



Innovative Workforce Solutions

WORKFORCE ARIZONA COUNCIL Q3 Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Thursday August 14th, 2025 | 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Virtual Meeting

Zoom Information

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81455687758?pwd=CvBhbTZlkaVICTEQW9lY3DDS4iluQh.1>

Meeting ID: 814 5568 7758 | Passcode: 557163

1. Call to Order

Chair Mark Gaspers welcomed Executive Committee members and the public to the Executive Committee meeting. Reminding those attending that only members of the Executive Committee are permitted to vote and to be respectful and remember to mute your microphones.

2. Roll Call

Giselle Retana conducted a roll call, a quorum was present.

Attending: Chair Mark Gaspers, Vice-Chair John Walters, Second Vice-Chair Michelle Bolton, Kristen Mackey, Karla Moran, Alex Horvath, Jenna Rowell (Absent: Director Michael Wisheart, Beverly Wilson)

3. Call to the Public

Chair Gaspers opened the call to the public. No members of the public spoke.

4. Approval of minutes from Q2 April 17th, 2025 Executive Committee Meeting

MOTION:

Chair Gaspers called for a motion to approve the April 17, 2025 Executive Committee meeting minutes. Second Vice-Chair Michelle Bolton made a motion; Vice-Chair John Walters seconded the motion.

All in Favor Vote Held:

In Favor: Chair Mark Gaspers, Vice-Chair John Walters, Second Vice-Chair Michelle Bolton, Kristen Mackey, Karla Moran, Alex Horvath, Jenna Rowell (Absent: Director Michael Wisheart, Beverly Wilson)

Opposed: None

Motion Passed

5. Governance and Compliance

Governance and Compliance Advisor Deseret Romero provided the Executive Committee with a brief compliance overview and next steps. The timeline below included in the presentation, outlines the key LWDB 2024/2025 compliance requirements, including the Job Center Certification, 2025-2028 Local Plans, and 2025 Recertification. While also noting the upcoming 2027 LWDB Local Plan Modification requirement and 2026 Title IA Monitoring and Compliance Requirements Review best practices.

COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS			
2023	2024	2025	2026
2024 LWDB JOB CENTER CERTIFICATION (3-Year Requirement)			
2025 - 2028 LWDB LOCAL PLANS (4-Year Requirement)			
	2025 LWDB RECERTIFICATION (2-Year Requirement)		
		2026 TITLE IA MONITORING (2-Year Best Practice)	
		COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS REVIEW (2-Year Best Practice)	
		2027 LWDB LOCAL PLAN MODIFICATION (2-Year Requirement)	

Additionally shared was a status update on the LWDB Compliance requirements. It was noted that challenges many local areas faced with staffing turnover as employees pursue other opportunities. This led to some delays and the need for extension requests, most of which the Executive Committee would review and consider at this meeting.

LOCAL WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARDS			
2024 JOB CENTER CERTIFICATION			
COUNCIL APPROVED		EXTENSION REQUESTS	
Arizona Tribal Workforce City of Phoenix Coconino County Maricopa County Mohave/La Paz Counties Pima County	Pinal County Northeastern Arizona Santa Cruz County Southeastern Arizona Yuma County	Yavapai County	
2025-2028 LOCAL PLANS			
COUNCIL APPROVED		EXTENSION REQUESTS	
City of Phoenix Coconino County Maricopa County Mohave/La Paz Counties Pima County	Pinal County Santa Cruz County Southeastern Arizona Yuma County Yavapai County	Arizona Tribal Workforce Northeastern Arizona	
2025 RECERTIFICATION			
COUNCIL APPROVED		EXTENSION REQUESTS	
Maricopa County Mohave/La Paz Counties Pima County	Pinal County Southeastern Arizona Yuma County	Arizona Tribal Workforce City of Phoenix Coconino County	Northeastern Arizona Santa Cruz Yavapai County
2027 LOCAL PLAN MODIFICATION			
PLANNING IN PROCESS			

a. 2025 LWDB Recertification

Governance and Compliance Advisor Deseret Romero provided the Executive Committee with a presentation on the LWDB 2025 Recertification for Committee’s consideration. The following are the highlights of this presentation.

