

# Yellowstone County Fire Council

P.O. Box 53, Billings, Montana, 59103, 406-256-2775



## Fire Council Minutes - Nov. 12, 2024

1. Hosted by AMR. Introductions made.
2. Montana Elks Association - Doug Lentsch spoke about rural fire department grants that are available from their organization. Applications for this year's grants are open until Dec. 31, 2024. Grants are usually given up to about \$2,500. Money for the grants is raised through calendar sales and raffle ticket sales. Fire chiefs may contact Doug at (907) 690-3553.
3. Minutes - Approved from last meeting
4. Treasurer's Report - We have \$372.42 in our checking account. Notices for the 2025 membership dues will be sent out the last week of Dec. Dues are still \$25.00 annually.
5. DES/Fire Warden Report - The CCWP (community wildfire plan) will have an introductory meeting at the Lockwood fire station Nov. 20 from 9 am to 2 pm. All fire chiefs are welcome to attend. Hope to identify concerns of fire departments and identify areas of concern. The new plan should be ready by next June 30. Information contained in the plan can be very useful for rural fire departments in applying for grants. The new Custer repeater in the Hysham Hills is ready but for its new antenna. Derek is still working on the results of our two fire chiefs meetings. There is an effort currently under way in the eastern part of the county to form an ambulance district. Not much else is known about the efforts.

## OLD BUSINESS:

6. Nothing submitted
7. Surplus Fire Equipment - Phil Ehlers brought up that he would be will to coordinate the donating, trading, or selling of surplus fire equipment. Please send Phil the details of what you have. (Photos might be very helpful.)

## NEW BUSINESS:

8. Nominations for 2025 Fire Council Elections - You must be a member in good standing within your own fire department to be eligible to run for office. Terms are for 2 years. Nominations are open up to the start of voting on Jan. 14, 2025. You can nominate yourself. So far we have:

President - Phil Ehlers, Vice President - no one yet, and Sec/Treas - Larry Carpenter

9. ISO Meeting - There will be a meeting for fire chiefs on Dec. 5 from 6 pm to 9 pm at the Lockwood fire station. It is being hosted by Amanda Cochran who represents the ISO/Verisk company. There is a limit of about 30 people for this meeting. Please contact Brandon Stevens at Lockwood if you wish to attend. Amanda will talk about the ISO, cover the various ratings, and answer questions.

10. Meeting Hosts for 2025 - Jan - Shepherd, March - Laurel, May - Billings Airport, July - Blue Creek, Sept - Billings, Nov - AMR

11. Agency Reports: Billings - down about 15 personnel, but have 11 new recruits. Will start search for new 911 dispatch center director in Jan. Billings Airport - nothing new to report. Laurel - enjoying quieter times. Molt - have had several structure fires and thankful for mutual aid. Doing structure fire and SCBA training. Fuego - Simon Harris is the new fire chief. Looking for new members and training. Blue Creek - nothing. Haley Bench - winterized their fire trucks. Shepherd - bought a newer Suburban to replace an old one. Hosting Come See Santa on Dec 14. AMR - staffing is currently good! Sheriff - staffing is up. Mentioned calls concerning water hauled for an animal hoarding situation, a shooting in Blue Creek and suicide at Pompey's Pillar. DNRC - Dustin has extended training requests by 3 days and deadline is Nov 15. Only 5 out of about 40 fire depts. (in the SLO) made requests. Looking for comments on staffed station program: complaints, concerns, suggestions, compliments. Send those to Jeff Brown. BLM - one engine in Tenn. Next year combining the helicopters from Lewistown and Miles City to Billings which may create 15-20 new jobs here. County Fire Chief - Mike Waters, the new commissioner will be at the next FC meeting in Jan. Mark Morse will take over as the new County Fire Chief.

NEXT FIRE COUNCIL MEETING AND ELECTIONS WILL BE JAN. 14, 2025 AT SHEPHERD.

Larry Carpenter, Sec/Treas.

YCFC

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Billings . Billings ARFF . BLM . Blue Creek . Broadview . Custer . DNR  
Fire . Haley Bench . Laurel . Lockwood . Mult . Shepherd . Worden