would have a Chiefs meeting and something would come up on basically you know, that he came up with that needed to be addressed or we came up with something that needed to be addressed a lot, that has not been requested so far. I guess from either side really or should I say sides. That was something that we used to have in the past, a lot of times it wasn't very well attended, so that kind of goes to the trying to get a whole meeting of everybody. I am not sure that going to be a great solution because I don't think it is going to be super well attended. You know, it is just sort of a little bit like the training you know, it is just not....
- Gary: How about this to get the ball rolling, you want to do station visits, come back to Race Track and we will show you. We will go through the equipment room and show you everything we have got; we will start the ball there. You guys want to have that committee come down in this group? Come down whenever, this group wants to come down and we will go through my turnout(s), boots, helmets, whatever else you want to go through, and you can see what kind of shape I am in.
- George: I don't think anyone is arguing that.
- Zach: I saw it a year and a half ago and I told you, you should have thrown half away.
- Gary & Joe Pat: We already did.
- Zach: You're asking for two, I am not even saying you guys don't need two, you might need more, I don't know, but what we are saying is there might be two new sets that you could have tomorrow at another station that has never been used rather than ordering new ones.
- Riley: So, if nobody's opposed, I can make one comment, I mean you guys can make the change next month, there is already a Public Comment on any item on the Agenda at your request, Chief, you could probably send out a thing to every Volunteer Chief and say, do you have a 5 minute blip of your department needs that you would like brought before the committee as a whole? Each Chief, whether they can be here, Twoie can be here tonight, he could say our department is in dire need of turnout(s), that is great, if he can't be here, he could send you a proxy. He could send you a quick little email that you, a representative could read which I think would start to give what Jason is saying. It would be a start of a voice that could start next month and give us time to address the solution further into the future, but honestly that could be implemented next month because it is public comment, and it is at least we reach out and give everyone the opportunity directly.
- Chad: Dan isn't there any public comment that is not on the agenda at every Council meeting at the end of the meeting why can't do that, it would give anyone the opportunity to come up and at any time and say what they want on the record.
- Riley: And impending if it is an important topic, if you request that report two weeks prior to the meeting, you can make it an item on the agenda if it is pertinent. You could amend the agenda.
- Dan C: We have never had a problem not sticking to the agenda 100%.
- Jason: Get it to Diane, to get on the agenda, then be there to talk about it, I guess an outsider.
- Chad: I think any person in the public should be able to do that.
- Dan C: Any advertised meeting which this is an advertised meeting, the public has a right to come to and has a right to voice an opinion like you said at the end of the meeting. Something that is not on the agenda, they have a right to voice what they have to say.
- Chris: Say just a deadline to get on the agenda by.
- Chad: It would just be easier if we had a bullet point of public comment on any item that is not on the agenda? Then you don't have to send Diane anything.
- Dan C: We are only an Advisory Board, we are not making any decisions, I mean we make decision, but our decision isn't held.
- Gary: But as far as we are concerned, is where we can see that at least this board starts to push things forward a little bit. We still don't feel like we are represented, so somewhere, somehow, we need to get a representation on this board.
- Dan C: What is your suggestion to improve?

- Gary: I believe the Charter states that the Chief executive can appoint to this board. So, I think if it showed that we were not in the Fire Council we didn't have representation on this board. I feel that, how does a person maybe we could go about it that way and get some representation.
- Jerry B: Then Race Track would be here and the other eight department would be there?
- Zach: How do you three get on this?
- Jerry B: We get voted in.
- Zach: By the Fire Council?
- Jerry B: Yes.
- Zach: So, they will never get voted in, because they never go to Council.
- Jerry B: They choose not to be a participant.
- Dan C: But generally, when we decide on this committee, it is for everybody. We didn't make a decision and say, well, Race Track didn't attend this meeting, so they are out. Is that not, right?
- Gary: Of those decisions necessarily benefit Race Track.
- Dan C: Well, we wouldn't know your issues if you didn't bring them to us, but for the most part everybody's got some of the same issues.
- Jason: Well, just an example tonight we talked about turnout gear, there are exactly 2 requests from 1 department for turnout gear and I think big picture, the idea of equipped before the thing in the big picture is a good idea. That affects a group, the only group, that applied for PPE underneath this TIFID money, and they don't have a voice to really sit there and do anything about it.
- Chad: To vote for or against it, I think we are all on the same page.
- Jason: What happened just now.
- Gary: Technically, we're not supposed to be butting into this meeting, but we are.
- Dan C: No, that is not true, everybody was supposed to come to this meeting tonight that was requesting stuff. This is your opportunity to come to us tonight and tell us what your request is and why you need that request so we know whether we should approve it or not.
- Chad: So that is true, other than this meeting, if Dan wanted to lock this down besides this meeting. That is why, if there is just a Public Comment on Anything that is not on the agenda. There is that for a reason, I think would help fix some of that.
- Dan C: Anything on here that involves you, all I must do is give you the opportunity, you put your hand up and I say well, Jason's got something to say.
- Chad: Which is what we are doing now.
- Dan C: That is what this is about.
- George: That is what we have always done.
- Chad: There was a little stretch where I remember, I think it was when Foley was on here and we locked it down for a little bit to where it was getting out of hand. Going forward, that bullet point should be on there, there is no reason for it. The Public Comment is already on the items on the agenda.
- Dan C: The Chairman can ask that you go ahead and share your opinion.
- Zach: You are still saying you don't have a vote, is that correct?
- Jason: Yes, just look at the composition, you got 3 Volunteers here, we got 2 today, you have 3.
- Dan C: Well, Joel usually shows up for Boulevard.
- Jason: That is fine, you got Home Atherton, Terra Verde and Boulevard of the Fire Council represented and then you have BSB Fire Department on the other side of the table so 3 members from a single fire department represented. You look at it and it is kind of off balance, which it is whatever.
- Diane: And 3 Commissioners.
- George: Supposed to be.
- Jason: So maybe in the future we don't have to be stuck in 1976 right. Maybe the makeup of the board should probably change a little bit or involve, just to suit the business needs that are happening today. We truly are looking at Butte Silver Bow and bring that in. Although you pointed out it is very unwieldy to have 12 bodies at your table trying and representing.

