



Montana Sheriffs & Peace Officers Association
PO Box 794 • Helena, MT 59624 • (406) 443-5669 • www.mspoa.org

Search and Rescue Subcommittee

Quarterly Meeting

Date: Tuesday, June 9, 2026
Time: 10:30 am – 12:30 pm
In-person: Fort Harrison, HAFRC, Room 113
Remote: Via Microsoft Teams

MINUTES

Introductions *Matt Boxmeyer (Chair); Steve Holton (Vice Chair); Nanette Gilbertson (MSPOA); Jake Ganieany (DES)*

Matt Boxmeyer, Chair, Gallatin County SO SAR
Corey Hansen, Cascade County SAR
Nanette Gilbertson, MSPOA
Stacy Bourquin, DES
William All, Sanders County SAR
Dolly Lappico, Sanders County SAR
Dan Richter, Jefferson County Elkhorn SAR
William Darby, Cascade County SAR
Brad Belke, Butte Silver Bow County – 1590 SAR
Kyle Corwin, DES
Carol Field, Lake County Swan Mission SAR
Tom Curtis, Lake County SAR
Mike Linder, Yellowstone County SO SAR
Jason Jarrett, Gallatin County SO SAR
Ty Williams, Stillwater County SO SAR
Robert Thornhill, Sanders County SAR
Kent O'Donnell, Yellowstone County SO SAR
David Sidle, Stillwater County SAR
Gavin Roselles, Powell County SO SAR
Dan McDonough, Toole County SO SAR
Mike LaBatey, Park County SO SAR
Chris Weiss, Lewis and Clark County SO SAR
Brad Milligan, Red Lodge SAR
Torsten Prah, Red Lodge SAR
Tyler Foss, Toole County SO SAR
Wes Heavrin, Madison County SAR

Review and approve minutes from previous meeting (4-7-26)

Motion to approve the Search and Rescue Subcommittee meeting minutes from the 4-7-26 meeting as distributed via email (Hansen). Second (Belke). Passed unanimous.

Old Business (Issues previously discussed which require follow-up)

➤ HJ 56 (Search and Rescue Study) – Annual Survey

Nanette reported that the Law and Justice Interim Committee is not likely to take action on the study in the form of a bill draft request. The most significant result of the study, thus far, is the committee's desire to see annual data for the number of missions, number of volunteers, training hours completed, on-going financial need.

Nanette requested all teams, even if the SAR unit does not submit for reimbursement via the state process due to philanthropic donations or a SAR mill levy, complete the annual survey there is a record of the work and volunteer hours.

Chair Boxmeyer sent the survey in January 2026. If you have not completed it, you can still do so to report information from calendar year 2025: <https://forms.gle/hi1bEwDGpNANHf9k9>

The SAR appropriation will be reviewed during the 2027 legislative session during the budget hearing for DES and that is the best opportunity to request additional appropriation.

➤ Consensus for Implementation Plan & Flyer - Channel 3.0 on FRS/GMRS for Public

Darrin Wise with the Flathead County SO SAR drafted a position paper and created an informational flyer in order to educate and inform people about the utilization of channel 3. The main purpose is to provide the public with a consistent channel to use/monitor should they have a radio and need assistance.

Implementation is up to each individual county. If there is consensus among the SAR subcommittee members to promote the use of channel 3, then each county SO, SAR unit, and MSPOA will share the information via their own social media platforms.

There was also a suggestion to inform dispatch so they can ask the caller if they have a radio and tell them to utilize channel 3 if the situation warrants it.

Another venue for the flyer is sporting good stores. Take a couple copies and ask your local stores if they would display the flyer by the radios.

Flyer has been distributed via email and is ready to be utilized throughout the state.

Question from Linder: Is channel 3 GMRS licensed and are people required to have a license? Need to ensure channel 3 is not used as a repeater before we put information out to the public?

Sheriff Linder did additional research and Darrin Wise provided the following information: There is no license needed for FRS use by the public, just the GMRS radios. In addition, there are FCC exemptions to all radio license use during an emergency. So even if there was a license needed, it's void during SAR calls. As for the repeater question, Channel 3 is a simplex channel and if there was a repeater in place, it would be an illegal one, so doubtful that's something we have to worry about.

With clarification on the above questions, there was general consensus from the SAR subcommittee to encourage the public to utilize channel 3.

New Business (Emerging issues which require attention from the SAR Subcommittee)

- New design for online reimbursement submission form
Chair Boxmeyer, Nanette, and DES have been working to improve the online reimbursement forms. Burke Honzel has taken on the project and is currently working with ESRI to make improvements. The forms will be easier to use and when they are ready, we will provide you with updated links.