- LWDB Recertification Overview
The brief overview highlighted the requirements for Local Workforce Development Boards (LWDBs) completion of the WIOA recertification process by submitting key governance and compliance documents to confirm adherence to WIOA regulations and state policies. This process ensures accountability, transparency, and proper oversight of workforce programs through compliance with requirements such as board membership, financial management, and open meeting laws.
- LWDB Recertification Submission Policy
Provided overview of the key policy and compliance requirements per Council’s LWDB Recertification Submission Policy.
- 2025 LWDB Recertification Recommendations
Recommendations for 2025 LWDB Recertification was recommended for the City of Phoenix, Coconino County, Santa Cruz County and Yavapai County. The recommendation for City of Phoenix is contingent upon the City Council’s approval of the MOU/IFA and One Stop Operator contract on September 17, 2025 and Santa Cruz County’s Board of Supervisor approval of the One Stop Operator contract on August 20, 2025. It was noted that if the respective CEOs do not approve these agreements on the dates noted, the recommendations will not be considered by the Full Council at the September 18, 2025 meeting and Council Staff will work with those local areas for consideration at Council’s Q4 meeting.
- 2025 LWDB Recertifications “Pending”
Pending recertifications are the Northeastern Arizona Workforce Development Board and the Arizona Tribal Workforce Development Board.

Northeastern Arizona

Northeastern Arizona, while meeting most of their recertification requirements, is undergoing the 2025-2028 Local Plan process. Earlier this year they experienced a staffing adjustment, with the new Executive Director working through several priority requirements in order to meet their local board obligations. Northeastern Arizona’s 2025-2028 Local Plan is currently in the public comment period of the process. Following the public comment period Council staff will conduct a review of the final submission and pending no major issues, anticipate recommending both the local plan and recertification at the 4th quarter Council meetings.

Arizona Tribal Workforce Development Board

Fiscal Agent

Over the past few years, the Arizona Tribal Workforce Development Board, in collaboration with the Department of Economic Security (DES), has made several diligent attempts to establish a fiscal agent. After exploring multiple options, the Office of Economic Opportunity agreed to assume the role of fiscal agent in late 2024.

Unfortunately, the delay in securing a fiscal agent resulted in staffing reductions and project management challenges for the Arizona Tribal Workforce Development Board. These disruptions impacted the Board’s ability to stay on track with its recertification obligations.

Technical Assistance Requirement

In accordance with the WIOA and Council policy, technical assistance must be provided to Local Workforce Development Boards (LWDBs) that are unable to successfully complete the recertification process. WIOA emphasizes the role of the State in supporting local boards through

guidance, oversight, and capacity-building efforts to ensure compliance and effective functioning.

Corrective Action Plan

Council staff have been working with the Arizona Tribal Workforce Development Board to outline a Corrective Action Plan to assist them with completing their recertification obligations. A summarized outline of the Corrective Action Plan includes:

- Monthly Technical Assistance meetings
- Monthly Status Updates for each of the requirements.
- Timeline for completion of the requirements
- Updates to Council on their progress

Noting that the Arizona Tribal Workforce Development Board is making progress and expects multiple completions of these obligations in the coming months.

Questions/Comments:

Jenna Rowell: I wanted to be clear, is the corrective action plan for the Tribal Workforce Board adopted and accepted by that board, and that is, in fact, a plan they are going to go forward with?

Deseret Romero: So, not necessarily by their Board, but we have been working with the Executive Director as she works towards bringing those items up to compliance. So, as our role as Council staff, it's our form of technical assistance to provide to them.

Jenna Rowell: Okay, I just wanted to be clear, so the four items on the Corrective Action Plan (CAP), were those recommendations out of that technical assistance for what their corrective actions should be. Is that the right interpretation?

Deseret Romero: That's how we're working towards, providing that technical assistance for them to meet those compliance obligations. So it's basically just a plan to help us work through that process with them.

Crystal Banuelos: While communication with our Executive Director has been maintained, this is a lot of new information currently presented. The Board hasn't been apprised that CAP was being considered. So we would like time given our Board meets monthly and given that our Board is made up of 13 sovereign tribal nations, there is a delay and want to make sure everyone on the Board is aware of maintaining regular communications.

Vice Chair John Walters: So I know when we had this conversation, I'm gonna say 6, 8 months ago, that OEO was gonna hire somebody, or it would be somebody's responsibility, and I don't know that we ever circled back on that one, because it's an additional duty as a fiscal agent.

Chairman Mark Gaspers: DES or OEO?

