

MINUTES OF AIRPORT COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY – APRIL 28, 2026
FORT SMITH REGIONAL AIRPORT CONFERENCE ROOM

The regular meeting of the Fort Smith Airport Commission was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Chairman Voris, presiding. Commissioners Barr, Cooper, Hagy, Kelly and Pendergrass were present. Also present were Andrew Meyer, Airport Director, and Lindsay Conley, Director of Finance and Administration. Commissioner Ridgley was absent.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

On motion by Commissioner Pendergrass and second by Commissioner Kelly, the commission approved the minutes of the March 17, 2026 regular meeting. Voting aye: Barr, Cooper, Hagy, Kelly, Pendergrass and Voris. Voting nay: none. Motion carried.

TREASURERS' REPORT

Commission Treasurer Barr presented the March 2026 financial report. With 24.7% of the year complete, operating revenues reached 18.3% of the annual budget, while operating expenses reached 20.0%, resulting in a net operating loss of \$64,872 for the month and a year-to-date net operating loss of \$56,335. Director Conley explained that both revenues and expenses are currently below projections because AJUA funding and the associated expenditures—budgeted for the year—have not yet been recognized, as the AJUA agreement remains pending. Significant expenditures for the month included \$53,000 for the 2025 audit services, \$118,802 for the installation of the HTeaO sewer extension, and \$25,429 for the purchase of a new Grasshopper mower.

ITEMS OF BUSINESS

- Air Force Report/Update – Col. Nicholas Ihde, Commander of the U.S. Air Force 85th Fighter Group, reported that after review by the Secretary of the Air Force General Counsel (SAF/GC), the AJUA had been updated to incorporate the requested airport revisions, including revised payment instructions, and was now ready for signature. Once executed by the Airport, the agreement would proceed to Col. Esparza and then to the Pentagon for final approval. Col. Ihde also noted that he had coordinated with the Congressional Member Delegation (CODEL) to arrange a meeting with Airport Commissioners during the May 6 on-base event to discuss potential expansion opportunities for a potential Adversary Air hangar. Commissioners discussed whether a media announcement should be made regarding the meeting and agreed that a notice would be provided once additional details are confirmed.
- PV Solar Array Construction Bids – The Air National Guard has not yet approved the construction bid for the PV solar array project; therefore, discussion and action on the item were tabled.
- Snow Removal Equipment Building Construction Bids - In continuation with the Congressional Directed Spending Grant, MAHG solicited for bids for construction of the Snow Removal Equipment Building. Five general contractors submitted bids that were opened and reviewed on Tuesday April 21, 2026. Beshears Construction offered the lowest bid, coming in at \$3,776,964. Staff recommended the Commission approve the Beshears bid.

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A motion to approve the Beshears bid and to authorize the Airport Director to execute the agreement was made by Commissioner Pendergrass and seconded by Commissioner Cooper. Voting aye: Barr, Cooper, Hagy, Kelly, Pendergrass and Voris. Voting nay: none. Motion carried. There was no further discussion.

- Runway 2/20 and Taxiway E Improvements Construction Bids - Halff Engineering solicited bids for the Runway 2/20 and Taxiway Echo Rehabilitation Project. The bid opening was delayed until the morning of April 28, 2026, pending receipt of final comments from the FAA. Two general contractors submitted bids, with Emery Sapp providing the lowest bid at \$9,335,941, which falls within the \$10.5 million in available airport FAA entitlement funds. Commissioner Pendergrass asked whether Director Meyer was familiar with Emery Sapp's prior work at the airport and whether he was comfortable proceeding with the firm for this project. Director Meyer responded that the asphalt work performed by Emery Sapp on the runway extension project was among the best he had seen and stated that he was comfortable recommending the company. Commissioner Cooper inquired whether Emery Sapp utilizes local labor. Curt Osier of Halff Engineering confirmed that Emery Sapp subcontracts work to Raggio Excavation, a local company, and Emery Sapp has a local asphalt plant.

A motion to approve the Emery Sapp bid and to authorize the Airport Director to execute the agreement was made by Commissioner Kelly and seconded by Commissioner Pendergrass. Voting aye: Barr, Cooper, Hagy, Kelly, Pendergrass and Voris. Voting nay: none. Motion carried. There was no further discussion.

- Halff Construction Services Proposal - In conjunction with the Runway 2/20 and Taxiway Echo Rehabilitation Project bids, Halff engineering submitted a proposal for construction services to support the project. These services include issuing the Notice to Proceed to the selected general contractor, responding to Requests for Information (RFIs), providing on-site construction observation and oversight, and preparing project closeout documentation. The total fee for these services is \$591,000 and will be funded through the FAA grant associated with the overall Runway 2/20 and Taxiway Echo Rehabilitation Project. The Independent Fee Estimate (IFE) for these services was \$560,680. Halff's proposal is within 10% of the IFE, rendering the cost acceptable to the FAA.

A motion to approve the Halff Construction Services Agreement and to authorize the Airport Director to execute the agreement was made by Commissioner Pendergrass and seconded by Commissioner Cooper. Voting aye: Barr, Cooper, Hagy, Kelly, Pendergrass and Voris. Voting nay: none. Motion carried. There was no further discussion.

- Director's Report
 - Flight Data – In March, FSM had 4,840 enplanements and an average load factor of 76.2%. There were 92 flights scheduled, with 21 delayed flights and 1 cancellation.
 - Industry Update - Jet fuel prices have doubled in recent months because of ongoing international conflict. If prices remain elevated, airlines may consider reducing flight schedules this fall to manage operating costs.
 - American Airlines will resume its fourth daily flight at FSM in May, with service continuing through September.

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- Air Service Development – Director Meyer attended the Mead & Hunt Air Service Conference and met with representatives from six air carriers. One airline expressed interest in FSM and plans to meet with staff again at the next air service conference.
- SCASD Grant – Due to the FAA’s flight cap in Chicago extending through October 2026, Director Meyer is working to revise the Airport’s SCASD grant to either expand the eligible service area or secure a grant extension.
- AAAE Accreditation – Director Meyer has transitioned to the AAAE Accreditation program and is targeting completion of his AAE accreditation by next year.
- Community Engagement – Director Meyer attended the Patriots Association meeting to discuss Air Show planning and met with the Regional Council to provide an air service update. Commissioner Pendergrass reported receiving positive feedback from the Regional Council regarding Director Meyer’s engagement.
- Procurement Activities – Staff plans to issue Requests for Proposals (RFPs) in the coming months for several services, including Insurance Broker, Advertising, Rental Car Concessions, and Engineering, to ensure continued compliance.
- Social Media Performance – The Airport’s year-to-date 2026 social media reach totals 511,000 views, with 1.7 million views since November 2024. Total followers now stand at 6,239, representing a 51.5% increase since November 2024.
- Logo Redesign – Staff has received updated logo concepts and will present the options to the Commission at next month’s meeting.
- Chairman’s Report – Chairman Voris had no new items to report at this time.

NEXT COMMISSION MEETING

The next regular meeting of the Fort Smith Airport Commission will be held Tuesday, May 26, 2026, at 5:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Commissioner Pendergrass and second by Commissioner Kelly, the meeting adjourned at 6:02 p.m. Voting aye: Barr, Cooper, Hagy, Kelly, Pendergrass and Voris. Voting Nay: none. Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Andrew Meyer, C.M.
Airport Director