

Public Safety Memorial Fund Board

Minutes

March 4, 2026

The Public Safety Memorial Fund Board (PSMFB) held a special meeting on March 4, 2026, at the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training located at 4190 Aumsville Hwy SE Salem, Oregon. The meeting was called to order at approximately 11:02 a.m.

Committee Members:

Jennifer Cameron, Chair, Law Enforcement Representative – (Teams)
Chris Heppel, Vice-Chair, Fire Service Representative
Mark Daniel, Law Enforcement Representative – (Teams)
Scotty Nowning, Law Enforcement Representative
Michael Reese, Corrections Representative – (Teams)
Mo Young, Public Member from Board – (Teams)

Committee Members Absent:

DPSST Staff:

Kathy McAlpine, Deputy Director
Jennifer Howald, Administrative Rules Coordinator – (Teams)
Juan Lopez, Executive Assistant to Marie Atwood

Guests:

1. Introductions

- *Chair Cameron began the meeting by inviting everyone in attendance to state their name and position for the record.*

2. *Fire Marshal Frederick E. Ulrich, DPSST #37801; North Lincoln Fire & Rescue; Initial Application for Discretionary PSMF Benefits

Presented by Marie Atwood

In December 2025, Fire Marshal Frederick E. Ulrich was diagnosed with glioblastoma multiforme (GBM) of the brain after serving as an EMT firefighter and fire investigator for more than 40 years in Oregon and Washington.

A workers' compensation claim is ongoing in both states, and a letter of support was also received from Samaritan Health Services outlining the plausible association between line-of-duty occupational exposure as a firefighter and the development of glioblastoma.

On January 23, 2026, Fire Marshal Ulrich lost his battle with cancer and passed away in his home in Lincoln City, Oregon. Mr. Ulrich was not considered an active employee with North

Lincoln Fire & Rescue at the time of his death. The official “cause of death” reported on Ulrich’s Certificate of Death lists, “Glioblastoma”, a malignant primary brain tumor.

On February 4, 2026, DPSST staff were notified of the death of Frederick Ulrich and pursued further contact with the former employer and surviving family.

On February 23, 2026, DPSST received Ulrich’s Initial Application for Benefits, and Notice of Death or Permanent Total Disability/Death.

- *Vice-Chair Heppel asked if there is documentation that this was a line of duty death (LODD).*
- *Deputy Director McAlpine answered that other than the materials under review by this Board that outline 40 years of risk and exposure. Ulrich retired in 2022 and was not diagnosed with a brain tumor until 2025. The letter of support provided by Good Samaritan also details a plausible link between correlation and causation as a result of his employment.*
- *Vice-Chair Heppel also noted Ulrich’s employment history in Washington State and recent employment over the last four years in Oregon yet was concerned that moving forward, the Board could potentially extinguish its funds relatively quickly at the pace it is operating.*
- *Deputy Director McAlpine also acknowledged Ulrich’s employment history between Oregon and Washington. Other than the information contained in Oregon Revised Statute (ORS) 656.802(4)(a), “Death, disability or impairment of health of firefighters of any political division who have completed five or more years of employment as firefighters,” there is nothing that states that this is specific to the State of Oregon.*
- *Vice-Chair Heppel proposed noting the PSMFB’s responses to this residency question, along with defining this concept better for future reference.*
- *Chair Cameron also commented that the ORS eligibility in question does not define if an individual must be an active or retired employee and questioned what the intent of the Legislature was when drafting these rules (i.e. whether this was intended for Oregon public safety officers).*
- *Jennifer Howald replied that given the Oregon Revised Statutes and Oregon Administrative Rules being state-specific, the intent was probably directed towards public safety professionals in this State. If the PSMFB requires additional research and interpretation, DPSST staff will gladly engage in this task.*
- *Member Nowning asked if Washington State has a similar Public Safety Memorial Fund Board that the beneficiary could have applied to in reflection of Ulrich’s 40 years of service in that State.*
- *Member Young also asked if the beneficiary has sought similar compensation from Washington State.*
- *Deputy Director McAlpine replied that the memo provided to members states that a worker’s compensation claim is still ongoing in both Oregon and Washington but does not divulge if the family is seeking benefits similar to the PSMFB.*
- *Member Reese asked if there is past precedent on identifying a person who has been retired for a number of years as a public safety officer.*

- *Deputy Director McAlpine cited the authority of ORS 243.954(6)(a) and ORS 656.802(5)(a).*
- *Jennifer Howald addressed member Reese's question by answering that the majority of cancer related cases that DPSST has received and processed have been individuals who had recently stopped working and had a gap of a few years since they had been employed when the cancer related death occurred. However, DPSST would have to look back at its records for more specific information on this.*
- *Vice-Chair Heppel motioned to approve that Frederick Ulrich met the definition of a public safety officer, as defined in statute. Member Nowning seconded the motion. A vote was taken by roll call where the motion was carried with a unanimous vote.*
- *Vice-Chair Heppel motioned to approve the death of Fire Marshal Ulrich as qualifying, as defined by statute. Chair Cameron seconded the motion. A vote was taken by roll call where the motion was carried with a unanimous vote.*
- *Member Reese motioned to approve Marlea Ulrich as an eligible beneficiary of the PSMFB. Member Young seconded the motion. A vote was taken by roll call where the motion was carried with a unanimous vote.*
- *Member Nowning motioned to approve the lump sum award benefit of \$25,000 to Marlea Ulrich, as requested. Member Daniel seconded the motion. A vote was taken by roll call where the motion was carried with a unanimous vote.*

3. Next Meeting – April 23, 2026, directly following the Board on Public Safety Standards and Training meeting at 9:00 a.m.

With no further items to discuss, Chair Cameron adjourned the meeting at approximately 11:30 a.m.