

**FIRE COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING
MINUTES**

January 28, 2026, 5:00 p.m.

City Hall, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 400 ■ San Francisco ■ California ■ 94102

The meeting video can be reviewed by clicking the link below:
https://sanfrancisco.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=180&clip_id=51679

President Collins called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.

1. ROLL CALL

Commission President	Paula Collins	Present
Vice President	Allan Low	Excused
Commissioner	Stephen Nakajo	Present
Commissioner	Armie Morgan	Present
Commissioner	Marcy Fraser	Present
Chief of Department	Dean Crispen	Present
Patrick Rabbitt	Deputy Chief – Operations	
Sayumi Brannan	Deputy Chief – Administration	
Staff		
Mark Corso	Deputy Director of Finance	

RAMAYTUSH OHLONE LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

President Collins read the land acknowledgment.

2. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Members of the public may address the Commission for up to three minutes on any matter within the Commission’s jurisdiction that does not appear on the agenda. Speakers shall address their remarks to the Commission as a whole and not to individual Commissioners or Department personnel. Commissioners are not to enter into debate or discussion with a speaker. The lack of a response by the Commissioners or Department personnel does not necessarily constitute agreement with or support of statements made during public comment.

There was no public comment.

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES *[Discussion and possible action]*

Discussion and possible action to approve meeting minutes.

- Minutes from Regular Meeting on January 14, 2026.

Commissioner Morgan moved to approve the minutes from January 14, 2026, and Commissioner Fraser Seconded. President Collins and Commissioner Nakajo, voted in favor of the motion. The Motion passed.

There was no public comment.

4. FIRE DEPARTMENT OPERATING BUDGET - FISCAL YEARS 2026-2027 and 2027-2028 [Discussion]

Presentation from Mark Corso, Deputy Director of Finance and Planning on the Fire Department's operating budget for Commission review and discussion. Discussion of SFFD base budget and budget structure, as well as issues and priorities.

Deputy Director Mark Corso presented an overview of the budget process and the Department's base budget. The Mayor's office released budget instructions in December 2025. All City departments must submit a final budget on February 23, 2026. During this time, Director Corso has been working on a six-month report which includes any savings or potential expenditure issues. The Mayor submits a balanced budget to the Board of Supervisors (BOS) by June 1. Budget hearings at the BOS occur in the last three weeks of June, along with other City departments. The BOS will approve the budget by July. The City has a two-year deficit of nearly \$1 billion. Like last year, departments will be looking at ongoing savings. At the Federal level, the Big Beautiful Bill will incur a projected \$400 million loss to the City in the next three years. The Mayor's office is looking for reductions in that amount across City departments. Once budgets are submitted to the Mayor's office, they work with the Controller's office to readjust the deficit amount based on savings received or anticipated additional revenues or expenditures. The two-year rolling budget process approved two years at a time. This year's base budget of \$569 million, which was approved last year as the second year, includes salary, benefits, rates. Reductions come from either reducing expenditures or increasing revenues. Capital, both facilities and equipment, are reevaluated annually through the Capital Planning Committee. Approximately \$390 million of the base budget is from the City's general fund, with the remainder from revenues. The operating fund, operations, administration, training, and support services, are the biggest pieces of the budget. There are also work order funds from the Port of San Francisco and Community Paramedicine teams where the Department is reimbursed for services. Frontline operations such as Suppression, EMS Services, Community Paramedicine (CP), and Support Services are difficult to reduce because of their operational impact. The Department continues advocating for capital and equipment needs. Thanks to the Mayor's office and Fire Commission, the Department holds two Firefighter Academies and several H3 EMT Academies every fiscal year. These academies maintain necessary staffing levels as members retire, and alleviate the need for overtime. Approximate 91% of the budget goes to salary and benefits, with the remaining 9% for everything else ranging from fire stations to workers compensation. The Department is exploring other funding options like the next ESER Bond and outside funding. The City hiring freeze has also been challenging. The workload from open civilian positions falls to the current civilian staff which is already limited. The Department will be monitoring staffing levels for the next couple of years, including new hires and retirements. Chief Crispen continues to work with the BOS regarding budget. Deputy Director's reports are attached: <https://sf-fire.org/media/4027/download?inline> and <https://sf-fire.org/media/4028/download?inline>.

Commissioner Fraser thanked Director Corso for his report. She inquired if there are any significant issues with revenue. Director Corso responded that his presentation at the next meeting would cover revenue as part of the overall proposed budget. He is working on

legislative changes at the State level which could potentially increase EMS' revenue. Commissioner Fraser inquired if other health systems in San Francisco contribute to EMS. Director Corso responded that fiscal support comes in the form of ambulance transports covered by insurance or healthcare system. Chief Crispen commented that Proposition C does fund CP operations. Director Corso responded that Proposition C funds City mental health initiatives. 75% of CP is funded through this proposition through a work order with the Department of Public Health (DPH). Commissioner Fraser inquired if San Mateo County contributes financially to Department airport operations. Director Corso responded that San Mateo County fully funds Department airport operations and personnel costs. All employees at the airport are considered City employees. The airport does contribute fees and revenues to the City's general fund.

