Public Safety Memorial Fund Board
Minutes
July 23, 2026

The Public Safety Memorial Fund Board (PSMFB) held a regular meeting on July 23, 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 10:24 a.m.

Committee Members:
Jennifer Cameron, Chair, Law Enforcement Representative
Chris Heppel, Vice-Chair, Fire Service Representative – (Teams)
Mark Daniel, Law Enforcement Representative – (Teams)
Scotty Nowning, Law Enforcement Representative
Michael Reese, Corrections Representative

Committee Members Absent:
Mo Young, Public Member from Board

DPSST Staff:
Marie Atwood, Professional Standards Division Director
Jennifer Howald, Administrative Rules Coordinator
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. *Approve April 23, 2026, Meeting Minutes

- *Member Reese motioned to approve the April 23, 2026, meeting minutes. Member Nowning seconded the motion. A vote was taken by roll call where the motion was carried with a unanimous vote.*

3. Budget Update
Presented by Marie Atwood

Professional Standards Division Director, Marie Atwood, noted that the 2025-27 revenue is $380,533 and current expenditure limitation is $310,444. This group may request additional expenditure limitations in the future. In July, September, November, and December 2025, there were no benefits issued by the PSMFB. The PSMFB issued $2,574 in benefits in August 2025 and $33,717 in October 2025. In 2026, the PSMFB issued $26,108 in February, $25,000 in March, $8,841 in April, and no benefits were distributed in May.

4. *Captain Paul J. Bieker, DPSST #02442; Portland Fire & Rescue;
Initial Application for Discretionary PSMF Benefits
Presented by Marie Atwood

In November 2022, Captain Paul J. Bieker was diagnosed with anaplastic thyroid carcinoma with metastasis to trachea and esophagus after serving as a firefighter and fire paramedic for more than 30 years.

On January 13, 2023, Captain Bieker filed an occupational disease claim with the City of Portland, which was initially denied by the employing agency alleging that thyroid cancer is not a cancer presumed under ORS 656.802(5)(a)(A).

On April 14, 2023, Captain Bieker lost his battle with cancer and passed away in his home in Boring, Oregon. The official "immediate cause of death" reported on Bieker's Certificate of Death lists, "anaplastic thyroid carcinoma with metastasis to trachea and esophagus.

On July 3, 2023, a complete denial of occupational disease benefits was issued, which was subsequently appealed by Bieker's surviving spouse (beneficiary).

In 2024, Oregon's WCB reviewed a benefits claim filed by survivors of Paul Bieker. Bieker's workers compensation claim was initially denied because thyroid cancer is not listed among the presumptively qualifying diseases in ORS 656.802(5).

On appeal, that determination was reversed and the administrative law judge concluded that although thyroid cancer alone is not a "cancer of the throat," the legislative history of ORS 656.802 requires the statute to be construed broadly and in favor of inclusion. The court thus determined that because Bieker's thyroid cancer had metastasized to the structures of his throat, his illness presumptively qualified.

On April 24, 2026, DPSST received Bieker's Notice of Death or Disability. On June 24, 2026, DPSST received the Initial Application for Benefits.

- *Chair Cameron asked if the Notice of Death or Disability was submitted from the date of the officer's death or notice of permanent, total disability. Chair Cameron noted her dissatisfaction with this short window for both employing agencies and afflicted families because of this requirement.*
- *Director Atwood commented that DPSST tends to interpret this statutory scheme in favor of inclusion and eligibility.*
- *Member Reese motioned to approve that Captain Paul Bieker 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.*
- *Chair Cameron motioned to approve the death of Captain Paul Bieker as qualifying, as defined by statute. Member Reese seconded the motion. A vote was taken by roll call where the motion was carried with a unanimous vote.*

- *Member Reese motioned to approve Dorle Bieker as an eligible beneficiary of the PSMFB. 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 award the lump sum benefit of $25,000 to Dorle Bieker, as requested. Member Daniel seconded the motion. A vote was taken by roll call where the motion was carried with a unanimous vote.*

5. *Firefighter Michael C. Kienzle, DPSST #34644; Redmond Fire Department; Initial Application for Discretionary PSMF Benefits
Presented by Marie Atwood

On February 19, 2025, Firefighter Michael C. Kienzle was diagnosed with T-cell Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia after serving as a firefighter and fire paramedic for nearly 10 years. An occupational disease claim was filed for the onset of these symptoms while Kienzle was still employed at Redmond Fire Department.

On July 1, 2025, a complete acceptance of occupational disease benefits was issued.

On June 7, 2026, Firefighter Michael Kienzle lost his battle with leukemia and passed away in his home in Redmond, Oregon.

On July 7, 2026, DPSST received Kienzle's Initial Application for Benefits, and Notice of Death or Disability.

