Rogue Valley Fire Chiefs Association

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES Date	October 20, 2026
Location	Mercy Flights
Time	9:00 a.m. – 10:40 a.m.

Prepared from the meeting agenda, section reports, and handwritten notes. Items requiring verification are identified below. This draft has not been approved by the association.

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at approximately 9:00 a.m.

2. Approval of Previous Minutes

The agenda includes approval of prior minutes. Handwritten notes appear to identify Crume and Anders in connection with the approval;

3. Financial Report

The reported current balance was $4,774.69. Handwritten notes identify Crume and Sanchez in connection with approval of the financial report.

4. Guests and Presentations

Amanda Atkins was noted in connection with an open burn DEQ presentation or discussion. Information was to be sent to members; the specific distribution and any follow-up should be confirmed.

5. Old Business

- IAAI fit call-out discussion: Sam Lashley/OSFM was listed on the agenda; training was noted.
- STRAT Plan update: Thompson was listed as presenter, with a booklet included in the meeting packet. Last meeting there was a draft picture book sent out to all members. Approval to move forward took place.

6. New Business

- Fire Defense Board Chief and alternate nominations were discussed for the upcoming 2027–2029 cycle. Notes reference Davidson and Holmes for the Jackson and Josephine County FDBC positions, respectively, and Sanchez, Rasor, Crume, and other potential alternate candidates. Final ballot names and election procedures should be checked against the official nomination notice.
- December holiday meeting planning was discussed, including possible arrangements for the luncheon.
- Vice President nominations were discussed, with Jimmy Sanchez appearing in the notes. The nomination and election schedule should be verified.

7. Section Reports — Operations (Fire/EMS)

Discussion included regional operations, emergency vehicle response, lithium-related incidents, and development of a shared operational binder or guidance. Details of proposed follow-up remain to be confirmed.

7. Section Reports — Rogue Interagency Training Association (RITA)

- The group was assessing demand for a Pumper Operator course.
- Firefighter I Academy was scheduled to begin January 9, 2027, with approximately 20–24 seats referenced in handwritten notes.
- Rogue Valley Fire Officer I Academy was scheduled for November 16–20 and December 7–11, 2026.
- Blue Helmet Public Information and Artificial Intelligence training was scheduled for November 19, 2026.

- An OFCA Chief Officer course was in development; future wildland training needs were under review.
- Discussion also addressed SOWS and training council coordination. Agencies were encouraged to send training requests to Division Chief Jeff Gavlik.

7. Section Reports — Fire Prevention Cooperative

- The cooperative selected a domain name for its new website. Sara Jones was to lead development using Wix, initially emphasizing team-teaching scheduling.
- Jon Scaroni and Kamron Ismaili were to coordinate improvements to the prevention education trailer, adding wildfire prevention/preparedness content alongside structure fire safety.
- Upcoming cooperative meetings were listed for October 22 (Williams Fire), November 19 (Grants Pass Fire and Rescue), and December 17 (Medford ODF), from 9:00–11:00 a.m.

7. Section Reports — Fire Defense Board

Discussion referenced the 2026 fire season, OSFM/ODF coordination, and upcoming Oregon Fire District Directors Association (OFDDA) moderation and reporting. Specific action items were not clear in the handwritten notes.

7. Section Reports — Technology Group

- The group continued work on a 2026 regional radio programming guide and RVFCA channel plan for Jackson and Josephine Counties.
- A Fire Net (Tac 1) transmission issue involving ECSO was reported; unit-to-unit traffic appeared to work, but Josephine County-to-ECSO communication remained a concern.
- Notes indicate successful radio changes in Jackson County and a need for continued follow-up with ECSO.
- Next Technology Group meeting: November 2, 2026, via Teams.

8. Advisory Reports

- 911 Centers: ECSO radio programming and dispatch staffing were discussed. Notes reference staffing changes, hiring/interviews, and radio technician interviews.
- Ambulance Service Areas: Discussion covered interoperability, in-home care, infectious disease, resource planning, and relationships among providers; details require confirmation.
- HazMat Team 08: Two new technician academy participants were noted, along with staffing and response considerations.
- Oregon State Fire Marshal: No substantive report is clearly recorded in the handwritten notes.
- Southwest Oregon Coordinating Group / ODF: Fire-season activity, resource coordination, mitigation projects, and incident command training were discussed.
- Pacific Power: Rapid fire-agency notification, a proposed one-hour notification window, and electrical emergency training were discussed.
- Emergency Management: Regional planning and partnership updates were provided.
- Oregon Fire Chiefs Association: Roundtable meetings in January and the spring conference were mentioned.
- National Weather Service: Seasonal outlook included a possible transition toward La Niña, with snowpack and rainfall considerations.
- Public Information: Upcoming public information training and artificial intelligence presentations were noted.
- Southern Oregon Public Safety Chaplains / SOCERT: No detailed action was identifiable.

9. Agency Brief-Outs

- Mercy Flights: Updates included staffing, leadership/operations changes, interagency relationships, and training opportunities.
- Applegate Fire: Updates referenced staffing, officer appointments, training, and wildland operations.
- Rural Metro Fire: Updates included operational activity and a reported tax-related matter.

- Grants Pass Fire and Rescue / Medford / Ashland and other agencies: Updates included staffing, organizational transitions, training, community events, and regional coordination.
- ECSO: Radio technician recruitment and other communications staffing were discussed.
- Several notes include dates and numbers that are not sufficiently clear to publish as verified facts.

10. Adjournment and Next Meeting

The meeting adjourned at 10:40 a.m. The next RVFCA meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, November 17, 2026, at ODF in Central Point.

Submitted by: John Holmes, Secretary/Treasurer, RVFCA