- Chad: On certain items, yeah.
- George: The Charter would have to get changed.
- Chad: There would have to be a Charter review, but in the meantime.
- Jason: So, it depends on how the Charter is built and we got to look at how they did it as part of the Charter. If they did it as an ordinance, there could be a review and revision to the ordinance, which I believe is where it is at, or if it is on its Charter, you are stuck until there is a Charter change.
- Dan C: Depends on the Ordinance maybe there is wiggle room, maybe there is a gray area that you could all still be a part of it, Commissioners can change. We are only an Advisory Board; we don't have any authority to make anybody do anything.
- Jason: But this is the best opportunity for good things to happen going forward, just because of the ideas, right and the group pushing forward.
- Chad: What if we, just to get this meeting going.
- Jason: Sorry to derail.
- Dan C: We are glad you are here.
- Chad: No, you are fine, if this is such a big issue, why can't we put a bullet point on the agenda for next month of what is going on, talk about it more and also a bullet point of any public comment on items that are not on the agenda and then that way we can get rolling with this, it is obvious, it is an issue that is not going to get figured out right now, but we can bring it up again.
- George: So, moved.
- Jerry B: Second
- Dan C: Are you fine with that Jason?
- Jason: That is a great first step.
- Chad: So, would you (Diane) reword an item on the agenda next month, so it has discussion on full representation of all the fire departments within the county.
- Zach: I am going to backtrack here because I have never gone, who leads the Fire Council meetings?
- Jerry B: There is Chairman, and there is President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. I don't know what we are saying, all you must do is come to one meeting a month and you guys don't want to do that? One of you guys could be here.
- Gary: Last time I went there, we were chased basically out of there. It has been so long, Mike Doto was the guy that basically called me every name under the sun just because I have a different opinion. You know because opinions don't go well.
- Jerry B: He hasn't been in as Chairman for residents' meetings.
- Joe Pat: The other thing with the Fire Council is on our training nights and we are an extremely young department right now, so we don't have somebody to send because one of the three of us is running that training. If one of the three of us leaves to go to Council, we don't really have anybody to train our new ones.
- Jerry B: Are you sending them to Firefighter 1?
- Joe Pat: We are doing our own, we are trying to get some of our guy's national certifications, that is why we are doing it in house.
- Dan C: All right, we got a motion and a second to move this forward. Is everyone okay with sending this to the Fire Council? What is our next step?
- George: We put a line item on the agenda to just basically have public comment on anything not on the agenda and bullet point right on the agenda for a discussion on full representation on all departments in the county Fire Departments.
- Dan C: All in Favor?
- Everyone: In Favor.
- Dan C: Motion passes.

- Jerry B: On the turnouts and that I think it would be better rather than coming in a motion, let us take it to the Fire Council and come back with some answers next month, rather than saying, hey you will do this, let us ask first.
- Chad: Perfect, sounds good.
- Dan C: On all of them, or just, how about like the tanks?
- Jerry B: The tanks, are a done deal.
- Chad: I would just focus on the turnouts right now because there is an obvious need, and just because it's an obvious need right now for these guys, if you guys get a couple more members, it could be an obvious need for you in six weeks. We might be able to address, who knows?
- Dan C: Can we start some kind of process for the tanks? Everyone agrees with the way.
- Chad: We should talk to Captain Doble and the Chief and make sure that their system that they have in place will work and report back on the tanks next month as well.
- George: I think the tanks will be easy to get done, the turnouts will be a little tougher, but I think it could be done, just logistically difficult.
- Zach: Anything with the SCBA with Shawn and the crew going to Portland, we will have a better idea and plan moving forward. Yes, we need to get those tested and everything. My final two cents before we move on is, when you guys bring things to the Fire Council, important information it is Butte Silver Bow's equipment. That has always been something that I bring up and no, it is ours. No, it is Butte Silver Bow's it was bought by Butte Silver Bow. I know we are going to have pushback, that is just how it is going to be. I don't mind the pushback, we will eventually get through it, but if you guys could just talk about that when you talk about the turnouts at the Fire Council. I mean, those are all Butte Silver Bow's, that department can share with this department. Everything is Butte Silver Bow's.
- Jerry B: We have tried getting everything in one position or one place inside the volunteers and it hasn't gone over well, this might be the push that we need.
- Zach: Hopefully, we can use Station 1 as headquarters for the hose, we can use Station 1 for SCBA's and bottle fills. I don't see why we can't use Station 1 as headquarters for all PPE.
- George: You can have room to be able to do that?
- Chad: We will make the room; we will figure it out.
- Dan C: Alright, so you wanted to hold up on the request until we come up with some agreement there. Does that affect these people that are requesting turnouts? What do we do there? Just move forward.
- Chris: I think you go to the Fire Council and say there is an urgent need for these turnout requests, show up next month and bring the turnouts that you have or wore out or whatever.
- Jerry B: That is Thursday.
- George: 2 days from now.
- Dan C: I don't think we will make a final decision tonight anyway, do we? I guess it isn't our decision.
- George: We have 2-4 departments here.
- Zach: I think what you did last year, is you wrote down what was voted yes or no and then I went through the requests and the votes, after and called each individual department and said yes or no and explained my reasonings. I took your votes into consideration. I guess, I could have told them if it was voted yes or no. I didn't go by every one of your guys' votes.
- George: We have a couple of departments here, why don't we at least let them go through theirs and since they showed up, they could discuss their requests, and whatever else we wanted to and then maybe table the rest until next month.
- Zach: if we have enough information to give it a yes or no, we can and get going on the ordering process. I mean it is some items take a long time, we are just getting the radios that we had approved last year, anything we can get done tonight is a benefit.
- Lee: You just want to go through the 3 department that are here? Start there.
- Ted: Read and explained Big Butte requests.

BIG BUTTE VFD:

Quote from Big Sky Fire Equipment - APPROVED

- (1) TFT Adapter- 5" Storzx6" (M) NH @ \$351.90 each
- (2) Hydrant Gate Valve-2.5 NH @ \$457.20 each
- (1) 2.5" (F) NH x (2) 1.5" (M) NH gated Wye @ \$457.20 each
- (1) 1.5" (F) NH x (2) 1.5" (M) NH gated Wye @ \$420.30 each
- (2) Coaxsher Wildland Hose Pack @ \$99.95 each
- (2) Wildland Hose Clamp @ \$158.40 each
- (1) Estimated Freight @ \$100.00
- Total -\$2,760.50

Quote from Racom -HELD

- (12) G5 P25 Dual-Band Pager, VHF & 700/800MHz @ \$688.50 each
- (12) G5 Standard Desktop Charger @ \$85.05 each
- (1) Pager Template Development - Technical Development programming @ \$85.00 (Included)
- (12) pager Prgramming/Bench Testing @ \$35.00 each (Included)
- (1) Estimated Freight @ \$65.00
- Total - \$9,347.60

Quote from Dunne – APPROVED 1 – PENDING DISCUSSION

- (3) VP-8000 Multi Band Portable @ \$3,377.20 each
- (3) Single Bay Charger @ \$72.16 each
- (3) Speaker Mic @ \$117.00 each
- Total - \$10,699.08

