



Public Safety Commission Meeting Minutes - Final

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

Thursday, March 5, 2026

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.

The Public Safety Commission meets monthly at the Town of Castle Rock Fire & Rescue Headquarters or Police Department.

Call to Order and Attendance

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

Guest: Debbie Binks, Victim Assistance Coordinator, Castle Rock Police Department

- Present** 7 - Richard Morton, Laurie Van Court, Andy Powell, Robert Dziubla, Steven Goedecke, Steve Thayer, and Clark Hammelman
- Not Present** 2 - Trevor Knotts, and Laura Cavey
- Attendance** 3 - Oren Bersagel-Briese, Jack Cauley, and Kim Stremel

Approval of Meeting Minutes

[PS 2026-004](#) Public Safety Commission Meeting Minutes - Feb. 5, 2026

Mr. Morton moved to approve the February 5, 2026 minutes. Mr. Thayer seconded the motion; the motion carried.

- Yes:** 7 - Morton, Van Court, Powell, Dziubla, Goedecke, Thayer, and Hammelman
- Not Present:** 2 - Knotts, and Cavey

Fire Department Report

[PS 2026-005](#) CRFD January Report

Station 6 Project

- Funding approved by Town Council during Tuesday's meeting.
- Groundbreaking scheduled: April 8, 2026 at 4 p.m.
- Location: Station 6 site.
 - o Parking will be available at Cobblestone Park with shuttle service to the site.
- PSC members will receive groundbreaking ceremony invitation (to be sent by Kim or Debbie).
- Construction timeline: Approximately 12-15 months, with anticipated completion in late summer 2027.

Apparatus Updates

- New engine for Station 6 is currently in the state and expected to arrive

early April.

- Brush truck delivery anticipated possibly by the end of next week.
- Discussion regarding national delays in fire apparatus manufacturing:
 - o Approximately 10 agencies are coordinating legal action against manufacturers related to delivery timelines.
 - o Apparatus manufacturers have testified before a U.S. Senate committee in Washington, D.C.
 - o Pierce Manufacturing has reportedly improved production timelines by 6-8 months.

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) Code Adoption

- Town Council approved the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) code on first reading.
- The WUI code is part of the statewide building code framework, with each jurisdiction responsible for adopting it locally.
- The code focuses on reducing wildfire spread through construction standards and materials ratings.
- Key points:
 - o Many building manufacturers already meet these standards.
 - o No direct impact on existing homeowners, except potentially through insurance considerations or if they make certain large-scale improvements to their home.
 - o Castle Rock is considered largely low to moderate wildfire risk.

Wildfire Mitigation Efforts

- Ongoing mitigation work in the Metzler area, covering approximately 23-25 acres.
- Fire Department is coordinating with Parks and Recreation to identify appropriate vegetation and tree management strategies to reduce wildfire spread.

Evacuation Preparedness

- Sheriff's Office developing a large-scale evacuation messaging program titled "High, Low, Time to Go."
- Program includes:
 - o Pre-recorded emergency evacuation messaging
 - o Siren alerts to notify residents of evacuation orders.

Personnel Update

- Retirement announcement: Engineer/Paramedic Todd Lewis
 - o 23 years of service
 - o Instrumental in developing CRFD's Water Rescue Program

EMS Protocol Updates

- Adoption of updated Denver Metro EMS Protocols, which guide EMT and paramedic care across the region.
- Protocols are updated twice per year and adopted by Castle Rock Fire and Rescue.

Mutual Aid and Reimbursement

- Discussion regarding reimbursement policies when CRFD responds outside its jurisdiction:
 - o First 24 hours of mutual aid generally not reimbursed.
 - o Reimbursement may occur when:
 - § The response extends beyond 24 hours, or
 - § The response is coordinated at the state or federal level.

Regional Resources

- Appreciation expressed for state-level resources, including the county

helicopter, which provides additional operational support for regional incidents.

Police Department Report

[PS 2026-006](#)

Victim Assistance Program - Guest Presentation

Presenter: Debbie Binks, Victim Assistance (VA) Coordinator

- The Victim Assistance programs were first established following the 1981 Reagan assassination attempt, emphasizing treating victims with fairness, dignity, and respect.
- The program relies on 12 trained volunteers who each serve four 12-hour shifts per month.
- Volunteers complete a Victim Assistance Academy and receive additional training.
- Annually the program handles approximately 400 cases, contributing over 6,000 volunteer service hours.