- *Member Nowning motioned to approve that Firefighter Michael Kienzle met the definition of a public safety officer, as defined by statue. Member Reese seconded the motion. A vote was taken by roll call where the motion was carried with a unanimous vote.*
- *Chair Cameron motioned to approve the death of Michael Kienzle as qualifying, as defined by statute. Member Reese seconded the motion. A vote was taken by roll call where the motion was carried with a unanimous vote.*
- *Member Reese motioned to approve Lisa Kienzle as an eligible beneficiary of the PSMFB. Member Nowning seconded the motion. A vote was taken by roll call where the motion was carried with a unanimous vote.*
- *Member Reese motioned to award the lump sum benefit of $25,000 to Lisa Kienzle, as requested. Member Nowning seconded the motion. A vote was taken by roll call where the motion was carried with a unanimous vote.*

6. *Officer John Christopher Kilcullen, DPSST #35147; Eugene Police Department; Supplemental Application for Discretionary PSMF Benefits
Presented by Marie Atwood

On April 22, 2011, Police Officer John Christopher Kilcullen was involved in a fatal incident in Springfield, Oregon. Officer Kilcullen was shot and later died from a gunshot wound received while performing his duties as a police officer for the City of Eugene.

On April 28, 2011, the Public Safety Memorial Fund Board (PSMFB) considered the initial application for PSMF benefits submitted by Kristie Sampson-Kilcullen, spouse of Officer Kilcullen. Ultimately the PSMFB determined that Officer Kilcullen's death was a qualifying death as defined by ORS 243.954. As a result, Kristie Sampson-Kilcullen was awarded the lump sum benefit of ($25,000).

Since 2011, Mrs. Sampson-Kilcullen has continually submitted supplemental applications for benefits requesting further reimbursement to continue health and dental coverage for herself and two daughter(s), each of which was approved by the PSMFB.

On June 9, 2026, Mrs. Sampson-Kilcullen's submitted a supplemental application for benefits, requesting further reimbursement for health and dental coverage for one of her daughters, for the months of July 2026 through January 2027 (6 months). The application states that her daughter is dually enrolled at Oregon State University and Linn-Benton Community College for Fall 2025.

Cost of additional benefit reimbursement for Katie Kilcullen.

$395.00 (medical premium per month)

$44.00 (dental premium per month)

x 6 months

Total= $2,634.00

Requested Reimbursement Amount: $2,634.00

- *Member Reese motioned to approve Kristie Kilcullen award benefits, as requested. Member Nowning seconded the motion. A vote was taken by roll call where the motion was carried with a unanimous vote.*
- *Member Reese motioned to award the full amound of $2,634.00, to Kristie Kilcullen, as requested. Member Nowning seconded the motion. A vote was taken by roll call where the motion was carried with a unanimous vote.*

7. *<u>Firefighter Mark P. Ragan, DPSST #03101; Newport Fire Department;</u>
<u>Initial Application for Discretionary PSMF Benefits</u>
Presented by Marie Atwood

On July 1, 2024, Firefighter Mark Ragan was conducting yardwork at his residence when he suffered cardiac arrest and was subsequently transferred to North Lincoln Hospital for treatment after serving as a Firefighter and Fire Prevention Officer for more than 30 years.

On July 3, 2024, Mark Ragan passed away due to clinical brain death as a result of cardiac arrest. The official "immediate cause of death" reported on Ragan's Certificate of Death lists, "Brain herniation due to cardiac arrest due to acute myocardial infarction due to coronary artery disease".

On July 15, 2024, an occupational disease claim was filed by Mark Ragan's surviving spouse (beneficiary).

On August 30, 2024, a complete acceptance of occupational disease benefits was issued.

On May 27, 2026, DPSST received Ragan's Initial Application for Benefits and Notice of Death or Disability.

- *Member Nowning motioned to approve that Firefighter Mark Ragan met the definition of a public safety officer, as defined by statue. Chair Cameron seconded the motion. A vote was taken by roll call where the motion was carried with a unanimous vote.*
- *Chair Cameron motioned to approve the death of Mark Ragan as qualifying, as defined by statute. Member Reese seconded the motion. A vote was taken by roll call where the motion was carried with a unanimous vote.*
- *Member Reese motioned to approve Leslie Ragan as an eligible beneficiary of the PSMFB. 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 award the lump sum benefit of $25,000 to Leslie Ragan, as requested. Member Nowning seconded the motion. A vote was taken by roll call where the motion was carried with a unanimous vote.*

8. <u>Next Meeting – October 22, 2026, directly following the Board on Public Safety Standards and Training meeting at 9:00 a.m.</u>

With no further items to discuss, Chair Cameron adjourned the meeting at approximately 10:55 a.m.