TOTAL for Big Butte VFD \$22,807.18

- o Chad: I think it is a must for you, anyone who has a tender or anything like that honestly, I don't think it is a bad idea.
- o Ted: It is a pain to take the big gate valves off.
- o Chad: On the pagers are we holding off right? Until we figure out what is going on with the cell phone live feed paging. As McPherson would say, mission critical 5 nines of getting the page with the pagers or getting the live feed could come through the phones is that right, that is what could happen right? Ted, do you guys get the Wildland Grant through DNRC? We talked about this in the other meeting before right.
- o George: Strictly Wildland.
- o Chad: Besides boots.
- o George: Right, it doesn't include boots, but it does include, and we have had discussions about that as far as communications you can put on it. The problem is like with the handheld radios, they are too expensive for us. You can do a pager or two but that is about all you're going to be able to do.
- o Chad: Could you get the progressive hose packs and clamps under that Wildland Grant?
- o Ted: The problem with the Grant is we apply for that sometime in Mid-June and they don't award until September or October and then we order equipment like in January or February. I put the same requests last year through TIFID and we didn't get it, no fault to anybody, it was too late to put it on Title 4 money request.
- o Chad: Is that money spent every year?
- o Ted: Yes.
- o Chad: All of it, 8 or 9 grand.
- o George: Yes.

- Ted: What we did this go around with the title 4 money, we got some Nomex hoods, gloves, and things like that.
- Chad: I think a lot of the stuff can wait, just no on Ted's but on a lot of ours but, if the Chief is willing to spend some money. I think that with a Storz connection, you would be better off.
- Ted: Yes.
- Chad: I don't know how you want to do that though.
- Chris: I think that out of all the departments, Big Buttes' focus really has changed over the last few years from Structure Engine a few years ago, to much more wildland urban interface. I mean we got to set them up for that. Their responsibilities have changed more than almost any other department.
- Chad: Ted as far as the radios go, the bare minimum for you is 3?
- Ted: We have 2 presently we would like to have 3 more. My understanding is that an NFPA standard is one for every seat, but you know if we could get one more, we'd be happy as hell.
- Chad: I think just because of the 8 radios that were divvied up from last year, to you guys this year. I don't see any problem getting Ted another radio. I think we should hold off on the pagers, personally.
- Zach: All pager requests are HELD right now, just like they were in 2022. If you look at Diane's report, it doesn't say anything about DELCLINED on the pager, anything that says pager, it just says HELD, nothing is an absolute no on the pagers, until we do those trial periods with the cell phone apps.
- George: Same with the radios basically too, other than you eventually deciding to order 8-10.
- Chad: Dan what do you what to do, just hear everything out and talk about it without voting?
- Dan C: However, you guys, what to do it. I don't use this equipment, so, I am here to listen to your guys' advice.
- Jason: What happens to the unspent funds on the TIFID?
- Dan C: There are held over. The unspent funds are what we are spending now, there are no more funds coming.
- Zach: You could keep this \$201,000.00 and not spend anything and hold it for 20 years.
- Lee: Back to Chad, do one radio and hold on pagers?
- Chad: I think we've all been in favor of people getting radios, it is just kind of how to go about it and how many to get and having a solid number, with the amount of money that is there that might not be there, soon after spending all this money. I don't think anyone has ever doubted the importance of having the radios is how many. I think if Ted was willing to accept one radio and distorts and pagers are on hold. I wish the wildland stuff would have....you guys must apply for it every year?
- Lee: You guys get Wildland Grant every year?
- George: Yes. If you put in for it.
- Jerry B: What the majority of us have done is one year we would buy a radio and the next year we would buy 2 pagers.
- Lee: For each department?
- Jerry B: Yes. For each department. So, we didn't get a lot of wildland, we got communication stuff. Now, all that stuff is up in the air.
- Jason: So, Race Track is not advised, e-mailed, given any minutes of the Title 4 money, if that is the money you guys are speaking of. So, Race Track has not been included in the money for over 10 years at least.
- Jerry B & George: Once again you got to participate.
- Jason: Just a note.
- George: I know it is not fun, I don't like doing either but...
- Lee: This money is awarded every year; would it be safe to say you are going to get it again?
- Zach: It has been awarded for 21 years.
- Jason: US Forest Service and BLM, so has a bill with the Department of Interior and it get put into the State of Montana, into DNRC and that money gets divided out to the counties. The single point of contact becomes the Fire Council and the Fire Council divvy up those request and award that fund.

- Lee: It is the same amount every year?
- Zach: They have received \$8,000.00 every year for the last 21 years.
- Lee: So, anything wildland moving forward now since you can't buy pagers and radios, would you suggest purchasing wildland equipment from that instead of TIFID? Is that what we are discussing?
- Jerry B: For instance, if we wanted to get wildland shirts. You could get seven wildland shirts in a year. So, \$1,000.00 doesn't go very far, if you want any type of equipment.
- Chad: How much is 2 progressive packs outfitted Jason you would know right off the bat, better than anyone, I guess it is probably on the report.
- George: \$200.00 is just the pack, so, it doesn't include the hose, right Ted.
- Ted: I didn't request the hose.
- Zach: If Ted just missed the date and I know I am not part of this committee and I don't know how much I am supposed to even be talking, I have been told one time, I talked too much. If Ted just missed the date but is willing to put in next year to get these things and needs it for the 4th of July, I mean couldn't we find between the paid and the eight other departments, 2 packs. I mean there is no doubt that he needs that stuff for the 3rd of July. Basically, for that 2-3 weeks.
- George: We have progressive...
- Zach: If we are just trying to be smart with this last \$200,000.00, gather some stuff, lend it to them, see what Big Butte could order through that grant, maybe it takes 2 years, because some of this stuff would be more than his \$1,000.00, if you are divvy it up semi equally between the 9 departments. I am 100% in agreement with the adapter and radio and this other stuff if it can be bought by another funding source. I am always in favor of that, even though he needs it in 2-3 months here.
- George: I think the hydrant valves are the 2 ½ I am not sure that 2 ½ would be covered under wildland because wildland typically doesn't use 2 1/2, I don't know. Do you know Jason?
- Jason: I could say I am going to fill up my Type 6 Engine off hydrant, I am going to use a hydrant gate, I could say I want to fill 2 Type 6 Engines, there is a 2 ½ export, I am going to put a 2 ½ x 1 ½ x 1 ½ get it wide and be good on it.
- Ted: Our Engine is a Tender/Pumper there is no other way to put it.
- Jason: The capability to make any wildland fire anywhere you want, but it is just what he is asking for. It is hard to be in the back here and get picked apart on his request and there is enough money to cover every request.
- Ted: I am used to this Jason, I am Irish, I suffer.
- Chad: So, there is always that.
- Jerry B: I make a motion that we buy everything under Big Sky Fire Equipment and one radio and hold off on the pagers. Dying for a second.
- George: Second
- Chad: I know there is a motion on the table, I just go to say something every single year, there is always enough money. Every single year doesn't mean that we should be throwing it away. The reason we don't have a training center right now or anything, is because we have been throwing some of this money away. Just because it can cover everything it is always a topic every single year, but it doesn't mean that the wish list should always get filled. So, that is something that I usually bring up every year and I am not going to not bring it up, even if we have money next year and I get, being picked apart. Believe me when ours come up, we are going to get the same thing.
- Zach: There is not enough money to cover everything.
- Jason: So, the requests are a total...(adding up)
- George: The requests total \$168,000.00, rounding up. There is "the money" to spend, but ...
- Chad: There has always been, most of the time there always is.
- Zach: I said it last year, I will say it again this year, we will not spend anywhere close to \$200,000.00. This is the last part of this, and we are going to use it as wisely as possible.