SAR Financial Update

- Funds Balance (as of 6-8-26)
 - HB2 authority (840H5) - \$200,154.00
 - **Total SFY26 Authority REMAINING - \$105,333.02**
 - Cash Balance: \$210,428.91
- Status of Reimbursement Requests if all requests are funded at 100%
 - Mission: \$103,276.10 51% of total annual authority
 - Training/Equipment: \$ 87,538.41
 - Remaining Authority: \$ 9,339.49 Utilize for EOY mission requests

With the additional appropriation from the 2025 legislature, ALL mission, training, and equipment requests are able to be reimbursed at 100% for SFY26. The additional appropriation made that possible. Currently over 50% of the total appropriation has been utilized for mission reimbursement in SFY26 which complies with the statutory requirement.

If all mission, training, and equipment reimbursement requests on the agenda are approved at 100%, it will leave \$9,339.49 dollars for missions through June 30. If SAR teams have missions from June 9 – June 30, submit a reimbursement form immediately and the subcommittee will review the request and vote via email as has been done in past years.

Nanette reported there was a last minute submission from Sanders County SAR for equipment that meets all of the requirements and let the committee know they could consider that request in addition to the rest on the agenda as there is funding and the goal of the subcommittee has always been to get maximum reimbursement to teams.

Training

- 2026/2027 SAR Trainings Needs
Continue to share trainings you are hosting so all SAR volunteers have the opportunity to participate in the training they need. If you share with Chair Boxmeyer and Nanette the training will also be sent to the SAR distro list via email and listed on the SAR website.

Ty Williams shared that Stillwater is looking at hosting a Drone for First Responder Class (Basic) with a more advanced follow-up course specifically for SAR Drone use. Ty asked if there was interest from other teams in this type of training. Strong interest and need for the training from SAR teams.

Ty will submit the course for POST certified and will share all of the course details and information when it is finalized.

Sanders county will be hosting a vertical rescue course with 2-4 slots in August. Cost is \$600 per person. William will send information to Chair Boxmeyer.

Resource List

- Updated Lists Provided via Email
 - Review and send updates to Chair Boxmeyer

Chair Boxmeyer updated the list after the last meeting and it is in pretty good shape. Boxmeyer also shared the list with DES to integrate into CORE. Will continue to send out the list and request updates to ensure it is accurate as things change quickly.

Boxmeyer also reported there are a significant number of bad emails in the distribution list. Likely time to rebuild the SAR distro list. Requested all subcommittee members review the list and if there are people who can/should be removed/added, let Matt know

Reimbursement Requests

- SFY26 Training and Equipment Reimbursement Requests deadline was June 2, 2026
- 2026 Federal Mileage Rate = \$.725/mile
- Reminders and Documentation
 - Include a roll-up and documentation for all costs to ensure SAR Chair does not have to manually add individual costs to verify reimbursement total
 - Vehicles are reimbursed at the federal mileage rate and require a mileage log (not fuel receipts)
 - Equipment is reimbursed for actual fuel costs and must include receipts
 - For training reimbursement requests, please include the total number of attendees in the narrative
 - Do not include sensitive criminal justice information details in the narrative
- Reimbursement Submission Deadlines
 - Submit Mission Reimbursement Requests within 90 days of the mission, when possible, to assist with record keeping, balance tracking, etc.
 - Submit training and equipment requests upon purchase of equipment or completion of training.

➤ Mission

→ Missoula County SO SAR

Date: 10/17&18/25

Total = \$7,769.99

Reimbursement Purpose = Equipment Replacement – Damaged Litter

Resources: Missoula County Sheriff's Office--two deputy SAR coordinators Missoula County Search and Rescue- thirteen volunteer members United States Forest Service- two sworn officers United States Air Force- one helicopter with crew Montana DNRC- two helicopters plus crew Powell County Sheriff's Office- two sworn law enforcement personnel Seeley Lake Fire personnel x 2.

Narrative: On 10/17/25, Missoula SAR assisted Powell County with a mutual aid request for a SAR mission. A fixed wing aircraft crashed in the Bob Marshall Wilderness. The crash was located and all three souls including a K9 were deceased. Missoula SAR, Seeley Lake Fire, deputies from Missoula and Powell including a coroner were airlifted to the scene via two DNRC helicopters. The terrain was difficult and would have taken a considerable amount of time to reach via foot

travel. Missoula SAR and Seeley Lake personnel brought along several pieces of safety, transport and extraction equipment. The deceased were extricated and removed from the scene. The helicopters did not have enough room to transport everyone back which included the deceased. Due to this, Missoula SAR had to leave gear behind. The gear was eventually recovered when the fixed wing was recovered by a private company. During the gear recovery, a Missoula SAR "litter" was damaged which can no longer be used for its intended purposes.

