



Public Safety Commission Meeting Minutes - Final

Chair Clark Hammelman
Robert Dziubla
Trevor Knotts
Richard Morton
Andy Powell
Steve Thayer
Laurie Van Court

Thursday, November 6, 2025

3:00 PM

Castle Rock Municipal Courtroom
100 Perry St., Castle Rock, CO 80104

This meeting is open to the public. Please note that all times indicated on the agenda are approximate and interested parties are encouraged to be present earlier than the posted time.

Call to Order and Attendance

Chairperson Hammelman called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

Present 7 - Chair Clark Hammelman, Richard Morton, Laurie Van Court, Andy Powell, Robert Dziubla, Trevor Knotts, and Steve Thayer

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Mr. Dziubla moved to approve the October 2, 2025 minutes. Ms. Van Court seconded the motion; the motion carried.

[PS 2025-026](#) Public Safety Commission Meeting Minutes - Oct. 2, 2025

Yes: 7 - Chair Hammelman, Morton, Van Court, Powell, Dziubla, Knotts, and Thayer

[PS 2025-027](#) CRFD September Report

Fire Department Report

- **Budget Update:** Chief Croom reported that the 2026 budget was approved at the October 21st Council Meeting. CRFD received an approximate \$1.1 million increase (after requesting \$1.6 million). Because impact fees are projected to decline in 2026, some vehicle purchases will need to be funded through the general fund.
- **Equipment Purchases:** The purchase of two engines was approved on the most recent consent agenda. Delivery is expected in approximately 51 months.
- **Wildfire Mitigation**
 - **Centennial Park:** CRFD is actively conducting wildfire mitigation in Centennial Park, identified as a high-risk area.
 - **Escavera:** A three-acre parcel in Escavera has also been completed in the mitigation plan.
 - **Metzler Family Open Space:** CRFD is partnering with the Colorado state fire service to mitigate a 23-acre parcel in the Metzler Family Open Space. A fire break will be created between the open space and Timber Ridge neighborhood. This area is affected by pine beetle kill and an active infestation.
- **Staff Updates:**
 - Kevin Sullivan has been promoted to Division Chief/Fire Marshal. The department is holding off on filling the Assistant Fire Marshal position until the Fire Plans Examiner role is filled.

- Jeff Wenzel, from New Mexico, has been hired as Logistics Chief and will begin January 5, 2026.
- **Station 156 Community Meeting:** A neighborhood meeting will be held November 17th at the Public Safety Training Facility to discuss Station 156. Attendees will view artistic renderings and engage with fire officials about Castle Rock's newest fire station.
 - **Response Times:** Station 156 is expected to cut response times in half; current response times in this area average 13-14 minutes.
 - **Logistics Center:** Station 156 will include a Logistics Center, consolidating equipment storage in one location.
 - **Station 156 Funding:** The estimated cost to build the entire facility is \$20.9 million. Certificates of Participation (COPs) will be presented to Council on December 2nd, with a second reading on December 16th. COPs will be issued in January to bridge an \$8 million funding gap.
- **Physician Advisor Search:** CRFD is interviewing candidates for a new physician advisor. This role is critical, as EMTs and paramedics operate under the advisor's medical license.
- **Equipment Audit:** CRFD is auditing equipment to identify expired or outdated items. This work is necessary to prepare for the 2027 budget cycle, which begins in early 2026.
- **Medic Units:** Two new medic units have arrived and are being outfitted as part of the standard replacement schedule.
- **Commission Member Discussion:**
 - Commissioner Dzuibla asked about clandestine labs in Castle Rock. Chief Croom, with Chief Cauley concurring, reported that such labs are not a significant issue locally.
 - Commissioner Knotts inquired about survey cards sent to patients. Chief Croom explained that cards are sent to every patient, though the return rate is only 10-15%.
 - Commissioner Morton asked about the mandatory call-back list. Chief Croom provided an explanation of the process.

[PS 2025-028](#)

CRPD September Report

Police Department Report

- **Promotional Processes:** CRPD completed four promotional processes for the ranks of Deputy Chief, Commander, Sergeant, and Corporal. This was the largest promotional process in CRPD history, with 24 candidates competing for 8 vacancies. Each candidate underwent an AI-generated 360 assessment based on stakeholder feedback (Sergeants and Master Police Officers).
- **Oral Boards:** Oral boards were conducted by Commanders and the Chief. Forced rankings were calculated using responses from stakeholders, commanders, and the Chief.
- **Promotional Philosophy:** Chief Cauley explained why CRPD values conducting its own promotional process rather than hiring an outside assessment center. The department's philosophy emphasizes hiring, training, and promoting from within.

- **Promotions Announced:**
 - Deputy Chief: Sam Varela
 - Commanders: Dustin Frost, Brad Fruh
 - Sergeants: Matt Fellows, Connor Grega, John Mullineaux
 - Corporals: Darsel Polite, Erik Young
 - All promotions take effect January 3, 2026.
- **IACP Conference:** Chief Cauley presented two sessions at the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) Conference: *Infinite Game of Policing* and *AI for Hiring Promotions/Evaluations*. The conference was attended by over 16,000 law enforcement professionals and industry partners.
- **DFR Program:** CRPD hosted a news conference with Flock partners on the Drones as First Responders (DFR) program. Coverage was positive. The program has been operational since August with one dock; two additional docks are planned. Drones are currently flown by SRT officers, with dispatchers expected to pilot in the future.
- **Commission Member Questions on Drones:**
 - *What triggers a deployment?* Chief Cauley explained that certain call types drive deployment.
 - *Are Flock personnel on site at CRPD?* No. Two CRPD officers assigned to the real-time crime center operate the drones.
 - *Are there competitors to Flock?* Yes. Axon has also launched a drone program.
 - *Has the fire department requested PD drones?* Chief Croom confirmed the fire department has not made such requests.
 - *Do the drones have infrared technology?* Yes, they are equipped with infrared capability.

New Business

The PSC currently has two open positions. The Commission has stated its intent to fill these vacancies for the remainder of the existing terms. At the request of PSC Chair Hammelman, staff were asked whether the list of alternates from the May interviews is available.

Chief Croom advised clarification is needed on whether those alternates remain available to serve or if they have since been appointed to other commissions. An inquiry will be made through the Town Manager's office to see which alternates are available and how to reach out with an offer to fill the vacancies.

Commission members agreed that should the alternates not be available; the Commission will wait until May to conduct its regular interview cycle.

Old Business

Commissioner Comments and Questions

Adjourn

Mr. Thayer made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Knotts seconded the motion. All were in favor.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:25 p.m.

The next Public Safety Commission meeting is scheduled for December 4, 2025
at the Police Department.