Commissioner Morgan thanked Director Corso for his report, and inquired if the lost revenue from the Big Beautiful Bill was related to FEMA funds. Director Corso responded that it impacted the City through Medicare, but not the Department directly. Commissioner Morgan inquired about AI's potential impact on the budget. Director Corso responded that the City has begun to explore AI as a potential tool to improve the efficiency of existing personnel, but not to replace employees. However, given the unknown effects and possible risks, the City is taking a conservative approach in implementing AI. Commissioner Morgan inquired about the \$30 million expenditure. Director Corso responded that this expenditure approximately \$17 million of that expenditure was for the workers' compensation work order with the Department of Human Resources (DHR).

Commissioner Nakajo thanked Director Corso for his report. He was pleased to learn about the budget plan, and the reduction of overtime. Commissioner Nakajo was concerned about the hiring freeze for the City's civilian positions and acknowledged that it was a hardship on the Department. He looks forward to learning more about possible reductions to the base budget given the projected \$400 million loss. Commissioner Nakajo was concerned about maintaining the Department's mission during these challenges.

President Collins inquired if the Department is considering more cost-efficient methods to build, renovate, and maintain facilities. Director Corso responded that this issue affects other City departments as well. The Mayor's office is conducting a charter review and administrative code review to address some of these issues. President Collins inquired if the Department is aggressively advocating for these changes. Chief Crispen responded that the Department has addressed urgent facility issues by hiring an in-house plumber, electrician, and stationary engineer to manage all facilities. Major repairs such as roofs and boilers are done through the Department of Public Works (DPW). Any reforms would require changes to the charter. Director Corso continues to work with the Mayor's office on this issue. Chief Crispen commented that there will be a charter reform bill in November.

There was no public comment.

5. RESOLUTION 2026-01 – EMS Equipment Donation [*Discussion and possible action*]

Presentation from Mark Corso, Deputy Director of Finance and Planning, on a resolution recommending that the Board of Supervisors authorize the San Francisco Fire Department (SFFD) to accept a donation of EMS Equipment valued at \$100,000 from the Arlette Green Trust for the Department's EMS Division.

Deputy Director Mark Corso reported that thanks to a \$100,000 donation from the Arlette Green Trust, the Department would be able to procure EMS equipment, specifically video laryngoscopes and accompanying accessories. Director Corso worked with retired member James Green to stock all Department ambulances with this equipment. Director Corso thanked Mr. Green for this donation. Deputy Director Corso's reports are attached: <https://sf-fire.org/media/4029/download?inline> and <https://sf-fire.org/media/4030/download?inline>.

Commissioner Nakajo thanked Mr. Green and the Arlette Green Trust for their donation.

Commissioner Fraser thanked the Arlette Green Trust for their donation. This equipment will help many people.

Commissioner Morgan thanked the Arlette Green Trust for their donation, and Mr. Green for attending the meeting.

Commissioner Fraser moved to recommend that the Board of Supervisors authorize the SFFD to accept a donation of EMS Equipment valued at \$100,000 from the Arlette Green Trust for the Department's EMS Division. Commissioner Morgan Seconded. President Collins and Commissioner Nakajo voted in favor of the motion. The Motion passed.

There was public comment from retired member James Green, trustee of the Arlette Green Trust Fund, regarding the donation. Mr. Green thanked the Department for its support.

6. AMENDMENTS TO AMENDED RULES OF ORDER, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO RULE 6 SPECIAL MEETINGS [*Discussion and possible action*]

Discussion and possible action to amend the Commission's Amended Rules of Order, including but not limited to Rule 6 regarding Commission special meetings. The Amended Rules of Order are available on the Fire Commission web site at <https://sf-fire.org/media/3926/download?inline>.

Commissioner Morgan inquired if this amendment was related to holding special meetings at the end of the month. Commission Secretary Aguas-Aclan responded yes.

Commissioner Morgan moved to amend the Commission's Amended Rules of Order, including but not limited to Rule 6 regarding Commission special meetings. Commissioner Fraser Seconded. President Collins and Commissioner Nakajo voted in favor of the motion. The Motion passed.

There was no public comment.

7. FIRE COMMISSION ANNUAL STATEMENT OF PURPOSE 2026 *[Discussion and possible action]*

Discussion and possible action to adopt the 2026 Annual Statement of Purpose. Encourage and support the administration in the creation, improvement and maintenance of physical facilities housing department functions which are up-to-date, and supportive of the health, safety and welfare of members of the department.

Commissioner Fraser moved to adopt the 2026 Annual Statement of Purpose.
Commissioner Morgan Seconded. President Collins and Commissioner Nakajo voted in favor of the motion. The Motion passed.

There was no public comment.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 5:54 p.m.