

SOUTH OLDHAM FIRE DEPARTMENT, INC.

MINUTES

February 23, 2026

The regular monthly meeting of the South Oldham Fire Department, Inc. Board was held on Monday, February 23, 2026 at the Firehouse.

The meeting was called to order by Board President, David Thompson, at 7:31 p.m. with the following Board Members present: Beard, Davis, German, Marshall, Esposito, Marvin Stoess, Robert Deibel, Thompson, Hoskins, Gardner, Johnson, Holder, Rawert, P. Stoess, Hughes, Matt, Wakefield and Turner. Also present were Chief Blakely and Laura Stoess (counsel).

The Minutes from the November 2025 meeting were read and approved. A meeting was not held in January due to inclement weather.

The Treasurer's Report for December was given by Treasurer, Matt Nelson. Major Nelson reported the following bank balances for December:

Capital Improvement account	\$ 399,790.89
Checking account	\$ 38,279.65
Money Market account	\$1,357,819.00
Auxiliary account	\$ 2,237.96
Chief's account	\$ 934.17
CD Deposit (Capital Improvement)	\$1,000,000.00
CD Deposit (Money Market)	\$1,000,000.00
Bill.com	\$ 0.00
 Total cash on hand	 \$3,799,061.67

Beard made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report and Turner seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Treasurer's Report for January was given by Treasurer, Matt Nelson. Major Nelson reported the following bank balances for January:

Capital Improvement account	\$ 400,904.56
Checking account	\$ 137,927.27
Money Market account	\$1,261,100.15
Auxiliary account	\$ 2,237.96
Chief's account	\$ 1,679.92
CD Deposit (Capital Improvement)	\$1,000,000.00
CD Deposit (Money Market)	\$1,000,000.00
Bill.com	\$ 0.00

Total cash on hand \$3,803,849.86

Hoskins made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report and Wakefield seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Treasurer's Report for February was given by Treasurer, Matt Nelson. Major Nelson reported the following bank balances for February:

Capital Improvement account	\$ 401,719.12
Checking account	\$ 36,960.31
Money Market account	\$1,238,662.43
Auxiliary account	\$ 2,237.96
Chief's account	\$ 1,288.99
CD Deposit (Capital Improvement)	\$1,000,000.00
CD Deposit (Money Market)	\$1,000,000.00
Bill.com	\$ 0.00

Total cash on hand \$3,694,458.37

Mashall made a motion to accept the February Treasurer's report and Davis seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

CHIEF'S REPORT:

Chief Blakely reported a total of 89 responses for November, 117 responses for December and a total of 1349 responses for 2025. Medical responses for 2025 totaled 908. He reported a total of 126 responses for January and 88 responses for February for a total of 214 responses to date. Medical responses for 2026 total 158.

Chief Blakely reported on various training, fire schools, and conferences during the months of December, January, and February. Representatives from the Department attended Fire Schools, Training and Conferences for December, January, and February as follows: Georgetown Leadership Symposium Fireground Operations – Captain German; County Fire Tactics Officer Development Program – Kevin Parker; IFSAC Fire Officer II – Major Nelson. Officers' School in Owensboro – Blakely – Norris – Miller – Brown. Staff Certifications include Apparatus Certification for Unit 5435, Firefighter Bryan Patterson and EMT National Registry Firefighter Zaine Thomas.

Units 5434 and 5438 have both undergone repairs to the DEF Systems. Electrical wiring has been repaired on Unit 5438 and the steering assist cylinder has been replaced on Unit 5435.

Chief reported that all scheduled work has been completed on facilities.

The Department participated in SOFD Toy Drive in conjunction with the Jake Luxemburger Foundation and the Barry Stoess Memorial Christmas Food Baskets. The Department attended Light up Crestwood and Light up LaGrange.

The following Department Incidents occurred since the last meeting: structure fire at 1814 Foxboro with LaGrange, structure fire at 6320 Highway 329; large barn fire at 3000 Smith Ln. with LaGrange; animal rescue from frozen pond at Lake Pointe Dr.; structure fire on Clover Ridge Drive with Ballardsville; structure fire in Confederate Place with Pewee Valley; structure fire at 6000 Old Floydsburg Rd.; structure fire at 8615 Shenandoah Dr. with Pewee Valley; structure fire at 9201 Hwy 329 Fox Hollow Farm; barn fire at 1205 S. Buckeye Ln with North Oldham; structure fire at 7409 Woodreed Place with AMFEMS; assisted Pewee Valley with vehicle extraction at Ash and Old Henry; and structure fire at Mt. Mercy with Pewee Valley.

Chief attended meetings with Rep. Mark Hart in Frankfort regarding Chapter 75 amendments. He also attended meetings with several Representatives and Senators in Frankfort related to HB 34 regarding Death Benefits. He also attended a BESA Meeting held at South Oldham. Chief explained that the Department did not receive the Safer Grant for which we applied. South Oldham EMT Classes will begin on March 3rd. The 2014 Ford Explorer has been transferred to Westport Fire Department. Kenneth Bayens has been hired part-time to assist Major Nelson with training.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Counsel reported that she has been in contact with Stan Clark regarding stormwater fees. She provided further documentation and he agreed that the Department should not be charged for stormwater fees in the future. She advised that said fees should be paid the City of Crestwood. If a bill is received in the future, do not pay it and contact counsel. A refund should be issued by the City for the past two (2) years.
2. On behalf of the EMS Committee, Patrick Stoess distributed a hand-out analyzing the data received from Oldham County EMS regarding response times. The data shows that the population of Oldham County has increased since 2018 as have the OC EMS response times (by almost two minutes). However, EMS staffing has not changed over that same time period. This is a concern. The next step will be to talk to Oldham County EMS.
3. Major Nelson reported that First Due recommended that North Oldham build out their system before exploring a potential merger of that system with South Oldham in the future. The First Due software allows Departments to share information with each other regarding staffing, training, and equipment.
4. Chief reported that the Department is receiving regular checks from Fire Recovery. This service appears to be beneficial.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Captain German gave an update regarding the aerial truck including a rendering of the truck that was shown to the Board. We are on track for an August delivery. Some changes were made to the order reducing the cost by approximately \$50,000.
2. Chief reported that we will need to make some expenditures soon for equipment for the aerial truck including thermal imaging cameras and radio equipment. The sale of Unit 5458 will help pay for some of these items. We are attempting to order cooperatively with other groups to get better deals. Financing for the aerial truck will be obtained by the District in an amount that we can afford but does not deplete the entire Capital Improvement account. Major Nelson will research financing options and meet with the Finance Committee to draft a plan before presenting to the District Board.
3. Chief advised that Humana donated a considerable amount of office furniture to the Department. Their donation was much appreciated.
4. Major Nelson announced that Dr. Annie Hayes has joined the Department as Medical Director. She is an emergency physician who lives in Pewee Valley.
5. President Thompson reminded the Board that the Awards Banquet will be held on March 7, 2026 at The Maples Park. All are welcome.

There was no other business to come before the Board. The meeting was adjourned at 8:31 p.m. The next meeting will be held on March 23, 2026 at 7:30 p.m.



ROBERT DEIBEL III, SECRETARY