Vice Chair John Walters: OEO, because OEO is the fiscal agent for the tribal nations. And so, at one point, they said, who's going to take over and actually do the work?

OEO Director Carlos Contreras: We actually do have somebody hired for that, John. They've been with the team for about 7 months now.

Chairman Mark Gaspers: Awesome, thank you.

MOTION:

Chair Gaspers called for a motion to approve the recommended 2025 LWDB Recertifications of City of Phoenix, Coconino County, Santa Cruz County and Yavapai County as presented to the Full Council for final consideration. Vice-Chair John Walters made a motion; Alex Horvath seconded the motion.

All in Favor Vote Held:

In Favor: Chair Mark Gaspers, Vice-Chair John Walters, Second Vice-Chair Michelle Bolton, Kristen Mackey, Karla Moran, Alex Horvath, Jenna Rowell (Absent: Director Michael Wisehart, Beverly Wilson)

Opposed: None

Motion Passed

6. 2026 Executive Committee and Full Council Dates

Giselle Retana presented the draft 2026 Executive Committee and Full Council meeting dates for consideration.

MOTION:

Chair Gaspers called for a motion to approve the proposed 2026 Executive Committee & Full Council dates moving to the Full Council for consideration. Second Vice-Chair Michelle Bolton made a motion; Vice-Chair John Walters seconded the motion.

All in Favor Vote Held:

In Favor: Chair Mark Gaspers, Vice-Chair John Walters, Second Vice-Chair Michelle Bolton, Kristen Mackey, Karla Moran, Alex Horvath, Jenna Rowell (Absent: Director Michael Wisheart, Beverly Wilson)

Opposed: None

Motion Passed

7. OEO Director Update

Office of Economic Opportunity Director Carlos Contreras shared the following updates:

New Workforce Administrator

Introducing new Workforce Administrator Patrick Brown and welcoming him to the team.

Workforce Summit Recap

The Summit was a success that drew over 400 participants and incorporated 3TV and Phoenix Business Journal as media partners this year. Additionally, Governor Hobbs, mayors and county supervisors were highlighted as presenters during the event and thanked Vice Chair John Walters and Second Vice-Chair Michelle Bolton for emceeding on the second day. Given the great success, the team is already looking to build on the momentum for next year.

Other Agency Updates

In terms of agency updates, OEO received notification from the Economic and Infrastructure Development (EID) grant program that we were invited to do a second round application of a million dollars intended to support Ready Tech Go in Pinal County, Santa Cruz County and Pima County. Additionally, we applied for a NGA Apprenticeship Grant of \$50,000 but have not heard back from the NGA Chair. For BuildItAZ, rounds 3 and 4 grants to be released before the end of August: round 3 is similar to rounds 1 and 2, however round 4 is new as it'll provide support to the community colleges. Moreover, OEO was awarded two new programs: an adult education diploma project and a dual enrollment community college program. In final news, Director Contreras announced his departure from the role on August 22nd.

Questions/Comments:

Chair Mark Gaspers: Thanked OEO Director Carlos Contreras for his energy and industry mindset he brought to the role.

8. State Plan Modification Update

Janice Garza provided an overview of the required elements and operational components. Patrick Brown and Deseret Romero outlined the proposed strategy, including forming a core partner interagency work group in October 2025 and targeting draft completion by February 2026. The team discussed initial areas for modification, such as data-driven evaluation and workforce accessibility, and presented a detailed timeline for the modification process, including phases for data collection, stakeholder engagement, drafting, and final submission to DOL.

Questions/Comments:

Chair Mark Gaspers: Do we have to vote on the State Plan Modification by March? Or do we just not know?

Patrick Brown: We don't know.

Chair Mark Gaspers: We'll just obviously need to be in touch about those deadlines and how that impacts if we have to call a special open meeting.

Patrick Brown: We don't know, but the goal is that the December TEGL will provide us with better guidance for those deadlines. But, it is possible we may have to do some sort of special session.

Chair Mark Gaspers: Other questions?

Vice Chair John Walters: Is this where we could also revisit in-demand industries?

Chair Mark Gaspers: Yes, part of the process.

Patrick Brown: Right, that's going to be part of the focus groups where we can re-evaluate current industry partners.

Chair Mark Gaspers: Other questions?