- Chris: I was on Big Butte, 15 years ago Ted, then we were running 6-7 calls a year and now there is our fourth busiest volunteer department, again I think their job description has changed a lot with this new much less structured company. So, I think we just need to set them up.
- Chad: Jerry what did you say 1 radio?
- Jerry B: One radio and the stuff from the Fire Equipment for the progressive fire Storz.
- Chad: And hold up on the pagers.
- Jerry B: Yes.
- George: So, it would be roughly \$3,300.00 - \$3,400.00 somewhere in that ballpark for 1 radio?
- Jerry B: Yes.
- Chris: is there a goal this year for the wildland funds? Just curious.
- George: You mean from the DNRC Grant?
- Jerry B: What we would really like to do is put in for pagers.
- Chris: That is what you're going to do?
- Jerry B: That is what Home Atherton is going to do, and if we can get everyone to do it, we would get a better deal and would have at least 2 per department.
- Riley: \$6,326.86 Total for Big Butte, is that what you were figuring our George.
- George: Yes, with Big Sky Fire and the radio.
- Dan C: So, we have a motion and second are we taking a vote or is there any more discussion?
- Chad: I don't think there is any more discussion.
- Dan C: How does that go with you Ted?
- Ted: Anything that we can get is gratefully accepted.
- Chad: Let's vote.
- Dan C: Everyone that is in favor say aye. Any nays? Motion passes.

BIG BUTTE:

All were in favor of \$6,326.86 Big Butte request from Big Sky Fire Equipment of \$2,760.50 and 1 Radio \$3,566.36, and the pagers are on hold.

- Ted: Thank you.
- Chad: Thanks, Ted for putting up with us.
- Dan C: Thank you for coming and discussing what you need and why.
- Chad: So, Race Track.
- Chad: Gary (Twoie) for the radios, which seems to always be the big talk topic, right. What are you thinking you're getting 3 tonight.
- Gary: Since we are getting 3 tonight, I might change my viewpoint to 6 that I need, but still need more. I need enough for the quad, the 3 of those will go on the Engine, but that still leaves the quad out in the open, as far as handholds go. We have our commander carry.
- Chad: You and Jason?
- Gary: Yes, that way we always have at least one officer with the radio, if we are available, if we are not available, we pass the radio along. Having radios on the trucks, our handholds especially for when we are on the fire, it tough communicating when you are doing double radios.
- Chad: What is your bare minimum?
- Gary: I still would like 3 more out of that 6.
- Gary: Read and explained Race Track requests.

RACE TRACK VFD:

Quote - HELD

(6) Handheld Radios @ \$4,000.00 each

Total - \$24,000.00

Quote MES -APPROVED

(6) M1x Fire Fit - Gauntlet Black/Red @ \$79.00 each

(6) 20% Normex 80% Lenzing with Stedair Prevent particulate barrier Color:
Black/Heather @ \$72.00 each

Total - \$906.00

Quote MES -

(2) HFRP Tail Coat @ \$1,575.00 each - **HELD**

(2) HFRP Tail Pant @ \$1,225.00 each - **HELD**

(2) Black Diamond X2 Leather & Fusion bunker Boot Custom fit System Model
0912 @ \$339.99 each - **HELD**

(1) MX4, LEL (Pentane), CO, H2S, O2 Battery:Lithium-ion Extended Range
Battery Charger: Auto Charger, Pump Option:Pump Color: High Visibility Orange
Approvals:UL/CSA Carrying Case: None 4 gas meter with Pump @ \$1,150.00 -

DENIED

Industrial Scientific Ventis MX4 DSX Standalone Cloud Based Docking Station
for calibration @ \$1,225.00 each - **DENIED**

Shipping @ \$100.00

Total - Shipping not included in request, but on quote - \$8,754.98

TOTAL for Race Track VFD \$33,660.98

- Jerry B: Didn't we decide last year not to give out gas meters because they were too expensive to recalibrate all the time and the cities got them on each truck?
- Chad: Yes, I think you guys have asked for them in the past, right and Ted have you asked for them as well.
- Ted: Yes.
- Chad: I know we always go back to 1 the calibration, the Cal gas doing it, if there are any sensors that need to be fixed, I mean all that kind of stuff, we always go back to it. I think with the gas meters, I think I still have the same opinion.
- George: I don't know whether things have changed, but I know that we have an old gas meter, and you must change the cartridge on it all the time.
- Chad: The thing that makes me nervous is if 9 out of 10 people know how to use it, that's great and then if someone doesn't use or doesn't get Cal or it hasn't been bump tested in a while and all that kind of stuff, it is just, could really mess, I don't know. I would rather get you guys some gloves or something other than that, that is just my opinion.
- Gary: The only reason we are requesting it, so you know, since we are trying to be transparent here, is because we are currently working on every member getting operations for HAZMAT.
- Chad: OP's level?
- Gary: Yes.
- Chad: Do you guys have anyone? Officer Tech?
- Gary: There are a few of us but we are working on getting the whole department. That way everybody's on the same page and on the same level, and hopefully we will get Jeppson to certify the entire department at the same time.

