

MASSACHUSETTS FIRE DISTRICT FOURTEEN

MEETING MINUTES

**April 16, 2026, 9:00 AM
Stow Fire Department**

Present:

Chief Sorrows	A/Chief Murphy	Chief Young	Chief Robie	Deputy Moraghan
Chief Lawless	A/Chief Kelley	A/Chief Latta	A/Chief Ripley	Chief Whitney
Chief Choate	A/Chief Gordon	Chief Nelson	Chief Evers	A/Chief Schultz
Chief Daugherty	Chief Desautels	Deputy DeTore	Chief Colby	Deputy Weigold
Chief Puntini	Deputy Franks			

Absent:

Acton	Boxborough	Bellingham	Hopedale	Marlborough
Natick	Northborough	Sherborn	Westborough	Weston

Meeting called to order at 9:02 AM

- Acceptance of March minutes. Motion was made by Chief Lawless, seconded by Chief Daugherty and voted unanimously to accept the March minutes as presented.

MEMA Update

- Justin Shrair provided updates on the BRIC grant. A briefing was held yesterday. The deadline for submitting applications to FEMA is June 8, 2026. One EMPG briefing remains this afternoon at 3:00 PM; contact Justin for the Team's meeting link. The current FEMA authorized equipment list is no longer valid and should not be used to determine eligibility. Applications must be completed and emailed to em.grants@mass.gov no later than June 1, 2026. Post Incident After Action Reports class on September 29, 2026. ICS 400 class is scheduled for October in Plymouth at the Plymouth Emergency Operations Center. Personnel should submit requests for MEOC communication and support for summer and fall events to Justin or their specific local coordinator as early as possible to aid planning. Chief Young recognized Jeff Zukowski for his help with BRIC.

Treasurer

- Chief Lawless presented the April Treasurer's Report. Motion made by Chief Lawless, seconded by Chief Young, and voted unanimously to accept the April Treasurer's report as read.

Submitted Committee Report Questions or Comments

- Chief Colby states that the Tech Rescue Drill was on Tuesday, so the report was not ready to be submitted yet. The team is authorized for 40 members and expected to be around 35 by July. The plan is to reach out to former applicants who had partial credentials and were placed on hold during the last interview cycle. Chiefs must verify their support before these members are contacted.
- Due to potential retirements, Hopkinton is looking to take remaining tech equipment off their rescue; most of the rope is likely at the end of its life. Shawn Green will get a current inventory and determine where the equipment can be rehomed. Chief Desautels is looking to decommission the Trench Trailer (which contains struts, ground pads, and strong backs) and is open to repurposing the equipment throughout the district or donating the trailer to the team.
- Regarding Swiftwater rescue, the state model is moving responsibility to the Tech Teams, but current local chiefs suggest a dual response with the Dive Team. It was noted that having Swiftwater training will provide points for members applying to the potential statewide tech team.
- Much discussion ensued on the long-standing topic of the Medical Specialist course, with hurdles being the course is extensive (56 hours), costly (approx. \$6,000 per person), and faces challenges with securing district-wide medical control, which is the biggest hurdle. There are currently fewer than 15 paramedics on the Tech Team who would be eligible. Members who have connections with a potential medical director are asked to reach out before the next meeting. The group will also research what other districts are doing.
- The Tech Team is now equipped and trained for large animal rescue. The community is expected to provide the veterinarian during an incident.

Old Business

- Chief Lawless states that Dianne is compiling a new contact list and updating IAR/Teams list. Team leaders are reminded to send updated contact information—name, email address, and cell phone carrier.
- Chief Lawless makes a motion to accept the FY27 budget as presented, seconded by Chief Choate and voted unanimously to accept the FY27 budget as presented.
- The three IMAT Team vacancies were filled by Chief Arnum, Chief Kivlan, and Deputy Chief Doucet, replacing Chief Breen, Chief Judge, and Chief Parenti.
- Chief Whitney is taking over the website from Chief Parenti. The need for a second person to assist with the website and for succession planning was raised.

New Business

- Chief Whitney shares that Captain Bill Noke will be added to the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial during Memorial Weekend (first weekend of May). Concord will have a large contingency attending, and immediate neighboring towns were given heads-up about potentially limited call-back coverage.
- Assistant Chief Latta shares that the 305 class for the FCAM Incident Management Team initiative is being offered at the Plymouth EOC from May 13th through the 17th. The goal is to train 30 teams. Hotel rooms at the GSA rate are available for up to 12 chiefs.
- Assistant Chief Ripley shares that Wayland is holding a Lieutenant promotional exam on April 30th and needs outside evaluators; interested individuals should contact Neil.
- Chief Choate shares that the new radio system is scheduled to go online on April 28th. There may be a temporary need to switch to a district channel during the transition.
- Chief Lawless thanked Chief Choate for the State Mobilization classes.
- Chief Young shares that there is still no update on Car 14. Captain Francis will notify the group when he is informed. Captain Francis was also able to obtain the software for free.
- Our next meeting is in Hudson, May 21, 2026.

Chief Lawless makes a motion to adjourn, seconded by Chief Daugherty and voted unanimously to accept.

Meeting adjourned at 9:48 AM

Respectfully submitted,

Dianne Arsenault
Coordinator