Jenna Rowell: I just wanted to point out, in the proposed timeline, I think that's a really tough period for stakeholder engagement, November 16th to December 20th, especially in rural areas, and you mentioned community colleges, they'll wrap the semester and have a graduation. It may be a challenge for some of the local workforce areas and the target stakeholders

Patrick Brown: We're hoping that we'll be able to at least give a little bit of notice prior, but yes, thank you for that, for that feedback.

Second Vice Chair Michelle Bolton: How many meetings are you planning on doing for that stakeholder engagement?

Patrick: We haven't settled on a number. However, based on where we are with the process, ideally we'd like to do four, but it might be two and two.

Second Vice Chair Michelle Bolton: We also have a Council meeting during that timeframe if there is an opportunity to tag a meeting on in case council members want to also participate.

Patrick: Absolutely.

Chair Mark Gaspers: Thank you to the team, for that update, and just, yeah, please just do stay in contact, let us know as, as that's released, and also just as we get started.

9. Workgroup Updates

Janice Garza announced upcoming workgroup meetings in October. The Continuous Improvement workgroup will be expanding to discuss federal policy changes and allow for a consistent message to be provided around federal changes. We are looking at the schedule for the workgroups and reviewing membership needs for Q1 and Q2, with plans to provide a 2024-2025 recap of workgroup successes.

10. DES Agency Updates

Anna Hunter, DES Assistant Director shared the following updates:

a. WIOA & Federal Funding

For federal funding, DES received the estimation from DOL and the TEGL issued in May, including the receipt of notices of award (NOA) for various programs and the posting of local area allocations on the DES website as of August 13, 2025 based on the Workforce Arizona Council's vote in January regarding how those allocations would be issued to the local areas.

PY25/FY26							
	PY YT	PY AD	PY DW	FY AD	FY DW	PY RR	FY RR
Begin Date	4/1/2025	7/1/2025	7/1/2025	10/1/2025	10/1/2025	7/1/2025	10/1/2025
End Date	6/30/2027	6/30/2027	6/30/2027	6/30/2027	6/30/2027	6/30/2027	6/30/2027
Final Report Due	8/15/2027	8/15/2027	8/15/2027	8/15/2027	8/15/2027	8/15/2027	8/15/2027

Navajo County - NEAZ							
	PY YT	PY AD	PY DW	FY AD	FY DW	PY RR	FY RR
Admin	\$30,703	\$5,779	\$3,604	\$23,915	\$13,281		
Prog	\$276,330	\$52,008	\$32,436	\$215,230	\$119,524	\$94,130	\$346,864
Total	\$307,033	\$57,787	\$36,040	\$239,145	\$132,805	\$94,130	\$346,864

Cochise County - SEAZ							
	PY YT	PY AD	PY DW	FY AD	FY DW	PY RR	FY RR
Admin	\$33,705	\$7,002	\$11,785	\$28,977	\$43,429		
Prog	\$303,349	\$63,019	\$106,069	\$260,795	\$390,857	\$94,130	\$346,864
Total	\$337,054	\$70,021	\$117,854	\$289,772	\$434,286	\$94,130	\$346,864

Cocconino County							
	PY YT	PY AD	PY DW	FY AD	FY DW	PY RR	FY RR
Admin	\$41,611	\$4,552	\$4,469	\$18,837	\$16,469		
Prog	\$374,500	\$40,966	\$40,223	\$169,531	\$148,218	\$94,130	\$346,864
Total	\$416,111	\$45,518	\$44,692	\$188,368	\$164,687	\$94,130	\$346,864

Maricopa County							
	PY YT	PY AD	PY DW	FY AD	FY DW	PY RR	FY RR
Admin	\$375,124	\$68,760	\$107,680	\$284,557	\$396,798		
Prog	\$3,376,116	\$618,847	\$969,130	\$2,561,015	\$3,571,185	\$94,130	\$346,864
Total	\$3,751,240	\$687,607	\$1,076,810	\$2,845,572	\$3,967,983	\$94,130	\$346,864

Mohave County - MoPAZ							
	PY YT	PY AD	PY DW	FY AD	FY DW	PY RR	FY RR
Admin	\$48,447	\$11,248	\$8,659	\$46,547	\$31,909		
Prog	\$436,026	\$101,230	\$77,934	\$418,926	\$287,181	\$94,130	\$346,864
Total	\$484,473	\$112,478	\$86,593	\$465,472	\$319,090	\$94,130	\$346,864

