

Meeting Minutes
FREMONT COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
Joint Committee on Funding Key Services

12:00PM; Wednesday, February 4th, 2026

Riverton; WRTA Facility

2554 Airport Rd, Riverton, WY 82501

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87542789880?pwd=xlwKQ1Ae48Df0becpFkjcHoyP3CbU0.1>

Mick Prior – *Chair*
(Present)

Kyle Butterfield – *Vice-Chair*
(Present @ 12:32)

Lisa Mallon – *Treasurer/Secretary*
(Present)

Sarah Reilley
(Present)

Patrick Edwards
(Present)

Jennifer Blaylock
(Absent)

Jared White Bull
(Present)

Roll Call / Attendance

Roll call was conducted. A quorum was present.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order. The Pledge of Allegiance was conducted.

Agenda Item: Approval of the February 4th, 2026 Meeting Agenda

Motion: LM

Second: SR

Discussion: (None)

Action: PASSED

Agenda Item: Consent Agenda

Motion: PE

Second: SR

Discussion: Treasurer/Secretary Mallon noted minor corrections, including identification of a scrivener's error and clarification regarding attribution of prior legal commentary. The motion carried as amended.

Action: PASSED

Public Comment

Public comment transitioned into substantive discussion regarding recent presentations to the Fremont County Commissioners and municipal governing bodies. Members reviewed feedback received during those presentations, particularly questions related to the proposed Memorandum of Agreement structure, governance of ambulance services, and the appropriate level of the proposed sales tax.

Discussion addressed two previously developed MOA structures: one in which all funds would flow through FCAG for redistribution, and a simplified percentage-based allocation model. Members noted that prior FCAG discussions favored the simplified allocation structure, though recent County dialogue reflected differing perspectives regarding fund flow and oversight.

Governance of ambulance services was discussed in depth. It was reported that County Commissioners have expressed interest in evaluating advisory board models and have also discussed the concept of a Joint Powers Board for oversight. Members characterized County discussions as ongoing and evolving. It was noted that governance decisions are occurring parallel to, but separate from, the procedural step of placing a ballot measure before voters.

Members further discussed the need to justify whether the proposed tax rate should be one-half percent or three-quarters of a percent. It was reported that Commissioner Jones indicated willingness to review historical data, including 2016 financial figures, vehicle replacement schedules, operating costs, and potential service expansion scenarios, in collaboration with County staff. The committee acknowledged that while its prior statistical modeling supports a three-quarter percent recommendation, additional County-generated analysis would strengthen public confidence.

The importance of educating elected officials and allowing them to deliberate prior to formal resolution consideration was emphasized. No formal action was taken during Public Comment.

New Business

i. Clarification of the Purpose of the Proposed Funding Mechanism

The committee reaffirmed that the proposed sales tax is intended to stabilize funding for three essential services: ambulance services, commercial air service, and public transportation. Members emphasized that the purpose of the funding mechanism must be clearly communicated to governing bodies and the public, including how revenues would be distributed and what outcomes are expected.

ii. Confirmation of the Three Core Services Addressed

The committee confirmed that the three core services remain ambulance services, commercial air service, and public transportation. It was noted that these services serve the broader county population and were selected based on demonstrated funding vulnerability and community reliance.

iii. Distinction Between Service Stabilization and Potential Service Improvement

Members discussed the distinction between maintaining existing service levels and supporting service improvement. Particular focus was placed on ambulance services, where the funding level

remains subject to further clarification by the County. It was acknowledged that voters must understand whether the funding request is intended to preserve current operations, improve response capabilities, or address long-term capital replacement needs.

Members agreed that the immediate phase of the process remains educational. Presentations to municipalities will continue while awaiting more definitive ambulance cost projections from the County.

iv. Identification of Key Funding Guardrails and Accountability Principles

The committee reiterated preference for maintaining percentage-based allocations within the MOA to promote clarity and predictability. Concerns were expressed that shifting to reimbursement-based models or eliminating defined allocation percentages could introduce administrative complexity and reduce transparency.

Members also discussed strengthening accountability mechanisms, including potential advisory oversight structures for ambulance services, to ensure clear performance expectations and public confidence.

v. Alignment on Committee Role

The committee reaffirmed that its role is to inform governing bodies, provide structured analysis, and respond to questions. Members emphasized that the current phase is informational and deliberative rather than decision-driven.

vi. Direction for Consistent Messaging to Municipal and County Officials

The committee reviewed its schedule for upcoming presentations to Lander, Shoshoni, and Dubois. It was agreed that draft MOA language and presentation materials would be provided in advance to allow governing bodies time for review.