Services Provided

- Most frequently requested assistance involves domestic violence (DV) incidents.
- Victim Advocates also respond to:
 - o Death notifications
 - o Sexual assaults
 - o Child abuse cases
 - o Robberies
- Advocates assist victims during critical incidents and provide emotional support and resource coordination.

Domestic Violence & Lethality Assessments

- Domestic violence remains one of the most dangerous calls for both victims and responding officers.
- Officers conduct a Lethality Assessment on scene using an 11-question screening tool to identify high-risk victims.
- If a victim screens as high risk, officers connect them with support services such as:
 - o TESSA
 - o Crisis Center
 - o Long-term safety planning resources
 - o Relocation or safe placement options.
- Castle Rock adopted the lethality assessment model in 2016, originally developed in Maryland, and coordinated adoption with other county agencies.
- Courts and judges may consider the lethality assessment results when determining bond conditions.

Victim Resources

- Victim Rights Act (VRA) protections apply.
- Victims may access the Victim Compensation Fund, which helps cover costs such as medical expenses.
- The fund is supported through court-ordered surcharges.
- Sex offender registration fees also support victim assistance emergency resources.

Follow-Up Services

- Victim Advocates provide ongoing follow-up and support, often coordinating with detectives during investigations.
- On-call volunteers may transfer cases to full-time staff for extended assistance.

Volunteer Safety

- Advocates are only called once a scene is confirmed safe.
- Advocates never respond alone and always work alongside officers.

Interagency Support

- Victim Advocates may also assist Fire Department personnel when appropriate.

Pathfinders Program

- Castle Rock PD developed and hosted the first session of *Pathfinders*, where agencies learn from each other's policing strategies and challenges.
- Participating policing members from Brooklyn Center, Minnesota, and Overland Park, KS traveled to Castle Rock for the three-day program, February 17th - 19th.
- Similar exchange programs have included international partnerships, such as visits from Brazilian officers.
- The goal is to share effective policing practices nationally.

Crime Statistics

- Castle Rock continues to maintain a strong public safety record.
- The town was recently recognized as the 8th safest city in Colorado.
- Crime statistics show a 14% decrease in property crimes and a 19% decrease in violent crimes between 2024 to 2025.
- Castle Rock's statistics are tracked independently and are not included in Douglas County's overall crime statistics.

Staffing and Hiring

- o Currently have 6 lateral police officer applicants in various stages of backgrounds
- o One CSO candidate and one AWO candidate in backgrounds, as well
- o Upcoming Oral Board interviews for Dispatch candidates

Facilities and Workspace Changes

- Office space adjustments are currently being made to accommodate the new Deputy Chief position.
- The department relocated the armory to the Public Safety Training Facility (PSTF).
- The space created allowed for reconfiguration of office workspaces.

E-Bike Safety Initiative

- A focused E-bike enforcement and education initiative will occur during Spring Break (March 17th and 18th).
- The initiative will emphasize:
 - o Public education
 - o Enforcement
 - o Monitoring community impact and compliance.

Legislative and Policy Updates

- Douglas County shoplifting ordinance does not apply within Castle Rock since it only applies to areas under the Sheriff's Office jurisdiction.
- Discussion regarding potential Flock camera legislation:
 - o Current outcome is unknown.

- o Many Chiefs of Police and District Attorneys statewide are not supportive of the proposed legislation.

Technology and Equipment Updates

- The department's drone program continues to operate successfully.
- A third drone is expected to become operational soon, increasing operational capability.

New Business

Old Business

Commissioner Comments and Questions

- Commissioners expressed appreciation for the recent Fire Department awards ceremony.
- Chief Bersagel-Briese noted that September 2026 will mark the 25th anniversary of the September 11th attacks in New York, Washington D.C. and Pennsylvania; remembrance opportunities will occur across the U.S.
- Upcoming administrative items include filling commission openings and addressing term limits.
 - o Administrative staff will prepare clarifying materials for the April Public Safety Commission meeting.

Adjourn

Mr. Dzuibla made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Van Court seconded the motion. All were in favor.

The meeting was ajourned at 4:20 p.m.