City of Phoenix							
	PY YT	PY AD	PY DW	FY AD	FY DW	PY RR	FY RR
Admin	\$276,111	\$50,856	\$66,716	\$210,460	\$245,843		
Prog	\$2,484,997	\$457,703	\$600,440	\$1,894,140	\$2,212,588	\$94,130	\$346,864
Total	\$2,761,108	\$508,559	\$667,156	\$2,104,600	\$2,458,431	\$94,130	\$346,864

PY25/FY26							
	PY YT	PY AD	PY DW	FY AD	FY DW	PY RR	FY RR
Begin Date	4/1/2025	7/1/2025	7/1/2025	10/1/2025	10/1/2025	7/1/2025	10/1/2025
End Date	6/30/2027	6/30/2027	6/30/2027	6/30/2027	6/30/2027	6/30/2027	6/30/2027
Final Report Due	8/15/2027	8/15/2027	8/15/2027	8/15/2027	8/15/2027	8/15/2027	8/15/2027

Pima County							
	PY YT	PY AD	PY DW	FY AD	FY DW	PY RR	FY RR
Admin	\$211,371	\$37,396	\$41,955	\$154,758	\$154,603		
Prog	\$1,902,337	\$336,564	\$377,599	\$1,392,825	\$1,391,431	\$94,130	\$346,864
Total	\$2,113,708	\$373,960	\$419,554	\$1,547,583	\$1,546,034	\$94,130	\$346,864

Pinal County							
	PY YT	PY AD	PY DW	FY AD	FY DW	PY RR	FY RR
Admin	\$63,648	\$15,237	\$15,038	\$63,054	\$55,413		
Prog	\$572,829	\$137,128	\$135,338	\$667,486	\$498,712	\$94,130	\$346,864
Total	\$636,477	\$152,365	\$150,376	\$630,540	\$554,125	\$94,130	\$346,864

Santa Cruz County							
	PY YT	PY AD	PY DW	FY AD	FY DW	PY RR	FY RR
Admin	\$34,440	\$5,684	\$3,929	\$32,523	\$14,476		
Prog	\$309,964	\$51,156	\$35,356	\$211,703	\$130,287	\$94,130	\$346,864
Total	\$344,404	\$56,840	\$39,285	\$235,226	\$144,763	\$94,130	\$346,864

OEO - AZ Tribal Workforce							
	PY YT	PY AD	PY DW	FY AD	FY DW	PY RR	FY RR
Admin	\$123,076	\$22,648	\$13,425	\$93,726	\$49,470		
Prog	\$1,107,683	\$203,833	\$120,824	\$843,532	\$445,231	\$94,130	\$346,864
Total	\$1,230,759	\$226,481	\$134,249	\$937,258	\$494,701	\$94,130	\$346,864

Yavapai County - NACOG							
	PY YT	PY AD	PY DW	FY AD	FY DW	PY RR	FY RR
Admin	\$35,909	\$8,015	\$7,655	\$33,170	\$28,209		
Prog	\$323,166	\$72,138	\$68,898	\$298,532	\$253,883	\$94,130	\$346,864
Total	\$359,075	\$80,153	\$76,553	\$331,702	\$282,092	\$94,130	\$346,864

Yuma County - YPIC							
	PY YT	PY AD	PY DW	FY AD	FY DW	PY RR	FY RR
Admin	\$386,384	\$68,897	\$34,095	\$285,119	\$125,638		
Prog	\$3,477,458	\$620,070	\$306,854	\$2,566,074	\$1,130,739	\$94,130	\$346,864
Total	\$3,863,842	\$688,967	\$340,949	\$2,851,193	\$1,256,377	\$94,130	\$346,864

Additionally, she reported that the Senate Appropriation Committee passed a budget with WIOA funding at or slightly below levels from the previous fiscal year, without consolidating programs into a block grant or implementing a 23% cut.

b. Rapid Response

Discussed the progress of rapid response, specifically an update on rapid response vehicles, noting that they are nearly 50% complete and will be ready for launch in 2026 with an online reservation system. She highlighted the importance of the technology inside the vehicles, which will include cellular, internet, and Starlink capabilities to ensure access in rural areas.

c. Recapture

Provided preliminary projections for PY23/FY24 based on the known expenditures from the local areas. The numbers traditionally have been declining, with this being a steady year for the amount of money coming back for statewide activities.