- Chad: Through Pro Board?
- Jason: That is the intent, which includes operations.
- Gary: That was my only reason for requesting it was just for that reason and we would have it then but, I get where you are coming from and I get that we are trying to save money, we have always tried to play ball as much as possible so.
- Chad: Which is much appreciated, and I know that the \$200,000.00 again going back to it, it is there why not? I don't know.
- George: I guess I got a question on that too, because we have been told I think that we don't, or we are not going to get called on any HAZMAT stuff anyway. So, how does that affect it? I don't know, that has been my understanding.
- Chad: So, through the ordinance, it says to stand by the station. That is something that I think we might be able to address later after this.
- Gary: That was also our hope that if everybody was in operations in the entire department when we got certifications of all of that, we would back on those calls, because we would be at the same level.
- Chad: Yes, especially if you get to the tech level for sure, right. I don't know if that was a discussion point with part of some of the ordinance changes.
- George: That was part of the response program anyway. The rural response or changing the CAT system, and that was taken off prior to that.
- Zach: Yes, last year probably over a year ago. It clearly states in the ordinance multiple things, but medical calls are only paid department, which that is a given, and HAZMAT call that if it is in your district, you stand by your station. That is right in the ordinance language. I wasn't making anything up or trying to be a bad guy. I was trying to follow the ordinance that was written. Like Chad said, if an entire department gets fully trained, that will have to be looked at again.
- Gary: Not only that, but if we were hoping, if we are going to get everybody trained up, it would give us more mutual aid for assisting on those types of calls.
- Chad: So, not even on gas calls. There is a need for just HAZMAT response in general, coaches anything, any kind of gas, water, manpower, diversion, evacuation, all that kind of stuff. If people know what they are doing, right.
- Gary: Yes, I get where you never know what you are going to get in the volunteer fire department or if somebody is trained for that, but if we get everybody on the same page, the whole department.
- Chad: I honestly think we could, whether you guys just do it or not. I mean, I am all about having plays, Super Basic and we could develop them within for sure.
- Jason: No intent to go towards technicians.
- Jerry B: Gary you have 19 member now? Are they all firemen or do you have cadets also?
- Gary: We have a couple of cadets, but they are not included in my count.
- Chad: So, you are over 20 then? It says 19 here on the report and then the cadets are not included in this count.
- Gary: Yes, and we have a couple new members that also aren't included in that count yet, just because we don't count them until they stick around for a while.
- Jerry B: How many seat do you have?
- Gary: 11
- Joe Pat: So, six additional radios would put us at one radio per seat.
- Jerry B: What do you guys think about the turnouts? Are we going to wait to find out if we can get some or are we going to be talking about it now or what?
- Chris: Well, and are we including gloves, hoods, and helmets or is that separate? I am not suggesting one, I just want clarification so that we are doing the same thing.
- George: I think, to me, gloves and hoods are a separate issue.
- Chad: Approve the gloves and hoods and hold off on the turnouts and hopefully we can get them and then if not, if we don't have them in stock, then get them on order.

- Jerry B: If we got 1 radio there that would give them six altogether, correct? You have 2 and you are getting 3 more tonight. So, if we give you one that would be 6 altogether.
- George: Yes, they are pressed an additional 6 though, over the 2, the total of eight is what they are looking for right, isn't that what you scaled back to.
- Chris: I'd still like to try to figure out a methodology on how we assign radios is just my personal tidbit, like we are handing one out here, one out there, which I would be the first person in line to say that Race Track should have a whole bunch of radios. But I just feel like what is the big picture. What is the reasoning? I would like to go after the reasoning, I would like to personally, I think we should pause the radio allocation and we just gave one to Big Butte we can give one to Race Track, I don't care, but we can't give everyone in the county a radio.
- Zach: What I said last year, it is hard going off radios per seat, the paid doesn't have it. How can you give Little Basin Creek a radio per seat, they have 5 vehicles. How do you do that fairly. When we first started the radio debate year ago, when I was not in this position, it was the 800 MHz was intended for the people who were going interior and that is what we have got away from that, which I don't know, I get that it is your guys vote and I take your vote into consideration when I make the final decision. But a lot of these departments, I am not talking about you guys right now, but a lot of these departments, 1 radio per seat I don't see, a lot of times they don't even have enough manpower to fill all the seats. We got that from Little Basin Creek, they don't have the manpower to fill 1 vehicle, let alone 5.
- Jerry B: See that is why I was asking, that is the national rule that you can only have 1 radio per seat. If you were putting in for any grants or anything. I just wanted to make sure how many they had.
- Chris: We should take some time and figure out it all before we start allocating 1 here, 2 there, 3 there.
- Jerry B: When I called all the departments, if we got 15 more radios, we would be in good shape all the way around.
- Dan C: That was from last year?
- Jerry B: No, in addition to those 8.
- Chad: But then when we said that and within 5 minutes, we got down to 13.
- Jerry B: I think it is something you just got to sit down and put a pencil to it and say this is what we are going to do.
- George: The pencil is out.
- Chad: That is why the Chief allocated those radios accordingly, between call volume and participation. That is why you got 3, you got 3, there is no sense in hiding it. You guys had 54 calls and 55 calls, right. So, we were trying to be fair, that is why we did it. Then George, you mentioned, I think it was the last meeting that if you had four, you would be good. That is why we tried to make you flush, with the 2. I have said it in meetings before, I think that there are certain departments, Race Track being one of them, that need more radios than anyone else, and I know that isn't taking kindly to the Fire Advisory, but again I don't really care. Can we do 3 for a little bit and then evaluate what else we are spending money on. Get some hoods, gloves and figure out if we can do the turnouts. If we can't order them later. The Fire Advisory, I mean, he can order whenever he wants. The Chief right, he can order anything.
- Chris: So, we have counted seats, we have talked about how many seats we have, about who shows up for the training, we talked about call volume, who goes interior it is how are we assigning weights to this? Again, I have been interior with Race Track they should have radios, but I also think the next department we go over will request radios. Are we going to go with seats, interior or call volume, we should solve that problem first.
- Chad: Jerry would you be willing, and this is totally up to the Chief again, to take 2 radios and give Race Track one of those radios? Based off call volume, participation at calls and training to where they are flush. I mean I don't want to step on your toes.
- George: It still doesn't make them flush though.
- Chad: 2, 2, and 4 of the original 8. (2022)