Members clarified that no resolution votes are expected at this stage. The next several weeks will focus on education, clarification of funding numbers, and gathering input prior to formal action.

Discussion also addressed communication with tribal leadership. Members reiterated that tribal governments are not statutorily required signatories to the resolution or MOA, but remain important stakeholders. Continued engagement with tribal representatives, including the Intertribal Council, was encouraged. Members discussed the possibility of tribal resolutions of support following ballot placement as a symbolic gesture.

Committee member Jared White Bull expressed strong support from tribal leadership for ambulance services and WRTA operations, noting the importance of transportation services to tribal members, particularly elderly residents and individuals with health needs. He encouraged continued informational outreach and confirmed that no specific shortcomings in current communication efforts were identified.

No formal action was taken under New Business

Old Business

i. Status Update on County Discussions

Vice-Chair Butterfield reported continued coordination with Commissioner Jones regarding ambulance funding analysis. It was noted that the County intends to review operating costs, vehicle replacement schedules, and potential service scenarios to refine funding projections.

ii. Sequencing of Resolutions versus MOA Consideration

The committee confirmed that ballot resolution placement remains the procedural priority. MOA refinement may continue concurrently but should not delay resolution consideration if statutory timelines require action.

iii. Timeline Considerations for February–March Governing Body Actions

The committee reviewed February and March meeting schedules for municipal governing bodies. Members agreed to maintain the current presentation schedule for Lander, Shoshoni, and Dubois. It was reiterated that these meetings will be informational only until ambulance funding numbers are further clarified.

Members acknowledged that, if consensus on MOA terms cannot be reached through ongoing coordination, a future working session including County Commissioners, mayors, council members, and finance directors may be considered to resolve outstanding issues.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 12:15PM

Next Steps

The committee identified the following next steps based on discussion during the meeting:

The committee will proceed with scheduled informational presentations to the Lander, Shoshoni, and Dubois governing bodies. Draft presentation materials and the draft Memorandum of Agreement will be provided to those councils in advance to allow for review and questions prior to formal consideration. These meetings will remain informational in nature until ambulance funding projections are further clarified.

Vice-Chair Butterfield will coordinate distribution of presentation materials and draft MOA language.

Chairman Prior will continue engagement with Fremont County Commissioners, including coordination with Commissioner Jones and County staff, to obtain updated ambulance service cost analysis.

The committee will continue outreach and engagement with tribal representatives, including communication with the Intertribal Council as appropriate. Informational opportunities will be offered to ensure continued inclusion and awareness. Following placement of the ballot measure, the committee may pursue tribal resolutions of support as a symbolic affirmation of collaboration.

Members acknowledged the possibility of organizing a future working session involving County Commissioners, mayors, council members, and relevant finance officials should consensus on Memorandum of Agreement terms or funding distribution require broader deliberation.

The committee will communicate to Dubois and other municipalities that the County is actively evaluating ambulance service disposition and funding projections, and that municipal decisions regarding independent service assumption should consider the County's pending analysis.

The immediate focus of the committee remains education of elected officials, refinement of funding justification, and gathering of input prior to formal resolution consideration.

Record Summary

The Joint Committee on Funding Key Services met on February 4, 2026, to review progress on the proposed ballot measure intended to stabilize funding for ambulance services, commercial air service, and public transportation. The committee approved the meeting agenda and prior meeting minutes with minor corrections.

Substantive discussion focused on feedback received from recent presentations to the Fremont County Commission and municipal governing bodies. Members reviewed questions related to the proposed Memorandum of Agreement structure, governance considerations for ambulance services, and justification of the proposed sales tax rate. Particular attention was given to the distinction between a one-half percent and three-quarter percent funding proposal and the need for additional County-generated financial analysis to strengthen public confidence in the ambulance funding projections.

The committee discussed ongoing engagement with tribal leadership and clarified that while tribal governments are not statutorily required signatories to the resolution or MOA, continued communication and informational outreach will remain a priority. Members acknowledged expressed tribal support for ambulance and transportation services and discussed opportunities for continued collaboration.

The committee reaffirmed its role as informational and analytical in nature. Presentations to municipalities will continue in an educational format while funding numbers are refined and input is gathered. The committee emphasized the importance of transparency, consistent messaging, and allowing elected officials time for deliberation prior to formal resolution consideration.

The meeting concluded with the identification of next steps focused on continued coordination with County Commissioners, scheduled municipal presentations, further analysis of ambulance service costs, and ongoing stakeholder engagement.