d. TEGL 2-25

TEGL 2-25 Industry-Driven Skills Training Fund grant program issued by DOL. DES is engaged in conversations with OEO, ACA and hopefully each of the local workforce development board Executive Directors have been reached out by a DES counterpart.

e. System Modernization

Provided updates on two major modernization projects within the division. Rehabilitation Services and Vocational Rehabilitation successfully went live with their new case management system, which has been well-received by counselors despite some pain points. The unemployment insurance system in Arizona is also being replaced with the Comprehensive Arizona Claims Tracking Unemployment Insurance System (CACTUS), set to go live on September 7th, with extended support for claimants on the first two Sundays. Mark also shared updates on the DES Strategic Plan, highlighting a new employment-specific five-year objective to increase employment by 30% by June 2030, and discussed two specific initiatives for state fiscal year 2026 related to employment for justice-involved individuals and improving data analytics across Arizona At Work partners.

f. DES Strategic Plan

Shared one significant update to the DES strategic plan this year, which is DES' five-year outcome number 4, which is by June 2030, to meet the needs of Arizona employers, DES will increase the number of individuals gaining employment by 30% by leveraging participation in workforce development programs. Which aligns with the statewide strategy and operational priority of improving education and developing Arizona's future-ready talent. Additionally, 30% of justice-involved individuals participating in reentry programs will gain employment by June 30, 2026, in alignment with the Governor's Reentry 2030 Executive Order, so continuing to push.

Questions/Comments:

Vice Chair John Walters: So back to the rapid response, we talked for a while about state funds and local area funds, so with the WARN notice things, did we have to dip in the state funds, or were the local areas able to support themselves?

Anna Hunter: That is a great question. I am going to have to lean on a friend.

Vice Chair John Walters: I was just curious because that was a big conversation

Anna Hunter: Right. So if you remember correctly, the Council made the decision to issue rapid response dollars to the local areas. I don't know if any have requested additional rapid response dollars to the local areas if that's the question you're asking.

Vice Chair John Walters: It is, and also... because in the end, it falls on your shoulders, the state's shoulders, so did the state need to step in because the local areas weren't able to fund it. I'm trying to figure out, are you funding rapid response correctly? That's what I'm wondering from a Council standpoint.

Anna Hunter: I will follow up.

Vice Chair John Walters: And then on the bus – do we share with Phoenix? Do we choreograph that together at all or does Phoenix just do their own thing and the State does their own?

Anna Hunter: Phoenix has its own vehicle - correct. And which is, they're very similar, so if you've had the chance to see City of Phoenix's, it's impressive and an opportunity to serve their constituents. The idea is to have these available in the more rural parts of the State, hence the reason that one will be stationed in the northern part and one in the southern part. But available throughout for others to use if necessary.

Jenna Rowell: And can I ask a follow-up question on the MRUs? I think it was on your slide, but I missed it. You expect them to be in action, is it summer next year, or sooner than that

Anna Hunter: They'll be ready for use in Fall 2026. We'll have the reservation website up in Summer 2026, so that we can begin, if there needs to be regularly scheduled visitations. I don't see Director Francis on, but he often... we've discussed the challenges of Fredonia, so having the ability to bring an internet-connected technology vehicle like this to Fredonia on a regular basis is something that we could do easily.

Jenna Rowell: Great. That's part of my question, is on the disasters mentioned there, like, what is the trigger for who gets to pull it into an area, if you will, based on the disaster recovery? Is that county emergency management? It has to be the local workforce development area.

Anna Hunter: So, we will be working with the local workforce development boards and Executive Directors regarding how these can be utilized in an emergency situation. There are other states, this is a DOL best practice that vehicles are, and, they have, in fact, the state of Kentucky borrowed the vehicle from the state of Louisiana, during some terrible flooding in Kentucky, and they were able to pull up to Walmarts and where their FEMA or their state emergency response was also located just to begin providing those emergency services through their public workforce system. So I think as we navigate emergencies, whether those are rapid response emergencies and or, actual physical disaster emergencies, those would certainly bypass their regularly scheduled plan.

Jenna Rowell: I just have one other follow-up about the grant, When is the deadline for you to apply to that?

Anna Hunter: The grant is due September 5th.

Chair Mark Gaspers: Going back on the units, is the length of time to deployment the technology, like the Starlink, or what's causing it to be that far out?