- Jerry B: Basically, I am probably going to carry one of the radios. So that I know what is going on in fires. Right now, I don't know what is going on in fires when I am working at MCDC, I can't leave. But when I am working on the appliances and that, if it is something major and they need help I can leave, with the phone I am not getting that at the present time. So, I will probably carry one of the radio myself.
- Chad: So, you always take one of the radio with you?
- Jerry B: I will when I get these other radios I haven't because we don't have enough to do that. If we get the three radios, then I will take 1 and I will have it with me all the time.
- Chad: Is there any way that you just have the 2 radios and then you not carry 1?
- Jerry B: But then how do I know what is going on?
- Zach: Do a lot of the Chiefs carry radios?
- Gary: I do, I carry it with me all the time.
- George: I do too.
- Chad: So, that is not in the truck, for the guys who need a radio?
- Gary: So, we have 1 in the truck, Jason bought his own radio.
- Zach: So, is the reason why you guys are carrying radios because you can't hear it on the page because of the pager?
- Jerry B: We don't know what is going on in the fire.
- Gary: Yes, I carry mine.
- Zach: If you are not at the fire, why do you care what is going on at the fire?
- Jerry B: I might be needed.
- Jason: When you are responding to a call, and you say you got a working fire on Harvard St., and it is page on VHF, and you can only listen to a VHF, and you can't hear if they are stretching a line, or you don't know what...
- Chad: Because you don't have that live feed, right? But the phone with the phone with the live feed that allows you to have that.
- George: That will solve some of those problems.
- Jason: So, to achieve listening to that they can appropriately maybe send a text message but know what the plan is.
- Chad: We have had the discussion before about having the live feed and we (paid department) don't even have the live feed when we get called back. There is a plan in place with the people who are there that are dealing with it that are essentially the most important guy's firefighter on the scene, volunteer, or career. Those guys are the most important, not the guys that are deciding if they want to go on a call or not, right. I am confused.
- Joe Pat: Gary carries his radio, he makes 95% of our calls when he is not in town, he relinquishes the radio to me or at the station.
- Chad: For sure. I am just saying if we have a radio problem and a shortage and we are worried about safety, right. Why shouldn't the radio be on the truck or the guy who might maybe be going in and then when someone arrives on scene if you get paged go. You know that radio is being used by someone who is on scene. I didn't know that was a thing. I know you go; you always respond.
- Gary: We all respond to the station, that is where our gear is, if we are getting on the truck, if there is information between time of page, Engine 2 arriving on scene, I can relay that information. We need to do this... or to cancel.
- Chad: I get it, which is no different than the old version of the VHF. The link is going to happen sooner or later.
- Riley: Just out of curiosity, I mean to Jerry, would you guys if we had a phone system in town right now and you guys had a live listen, so you are getting the information, you just couldn't talk to Chad as the IC on scene. Would you guys still feel the need to have a radio, or would you feel that that's enough information coming in and you could leave the radio at the station?
- Gary: I still would feel more comfortable with the radio.

- Jerry B: How do I tell the guys what I want them to do?
- Riley: But if you are not there?
- Zach: Is there nobody able to...
- Jerry B: I don't know if I have the radio and it is really something serious that we got to really do something right away, then I can tell who to get in which truck and what to do when they get there.
- Zach: So, without you there and they don't even know what truck to get into?
- Jerry B: They know what truck they need to get into, but I am probably going to be the one making the decision 9 out of 10 times.
- Chris: The CAD system should page out the truck.
- Gary: We have always carried the radio.
- Riley: I am just curious, in your experience, if you still felt you would want a radio or if that would be a link for you?
- Gary: I still would want a command radio, just if the IC needs something before, we get to the truck, just like Jarod was calling, he thought we were paged sooner than what we were so Gonzo was calling and we weren't, we were just paged. Jason wasn't even at the station yet. I had not even turned my radio on yet. When I got to the station Jason had already talked to Gonzo.
- Riley: But you always relinquish the radio if you can't make calls that day.
- Gary: Yes, if I am going out of town.
- Jerry B: That goes without saying, it is got to stay at the station when you are not around.
- George: I basically do the same thing; I have a radio with me.
- Chad: Can you carry an old VHF.
- George: Yes, but it doesn't do me any good, we can't hear what is going on.
- Chad: I know about radio just as well as anyone in this room, but if you want to know what is going on the VHF on fire 4, I am worried about your guys if I assign them to go help my guys inside. I don't want an 800 MHz radio sitting on a truck or sitting in your truck, when it could be used on scene. If we are talking about needing all these radios for safety, take a VHF home.
- Jerry B: What do you hear on VHF?
- Chad: If you are so worried about talking to me before you even get on scene, after you have heard the live feed on your phone.
- Jerry B: Which we done have.
- Chad: Hurry up and get it!!!! Crap, how long has it been?
- Riley: 2 of the vendors have a live feed on the call and the minute you guys get a call, you will just be able to play continuous and you will have live radio traffic coming from your phone.
- Gary: If it was live feed, I would not mind carrying an old radio.
- Jerry B: That is what makes all the difference. I am just talking about how things are right now.
- Chad: I get that, why are we going to buy another radio or four other radios when we could get a cell phone program in a month? If we would figure it out!!!! I am sorry I am getting fired up, but Jason just talked about it. How long have we been talking about the cell phone program? Let's figure it out!!! If this is Emergency Operations, shouldn't we put a little more time into it??? If you want to talk about radios, because you can't hear anyone and you don't know what is going on, I have no idea what's going on when I get out of bed at 4:00 am in the morning. Just like you guys, I go to the station, I get my gear and then I check in with the IC. I don't make a big fit about it. The Chief doesn't even carry a radio. You know how I get ahold of him; I call him. He checks in with me when I am the IC on scene and then gives a rundown. If you are worried about your guys not even knowing how to hit a plug and you got to assign a certain guy, how to hit a plug, let us do that in training.
- Jerry B: What is the problem?
- Chad: What is the problem? That we don't know how to do basic skills to where you guys must figure out what is going on to assign certain member in a certain riding position.
- George: Don't have to do that at all, at least I don't.

- Chad: Oh, you are saying it is not a problem for you?
- George: No, it is not a problem for me, but I do like to know what is going on, so I can make sure someone is responding and that sort of thing.
- Chad: Sure
- George: The program will solve a lot of problems.
- Chad: Let's just hurry up on the phone situation and get it over with, that is going to resolve a lot of these problems that we are having issues with right now. If that was done, we wouldn't even be having this conversation. Let's figure that out before we start buying a bunch of other stuff.
- George: We basically held off until the CAD system was in.
- Chad: You are right, I just get stressed out, but I don't really care. I just care about getting stuff done that right way, not hurting anyone's feelings, and getting stuff handled.
- Jason: Component common denominators of our failed fires we have created causing the worst situation we can. This again without having a true path forward, in my opinion.
- Chad: The true path forward, is going to be explained by John Sorich, who was contacted by Jeff Miller, the reason we didn't have millions of dollars to figure it all out, and that will be brought up by John, I imagine, when John comes back. No one wanted to be in the situation that we are in. Lee, Dan, and I have talked about this before at meetings. It is the situation that we are dealt with, and it is the growing pains that we are going through. It stinks, right, but if we are talking about communications on scene, get the radios on scene. We can move on that was a tangent but.
- Chris: I have brought it up before and I still think that we should consider putting radios on scenes, on a truck. Almost every fire I have ever been on, whatever volunteer show up, guys will split off and get assigned to tasks and it becomes an accountability thing. Where this is your team for the side of the house, this is your team for the interior, this is your team for hose, and you just hand out radios that way because we don't have enough money to give everyone a radio.
- Riley: I love that idea.
- Chad: Then it is not everyone's radio, it is everyone who is on scene, gets a radio, not everyone has a radio.
- Chris: We do that.
- Chad: You could put them in Engine 4, Engine 1, and Engine 2 and you get 4 and then you come in and check with the IC, so there is accountability, just as he said, clear take down so I know where you are at, and then you take a radio and they are all switched to tack 1, so you don't even have to switch it. Not everyone would need a radio at that point. Everyone would be as safe as what we are trying to get to right now.
- Chris: I was on a fire, just as an example, couple months ago trailer on Fire, we had guys going inside Boulevard showed up, Boulevard's guys split in half, half went with some career guys inside, half went with, I was assigned to be outside and they went with me and we were pulling siding on the outside, handout radios, handout assignments. There you go and then it creates better accountability. So, if there was an incident, if there was a collapse, we maybe would have an idea of how many radios are inside, how many people.
- Chad: Right now, we have no real accountability.
- Chris: If we are really talking about safety, if safety is the goal.
- Chad: That is why having the Motorolas that have the potential to track rather than buying \$4,000.00 ones that don't track that some people might not think it is as important. When you are on scene and you are inside accountability and communication, right, let's figure it out. If someone doesn't get more radios, I don't care, if people have them on scene and they get them, I care about that.
- Chris: So, CAD should tell each department which truck to send, right. They are telling us which truck to send. So, that should eliminate some of those questions. We have talked about it at the Career Station, it is nice to know between the time you get called at your house at 4:00 am and the time you get