Resolution: Fixed wing aviation crash in the Bob Marshall Wilderness, resulting in three fatalities and a K9. The crash was located by the United States Air Force helicopter. Montana DNRC helicopters shuttled Missoula County and Powell County deputies along with Missoula County SAR members to the crash location. The deceased were extracted by above personnel and flown out by Montana DNRC. During the course of the mission, a rescue litter owned and purchased by Missoula SAR was damaged.

Motion to approve the Missoula County SAR Mission Reimbursement for \$7769.99 with funding authorized by State DES (Hansen). Second (Richter). Passed unanimous.

→ **Silver Bow County 15-90 SAR**

Date: 11/28/25

Total = \$685.13

Reimbursement Purpose = Mileage

Resources: A callout was sent to all units of 15-90 Search and Rescue. 2 of the group vehicles were sent as well as 22 members in 18 vehicles. The units were spread around the different roads on German Gulch. Driving Teams, and walking teams were dispatched. Medical Bags, four wheelers, and all other possible equipment was dispatched.

Narrative: The Commander received a call from Butte Silver Bow dispatch shortly before 5pm. Dispatch relayed that he was overdue and his family hadn't heard from him. The family relayed to dispatch the last known area he was supposed to be in. 1590 Commander dispatched a callout to all members of 1590. 22 members responded, 21 to the building. Teams were split up based on information that had been provided and they were sent to the different routes on German gulch that the individual could be. Around 7:45pm the individual was located and brought back to town by one of the units designated by the commander. All members that had responded to the dispatch were sent home and a page was sent out notifying all members that the situation was resolved.

Resolution: After a few hours of searching the lost individual was located, uninjured and transported back to town by a couple of units. Members were sent home.

Motion to approve the Silver Bow 15-90 County SAR Mission Reimbursement for \$685.13 with funding authorized by State DES (Hansen). Second (All). Passed unanimous.

➤ **Training and Equipment**

➤ **Training**

→ Carbon County SAR

September 2025

Total = \$14,223.40

Training Type: Wilderness First Responder

Description: NOLS Hybrid Wilderness First Responder (WFR) includes an online component in addition to the traditional scenarios and skills. Upon completion, you will be able to conduct a thorough physical exam, obtain a patient history, assess vital signs, provide emergency care in

the wilderness, and make crucial evacuation decisions. NOLS Wilderness Medicine's nationally recognized curriculum encompasses a wide range of topics including long-term patient care, wound management, selective spine immobilization, reducing dislocations, litter packaging, and epinephrine administration. Successful course completion will earn the following NOLS

Wilderness Medicine certifications:

- Wilderness First Responder
- Adult, Child, and Infant CPR & Airway Management
- Epinephrine Auto-injector

About 24 students participated.

Training Provided By: Headwaters Field Medicine

Motion to approve the Carbon County SAR Training Reimbursement for \$14,223.40 with funding authorized by State DES (Hansen). Second (Darby). Passed unanimous.

→ Jefferson County Elkhorn SAR

February 26, 2026

Total = \$396.55

Training Type: CPR-First Aid

Description: Adult/Child CPR first aid training and certification for SAR members, 2 year certification.

8-10 students participated.

Training Provided By: *Outside Aid Safety Training*

→ Jefferson County Elkhorn SAR

February 12, 2026

Total = \$200.00

Training Type: Wilderness First Aid

Description: Certification for higher level care for injuries in the field for our missions.

8-10 students participated.

Training Provided By: *Survival Med LLC*

Motion to approve the Jefferson County SAR Training Reimbursements for \$396.55 and \$200.00 (total of \$596.55) with funding authorized by State DES (Richter). Second (Hansen). Passed unanimous.

→ Lake County SAR

October 25, 2025

Total = \$3,750.00

Training Type: Wilderness First Aid Medical Training

Description: Hands-on, research-based training for remote medical emergencies, focusing on practical skills like patient assessment, splinting, wound care anaphylaxis and injury management preparing professionals and adventurers for situations where professional help is far away.

About 20 students participated.