Anna Hunter: So, yes, it's the technology. It's the largest piece because of how much- because it'll have computers on board for use, and so allowing the units to be fully functional, so on the outside it'll have the ability to have screens on the outside and so ensuring that all of those pieces are properly installed and functioning properly.

Chair Mark Gaspers: So, if you had... But, like, a major wildfire catastrophe in the part of the state, or a flood, has the team thought through just deployment with laptops.

Anna Hunter: So, I, once again, give significant credit, not only to the DES Rapid Response Team, but to the local areas as well. They are already prepared. They can respond within a day's notice to challenges, and so.

Chair Mark Gaspers: But could you bring this to bear to help to provide a setting prior to summer or fall of 2026. There was an urgent situation a little earlier.

Anna Hunter: Are you comfortable with me asking Nicole's check number about his future? Nicole, can you come off mute and answer the chair's questions?

Nicole Schnakenberg: Sure, and Chairman, can you just repeat again so I can make sure that I'm answering you correctly?

Chair Mark Gaspers: So, we see the great pictures of the asset, and I appreciate the timeline to integrate, you know, the technology solutions that we want to have available. But we're there to be in a local area that had some, you know, massive layoff, or a... you know, natural disaster situation that impacted employment prior to fall of 26. Would we be able, as a state, to provide additional assets to the local area to assist in their rapid response, even if it doesn't have full build-out of the technology solution that's given? It could provide a nice, safe space for support for the local areas.

Nicole Schnakenberg: Sure, so once we have them fully operational with the technology and the outfitting, and have, trained and, know how to utilize them properly, we will be entering a testing phase, a 6-month or 4-6 month testing phase prior to public launch, where we will welcome, situations such as, as that, or... not welcome, of course, nobody wants a disaster. But we will welcome opportunities to work with local areas to kind of test pilot these, these mobile units out. So we will have the opportunity to utilize them in purposes other than rapid response, knowing that the primary, primary purpose of the vehicles are for rapid response activities. However, yes, to answer your question, we will have some opportunity only a few months prior to that day, but we have a lot of phases to complete, a lot of tasks, and we have to understand the magnitude of this project, times two, right? There's two units. So, the short answer is yes, the long answer is once they are equipped and ready to roll.

Chair Mark Gaspers: Once they are fully operational, I'm sure Council members, both local and state board members, if they are deployed, would love to know, and then also have the chance to come see it.

Nicole Schnakenberg: Absolutely, sir, and we'll, like, like Anna did say, we'll have a reveal and ensure that everyone is invited to preview them and understand the rollout of them, and then we will work in partnership with our local areas, because that's the idea, right? To suit and bring it to the needs of the local areas when there is a need for response for any type of layoff or disaster.

Anna Hunter: I have a follow-up to Vice Chair Walter's question regarding rapid response funds. So, as of this, at the end of the state fiscal year, no local area requested additional rapid response dollars.

Chair Mark Gaspers: Well, two other things I had. So, on the funding - not a question - but just you know, there's certainly the possibility of CR, right? So, we'll just make sure to kind of flag that for the fourth quarter agenda to talk about. If we know where we're at, if we have fidelity at that point or not. Things are definitely up in the air. And then just adds my appreciation and congratulations on all the modernization efforts, and on both the UI, obviously, certainly appreciate the significance of that.

11. Membership Update

Giselle Retana announced four new appointees to the Council and mentioned one remaining seat to be filled in the business category to meet compliance.

- Chet Samuelson, BOK Financial
- Scott Holman, Amkor Technology Arizona, Inc
- Skylic Estep, South32
- Zenji Reynolds, Southwest Shoulder Elbow and Hand Center

12. Adjournment

Chair Gaspers provided the following reminders for upcoming meetings and events.

- Thursday, September 18, 2025: Next Full Council meeting. This meeting will be in person and available via Zoom. The in person location will be at: 1700 W. Washington Street, Room 200, Phoenix 85007
- Thursday, October 16, 2025: Executive Committee Meeting. This meeting will be held virtual via Zoom.

MOTION:

Chair Gaspers called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Second Vice-Chair Michelle Bolton made a motion; Vice-Chair John Walters seconded the motion.

In Favor: Chair Mark Gaspers, Second Vice-Chair John Walters, Second Vice-Chair Michelle Bolton, Kristen Mackey, Karla Moran, Alex Horvath, Jenna Rowell (Absent: Director Michael Wisehart, Beverly Wilson)

Opposed: None

Motion Passed