

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE COCHISE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
WORK SESSION HELD ON
FRIDAY, APRIL 18, 2025**

A work session of the Cochise County Board of Supervisors was held on Friday, April 18, 2025, at 1:00 p.m. in the Board of Supervisors' Hearing Room, 1415 Melody Lane, Building G, Bisbee, Arizona.

Present: Frank Antenori, Chairman; Tom Crosby, Vice-Chairman

Absent: Kathleen L. Gomez, Supervisor

Staff Present: Sharon Gilman, Interim County Administrator
Lara Loewenheim, Clerk of the Board

Attendees: Dan Duchon, Emergency Management Director
Stacy Fenhaus, Budget Manager

Chairman Antenori called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Board of Supervisors

1. Budget Work Session - Discussion of County Budget for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 specifically: Emergency Services

Dan Duchon, Emergency Management Director, presented this item using a PowerPoint presentation. Mr. Duchon presented the FY26 proposed budget totaling \$465,394, which included grant matches, general fund contributions, and both recurring and one-time grants. He stated a shift is anticipated with 58% of funding from the general fund and 42% from grants due to ongoing reductions in federal support. He stated a key grant with a 50% Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) match is under review and may face a third consecutive 10% cut, potentially shifting more financial burden to the county.

In response to the Board, Mr. Duchon explained that multiple emergency exercises are conducted each year, ranging from small tabletop drills to more complex functional ones. He noted recent efforts include a radio communication exercise involving hospitals and dispatch centers. He stated that active shooter training was also held, with instructors, law enforcement, and role players using college facilities.

The Board and staff reviewed how the general fund and grant match impact the FY26 budget. Ms. Gilman discussed possibly restructuring the budget to separate grant and general fund contributions into distinct accounts.

The Board and staff discussed how the loss of a grant would require the general fund to fully cover those expenses, and the \$150,000 Community Wildfire Protection Planning (CWPP) grant, approved with a 90/10 match, is designated for a GIS contractor to assess wildfire risks in areas where development borders natural land. The Board clarified that the \$293,000 total includes both general fund and grant

contributions and of that amount \$226,000 is allocated to salaries. This leaves about \$67,000 for other costs and the grant portion is \$116,000, meaning if the grant disappears, the general fund would need to cover that amount to maintain the same budget.

Chairman Antenori adjourned the meeting at 1:23 p.m.

APPROVED:

Frank Antenori, Chairman

ATTEST:

Lara Loewenheim, Clerk of the Board