- to the station, it is a nice to know what's going on, but we don't know what's going on either. We just trust the people on scene that know what's going on and they need help.
- Riley: No to talk out of place again, but we could have, I know Jerry's has mentioned a handful of times, that most department had a good cache of VHF radios. So, honestly, if we got the phone system live and you guys could live listen 800 MHz from anywhere in the world. Every firefighter could take a VHF radio home and then if you do need to help manage your department from a distance, you could do it with your department via VHF and leave 800 MHz on a truck for interior fire ground operations where they really, truly make a difference.
 - Lee: It is something I've said multiple times, we just need to do the training. We must work with what we have, we are not going to fix this tomorrow, there is no way. Back to talking to somebody on IC, if we get the good training in, we can still utilize VHF. So, if you do have an old VHF radio, whoever it may be responding to the station could say whoever the IC is hey just getting to the station what do you guys need or whatever the case may be, you can check in that way. That's for us to be monitoring that fire 4 or whatever channel is going to be designated. I think that's a fault of everybody's that we just got to get better on these training with what we currently must make a better, more efficient department with this communications. I just can't stress that enough and I've said repeatedly that the VHF's not paperweights. If 800 goes down, we must go back to it. It is what it is, VHF paging isn't going anywhere now, as much as I wish it would, we just can't.
 - Chris: There are areas in our response area that 800 won't touch. I know Rockers got a few areas that 800 just doesn't work. Why? I don't know.
 - Lee: Inside the building we have had that discussion too, 800 is great, but even in some buildings 800 isn't perfect. So, saying that we need 800, we need 800 yes and no I mean. We have got to come to the realization, what it can do and can't do and what our capabilities really are is using what we have and being proficient and what we have it's just as simple as that.
 - Riley: I've put a handful of work into it so, I'm passionate about it, but does anybody have a different opinion that if we had a live listen live for every firefighter in Butte Silver Bow tomorrow, that pretty much every firefighter could take a VHF radio home with them, and you guys would still be able to communicate freely amongst each other. But that would free up the expensive radios in the department, the City just doesn't have the budget for right now, and they would live where they're going to make the most difference. Not that they can't make a difference in somebody's pocket, but they would make the most difference for a firefighter that is fighting a fire.
 - Zach: I have been fully 100% on board with that system that Riley and Lee have found. It is the cheapest which doesn't make it the best, but it is affordable, and it works for every single firefighter. You guys are asking, multiple departments are asking for pagers, Home Atherton 9 dual band pagers, well you have 18 people. Who do you decide to give half to? I am not saying that we have said no on the cell phone thing. What bugs me though, and I am going to back up to what Jerry said earlier about the DNRC Title 4 grant, we are going to take that \$8,000.00 and you are going to want to buy pagers. But we are on the cusp, of figuring a phone thing out, but you are going to take the \$8,000.00 and buy pagers, which we could use something on and let the county, which I am willing to do, pay 5,6 \$7,000.00 to let every, all eighteen of your members, have a pager. I don't understand why we are backing up. You could buy something else with that \$8,000.00 but you are going to buy pagers? We are just about done; we are just about ready to buy this paging system. Why do we keep backing up? You could take the \$8,000.00 and buy Teddy Bury what he wants from his wildland wishes. You could buy, I get that you could only buy 8 shirts, well, that is 8 shirts you didn't have. Why do we need to buy \$8,000.00 worth of pagers when we haven't even done the cell phone app thing yet? I don't understand it, we have these meetings, and we just keep pounding away at the same crap. Just kind of like the Fire Council or whatever your thing is, and here we are 8:00 pm and we have gone through 2 of the 9.
 - Chad: it might even be worth just holding off taking a break, I mean, none of the stuff needs to be decided on right now.

- Dan C: Hold off till the next meeting and move forward then or?
- Chad: Even if it takes 3-4 months, I mean, if we get the right stuff and spend time on it, it is better than...
- Zach: Before we hold off and end this meeting for sure, I have heard a little bit of Mjelde plan, does everybody have a grasp of what he was saying, put a cache in an Engine. Does everybody get that a little bit or does he have to speak about that a little bit more? Because that is a definite option that would cut the cost substantially, and it would still give your department all the radios that you could ever want, once you were on scene.
- Chris: In a nutshell, my thought was there is three Engines that go some combination of every fire or close to it, maybe we could get into the weeds with wildland or whatever, but my thought was we don't, again, we don't have \$300,000.00 or whatever the magic number is to give everybody a radio. So, if we put, I don't know what the number is, maybe this is the group that decides, put five or so radios in Engine 1, Engine 2, Engine 4, whatever the number is 7 or 3, I don't know. Then when there is a fire, you would show up, you already have a few radios, so you are already showing up with radios, but then you would show up and you would get an assignment from the IC, and he would give you radios with that assignment because maybe exterior guys, I don't know, maybe exterior guys don't need a radio per guy, maybe or maybe not depending what their assignment is. Interior guys probably all going to want a radio because if something collapses or they got to call mayday or they separated, how do you choose? Then at the end of the fire, just like we exchange hose, we help each other roll up hose, put the five inch back on, we put the radios back on, we grab an axe and go whose axe is this? Again, ideally, I would love to have everybody, and their dog has a radio, but we just can't afford to do that.
- Chad: Then to piggyback off that, when you come in, we would or should invest in some sort of tag system when you take your individual radio. You could just stick the tag right where you had taken your radio out and it would help with our nonexistent accountability system right now.
- Chris: Do you remember the Charleston guy giving this talk? Do you remember him talking about the guy they didn't know was in there? That the first body they found they had no idea he was in there. That would play into it, you could count radios or whatever.
- George: They have accountability problems too.
- Chris: I don't get a radio to take home, I don't have my own personal radio, my radio is assigned to a seat, my seat dictates my job for the day. Then if I am given a job and I complete a task and I check back to the IC and he gives me another task and if it requires that I need a radio I go get the radio, I do not have one yet. I don't know, I don't have a better one, but we got to start somewhere. That is just a proposal on the table.
- Gary: I like your cache idea. We have accountability tags; you could take those accountability tags and leave where you took the radio and then they can say the name of the person who has the radio.
- Chad: Exactly, yes.
- Chris: We are not going to argue over which departments go interior, which ones don't. It is just you are here, here is your assignment, here is your radio, grab a radio, grab whatever tool you need, a nozzle, axe, or saw whatever, go do your assignment.
- George: The CAD system does not know who has what radio, because it is not assigned, just the seat in Career.
- Lee: No, not in CAD yet.
- George: My understanding is that is the way it was going to be set up.
- Lee: If somebody calls them a mayday, that is the radio that they will see instead of just a bunch of numbers.
- Chad: As long as one person has an idea or can backtrack, even if it is numbers and it say 12, 12 call to mayday and I can look on the cache and Engine 4, I could see that Williams is number 12 because he put his sticker there, I know it is Williams.
- George: So, you would have to have a sticker type of system of for sure a tag.
- Chad: For Sure, and we would want that.

