

**MINUTES OF THE
FEBURARY 19, 2026
MEETING OF THE FORSYTH COUNTY
FIRE COMMISSION**

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The Fire Commission met in regular session at 11:00 a.m. on Thursday, February 19, 2026, in the meeting room on the fifth floor of the Forsyth County Government Center, 201 N. Chestnut Street, Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

PRESENT:

Walt Beroth, Chair
Andrew Gray, Vice Chair
Eddie Bottoms, Member
Richard Linville, Member
Don Martin, Member
Shane Moore, Member
Steven Roberson, Member
Gary Styers, Member
Brian Tuttle, Member
Carl Walker, Member

ABSENT:

Fred Franklin, Member
David Williamson, Member

The Deputy County Manager, Fire Services Director, and Assistant Fire Chief of Operations were also present.

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

Chief Brock Smith led the invocation and pledge of allegiance.

1. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Minutes from the January 12, 2026 meeting of the Fire Commission were presented. There were no corrections or additions. Commissioner Moore moved that the minutes be accepted as presented. Chair Beroth seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

2. 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.

There were no speakers signed up to make public comments to the Fire Commission.

3. APPROVAL OF FIRE COMMISSION BYLAWS

Feedback from the commission meeting on January 12, 2026 requested that a change be made to Section II. Mission, Subsection D. The change reflected was "Development of a minimal level of service for Forsyth County's fire protection system." Subsection E. was also added to read "Development of a uniform pay policy for the nonprofits within Forsyth County's fire protection system." Vice Chair Gray moved that the bylaws be accepted with the corrections and additions as presented. Commissioner Walker seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

4. PRESENTATION

Chief Brock Smith provided a presentation outlining the recommendations found in the fire services study executive summary developed by North Carolina Fire Chiefs Consulting. A discussion among the Fire Commission members centered on the priorities for the upcoming fiscal year based on the study findings. Priorities that were identified were (in no set order):

- Contract for service development, or at least a one-year extension.
- Adoption of a funding model utilizing the Countywide Fire Service District.
- Utilization of bulk and capital purchasing fire systemwide.
- Utilization of closest station dispatching model.
- Establishing a minimum level of service/staffing.
- Addressing immediate capital needs that were identified/requested in previous budget years, and the current budget year.

Several action items were requested of staff to assist in future discussions around the priorities. Those were:

- Guidance from the County Attorney about the purpose statement of the overlay stated in the resolution creating the

service district overlay and how it might guide future Fire Commission actions.

- Research whether the County is permitted to do low or no interest loans to non-profit fire departments.
- What would be the equivalent tax rate utilizing the overlay vs. the current tax/service district model?
- What is the .01 tax revenue of the current service district overlay?
- What are the different financial and budget implications of utilizing the two (Option A and Option B) funding model recommendations from the executive summary.

The next scheduled meeting of the Forsyth County Fire Commission will be March 5, 2026, at 1:00 p.m. in the meeting room at Forsyth County Fire Division Station 9, 3000 Aviation Drive, Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

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There being no further business to come before the Commission, Commissioner Bottoms moved for adjournment. Commissioner Moore seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

Signed by:

Walt Beroth

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F. Walter Beroth, Chair
Forsyth County Fire Commission

Signed by:

Philip C. Vogler

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Philip C. Vogler, Assistant Fire Chief
Interim Secretary to the Forsyth County Fire Commission