FORSYTH COUNTY

FIRE COMMISSION

Walt Beroth - Chairman

Forsyth County Fire Commission Meeting Minutes

September 21, 2026

The Fire Commission met in regular session at 10:00 a.m. on Monday, September 21, 2026, in the meeting room at Forsyth County Fire Division Station 9, 3000 Aviation Drive, Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

Attendance

Present	Absent
Walt Beroth, Chair	Andrew Gray, Vice Chair
Eddie Bottoms, Member	Briant Tuttle, Member
Fred Franklin, Member	Don Martin, Member
Gary Styers, Member	
Carl Walker, Member	
Steven Roberson, Member	
Shane Moore, Member	

The Fire Services Director and Fire Systems Administrator were also present.

Chair Beroth called the meeting to order and welcomed those in attendance.

Commissioner Bottoms led the invocation and Chair Beroth led the pledge of allegiance.

Approval of the Minutes

Minutes from the August 10, 2026 meeting of the Fire Commission were presented. One correction was presented. David Williamson was added as in attendance. Commissioner Walker moved that the minutes be accepted as presented with the correction. Commissioner Franklin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

The public is invited to make comments regarding the business of the Fire Commission. Speakers are given three minutes to make their comments, and the public comment portion of the meeting is to last no longer than 30 minutes.

MIS Training Internal

New Clemmons Stations

Chief Styers updated on County Commissioners' approval of purchasing property at Hampton and Idols Road.

New Business

Chair Beroth announced the resignation of member David Williamson. His term will run out in December. Member Franklin confirmed that Mr. Williamson has a one year term (citizen appointment).

Subcommittee Reports:
Contracts: Chairman Beroth presented that the subcommittee recommends three contracts, one for departments in Forsyth County, one for districts in Forsyth County and other counties, and another between municipalities and Forsyth County.

The subcommittee recommends discarding the current contract and starting from scratch. They will get in touch with the County Attorney to review. The next meeting will be Wednesday 9/30 at 1800 at Station 9.

Personnel: Chairman Bottoms presented that the Personnel subcommittee had meetings on August 24 and September 9 and looked at wages, pay, benefits, gathering data and assessed goals. The subcommittee is still working on data collection to see where we are. The next meeting has not been scheduled**.**

Capital: Chairman Walker presented that the subcommittee met on August 27 and set the direction of the subcommittee and identified what they plan to work towards. The subcommittee plans to define capital, recommendations of standardization of equipment, and requests. This subcommittee will work closely with the Strategic Planning subcommittee to maintain goals. The next meeting October 1 at 1000 at station 9.

Member Styers asked if there is any update on capital that has been ordered. Chairman Walker said there is no update.

Chairman Beroth asked if air packs have been ordered. Chief Smith stated that the packs are there but bottles are not. He is unsure if they will be shipped separately. Chief Smith said that MES is the vendor.

Strategic Planning: Member Styers presented that the subcommittee's priority is determining staffing levels and minimums for each station and how to set benchmarks when departments hit certain levels. Mergers were discussed and obstacles related to those. Discussions about other areas where departments cover multiple jurisdictions and how that affects their ability to serve. Encouraged board discussions with departments that could potentially merge.

Chairman Beroth asked how are you basing staffing? Member Styers said they are using 1710 and 1720 but we need build our own. The subcommittee recommends determining staffing minimums and then an effective firefighting force. Set a minimum and then set benchmarks.

Chairman Beroth recommended having an idea in January as to the cost of payroll. He expressed concern that Commissioners do not grasp the amount of money it will take. Get them an idea as quickly as possible

Member Roberson recommended that they don't always gravitate to call volume, instead they need to focus on adequate staffing response. The approach needs to come from a different lense, not just call volume.

Member Styers stated that the departments need to be prepared to provide data that is needed for these subcommittees. It is recommended that they figure out how to mine the data needed with different staffing mechanisms.

Chairman Beroth reiterated that the system reinforces needs based on the type of incident getting the

needed staffing en route on the front end.

Member Styers said we need honest staffing numbers and responses so we can show that there is a need. Staffing is not ok. Ask that departments to be up front with numbers when data is requested.

Chief Smith Corrected the vendor name as Rhinehart not MES for air packs and stated that we will reach out.

Chief Smith discussed the 75th anniversary On Sunday, September 26 from 2-5pm. Commissioners, county commissioners, and fire chiefs received invitations. Ask if you haven't, please RSVP. County management, state and local officials, retirees will be in attendance. This will be an opportunity to look back on how we have grown. If your departments are coming, please let us know as well.

Chief Smith reported that reimbursements have gone well for the departments that have signed contracts. Departments that have signed a contract and submitted payroll are getting their reimbursements within a few days. Invoices have been created to correspond with the purchase order for payment. Once we receive everything, it can be turned around quickly.

Chairman Beroth asked if operational expenses due to be disbursed on October 15 can be turned around as quickly? Chief Smith stated he hoped so. The PO is there but the invoice will need to be created. It will also depend on if it is submitted before a weekend or holiday, as that could cause a delay. As soon as we get the info, we push it through to finance. If you still do not have your contract submitted, go ahead and submit your payment info so we can get that submitted once signed.

Chairman Beroth asked if each department gets 25% of their operating and capital balance. Chief Smith confirmed.

Chief Smith reported that some departments have gotten state money. The state is sending it to the County, and it will be disbursed to the departments. Chief is unsure of when that money will be coming and is still waiting for guidance.

Chairman Beroth asked if the money Chief Smith was referring to is grant money. Chief Smith stated that 6 departments received a lump sum and that is coming to the County.

Member Walker stated he was told it is to run through the County and then the additional 200K between 6 departments is unsure. Chief Smith stated that previously it went directly to the department. Member Walker said if I get a check, I will let you know.

Chief Smith: Through a 5 year process, we now have a new 109 and 309, 4 man cabs in service. We are currently updating equipment. Thankful to have trucks that do not have 200k miles running code. The trucks have a new paint scheme and design. The new CFR truck will be arriving in November. Once we get that our fleet will be in a better position than it has been in a long time.

Chairman Beroth asked if one could be pulled up for the Committee to see.

Member Franklin stated he will be unable to make the October 12 meeting.

Next Meeting

The next scheduled meeting of the Forsyth County Fire Commission will be October 12, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. in the meeting room at Forsyth County Fire Division Station 9, 3000 Aviation Drive, Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Commission, Chairman Beroth asked for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Franklin moved for adjournment. Commissioner Walker seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

F. Walter Beroth, Chair	Jenna Karber, RMS Administrator
Forsyth County Fire Commission	Secretary to the Forsyth County Fire Commission

MIS Training Internal