- Riley: I have thought about that idea for the longest time. So, I am glad you brought it up Mjelde, I mean that is transferrable too. If I am working that day and the tucks out of service, we have the shop wire every truck to take that bank charger and if the uptown station must move from Engine 4 to Engine 5 as a reserve truck, it is my job to take that bank of radios put in Engine 5 and just plug the plug into the back of the bank charger. And there is now radio on that truck to serve the city county for the day on any fire scene.
- Chris: I know there are going to be hiccups, but I don't see a better option.
- Riley: it provides us with a ton more options, just a while back at the M&M fire. Twoie has been there for 12 hours, his batteries are dead. There is now a bank charger on scene with a fresh battery in it.
- Chad: Because right now we do, we don't,
- Riley: It would solve multiple things, and it is the most cost-effective way to get it done.
- Chad: Without anyone being unsafe.
- Riley: I think, one problem we have is we mismatched brands of radios, so, now we have Kenwood and we got Motorola in the city, count, but we could leave the Kenwood's that have just been purchased as the truck radios, as Jason said that they are already out amongst the city and maybe we exchange those Kenwood's for the Motorolas that are already dispersed, and the Motorolas that we already own can go on a truck tomorrow and the Kenwood's can get distributed to every truck throughout the city, does that make sense? Like Jason said, every truck still has, every station, every volunteer department would still have an 800 MHz radio within their department or operations assigned to a truck. But everything on scene is going to be Motorola, Motorola batteries are going to function the same program is going to function the same if something freezes up, we can flip flop.
- Zach: Motorola has GPS for on-scene interior work.
- Lee: We also have access to Motorola's software, things like that. If we are going to do any updates or changing things in the future, I don't know how the man down stuff works with Kenwood radios, with Motorola works with dispatch consoles. Something else to consider too. I know it will work; I just don't know how.
- George: My understanding is we weren't even doing that, initially at least anyway.
- Lee: We have the man down capabilities, it is something we got to train on, dispatches has always yelled at us every time we have tried to train on it because it locks all their consoles up and it also like locks all the police cars and police radios because they are scanning BFD primary, which is where we do most of our calls on. So, we are trying to figure something out that we can get pass that and try and train on a different channel just so we know that it works and how it works and how dispatch can acknowledge and play the game with us.
- Zach: I wish the GPS was turned on now we could find Rocker's radio.
- Riley: It better be dead by now.
- Lee: We bought and paid a lot of money for this system, and we are still not using all its capabilities either. We pay for over the air programming, we can program our radios over the air. We don't have to bring them to Station 1, the problem is we must ring them up and turn everything on via cable right now, but and we must get with Motorola and figure all this out and build this radio management in our program, but we pay for it.
- George: Change the groups or change the groups around a little bit to make them a little more friendly over the air, you can do that right?
- Lee: Yes, or any software updates, if things need them, I mean it is all technology. This stuff comes with things that we need to stay up to date on. Kind of our responsibility is just to make sure that sure it continues and with Motorola we can do that, with Kenwood's we are relying on Dunne, which is probably fine, but as far as it plays well with Motorola, I don't know. Motorola is so proprietary on their own system it's weird.
- Chad: I make a motion we digest on everything that was said tonight and just carry on at the next meeting.

- Chris: I second that.
- George: Race Track is here, rather than, I don't know whether they want to come back to the next meeting but...
- Chris: Or your two department have anything urgent?
- Jerry: The only thing I really need is the battery, because right now I must plug my fan in.
- Lee: Is that what the battery is for?
- Jerry: The blow hard fan. I can still use it if I plug it into the generator.
- Chad: Why don't we just buy it, if you are okay with it.
- George: If you need it.
- Jerry: That is fine.
- Zach: Terra Verde's boots.
- George: That can wait, it is not wildland season yet anyway.
- Zach: Do you want to go through Race Track while they are here?
- Chad: I think we should.
- Zach: We already talked about gas monitors, radios.
- George: I will make a motion to at least do the gauntlets and the hoods, \$906.00. We can get that for them pretty much right away, right?
- Chris: Wait on the radios?
- Chad: I think we should. So, George, you said gloves and hoods?
- George: Yes, gloves and hoods.
- Chad and Chris: Second the motion and George made the motion.
- Dan C: Motion and a second, everyone in favor say aye, any nye's? Motion passes.

RACE TRACK:

All were in favor of gloves and hoods, Race Track request from MES of \$906.00 and Radios on HOLD, Turnouts and boots on HOLD, Gas Monitors DENIED.

- George: I don't know whether we want to discuss any of the other stuff, but I think that it seems the radios are on hold for the time being and I don't know about the turnouts if they are on hold as well. And they will be on hold for a while because you can't get anything for quite a while.
- Dan C: Maybe our little system will work, and they could get their turnouts here.
- Zach: We can have Jerry and George bring back some info from the Fire Council on ideas on making a cache at Station 1 that everybody would participate in.
- Zach: Gary will you send me and George the sizes, we can look through our stuff and George can look through his as well as taking it to Council.
- George: Get the sizes on the boots too and try to get it to me by this Thursday for the Council meeting.
- Riley: Butte mentality right there, that is neighbors helping neighbors. That is the departments taking care of each other.
- Zach: That is what we are trying to get to.

10. Dan Callahan made a motion to adjourn, Chad Silk seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:26 P.M. Next meeting is May 2, 2023, Business Center Room 201 (across from Station 1) at 5:30 pm

THE FIRE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ADVISES THE BSB DIRECTOR OF FIRE SERVICES