Training Provided By: Longleaf Wilderness Medicine

- Lake County SAR
April 24, 2026
Total = \$9,539.18
Training Type: *Basic SAR Skills Course – 3-Day*
Description: Designed to prepare responders to operate in search operations. Practical skills in search strategies, responder safety and Planning.
17 students.
Training Provided By: *Emergency Response International*
- Lake County SAR
April 28, 2026
Total = \$5,000.00
Training Type: *Advanced Drone Training*
Description: Hands on search techniques for drone operation. Includes search planning, crew resource management, safety and technical flying for FAA part 107 certified pilots.
5 drone pilots trained.
Training Provided By: *Product Research Gear LLC*
Motion to approve the Lake County SAR Training Reimbursements for \$3750.00, \$9539.18, and \$5000.00 (total \$18,289.18) with funding authorized by State DES (Hansen). Second (Richter). Passed unanimous.
- Park County SAR
April 24, 2026
Total = \$1,975.00
Training Type: *Swiftwater Rescue Technician Training*
Description: Acquire skills in swift water rescue to include rescuing persons in distress utilizing ropes and other tools. Skill to safely navigate swift water. 20 hour course teaching current best practice.
5 team participants.
Training Provided By: *WRI*
- Park County SAR
May 2, 2026
Total = \$600.00
Training Type: *Technical Rope Rescue*
Description: The training was taught by Technical Rescue Options of Colstrip MT. Training in Technical Rope Rescue. Technical rescue options encompass specialized techniques, tools, and training to safely extract individuals from hazardous or inaccessible environments.
1 student
Training Provided By: *Technical Rescue Options*
Motion to approve the Park County SAR Training Reimbursement for \$1975 and \$600 (total \$2,575.00) with funding authorized by State DES (Hansen). Second (Dolly). Passed unanimous.

- Powell County SAR
 August 2025 – December 2025
 Total = \$565.00
Training Type: K9 Training
Description: 2 k9 SAR teams training. The training occurred weekly from August through December.
 2 teams trained
Training Provided By: *Canine Training Group*
- Powell County SAR
 May 16, 2026
 Total = \$375.00
Training Type: *K9 First Aid*
Description: Members of Powell County Search and Rescue participated in a K9 First Aid Training focused on emergency care and field response for working dogs. The training covered injury assessment, wound care, heat and cold exposure, dehydration, bleeding control, canine CPR basics, safe transport techniques, and recognizing signs of distress in search dogs. Team members practiced hands-on skills using realistic rescue scenarios to improve readiness during wilderness and emergency operations. This training helps ensure handlers and responders are prepared to provide immediate care to K9 partners until veterinary treatment is available, increasing safety and operational effectiveness during search and rescue missions.
 5 students participated.
Training Provided By: *Montana K9 Safety*
- Powell County SAR
 January 2026 – April 2026
 Total = \$900.00
Training Type: *K9 SAR Training*
Description: Powell County Search and Rescue conducts ongoing Search and Rescue K9 training to maintain and strengthen the readiness of both handlers and canine teams for real-world deployments. Training focuses on wilderness search techniques, scent detection, obedience, agility, victim location, evidence recovery, navigation, radio communication, and team coordination in a variety of environments and weather conditions. Scenarios are designed to simulate actual SAR incidents, helping teams build reliability, endurance, and operational effectiveness. Regular training ensures K9 teams remain mission-ready and capable of supporting search operations safely and efficiently throughout the community and surrounding regions.
 2 teams trained
Training Provided By: *The K9 Training Group*
Motion to approve the Powell County SAR Training Reimbursement for \$565.00, \$375.00, and \$900.00 (total \$1,840.00) with funding authorized by State DES (Hansen). Second (Belke). Passed unanimous.

→ Sanders County SAR

April 28, 2026

Total = \$1,900.00

Training Type: *Swiftwater Rescue*

Description: 20-hour Swiftwater/Flood Rescue Technician Certification Course. This course is the industry standard for professionals and a vital starting point for anyone working or recreating in swiftwater environments.

5 students participated.

Training Provided By: *Camp Bighorn*

Motion to approve the Sanders County SAR Training Reimbursement for \$1900 with funding authorized by State DES (Hansen). Second (Weiss). Passed unanimous.

→ Silver Bow County 15-90 SAR

May 22, 2026

Total = \$2,364.20

Training Type: *Man Tracking Training*

Description: This 24-hour tracking course is taught by world-class instructors with extensive field experience. It is designed to build a strong foundation for new trackers while also providing skill-development objectives for Basic, Apprentice and Journeyman-level students. Training combines classroom instruction (including a PowerPoint-supported lecture) with structured, hands-on field exercises. Tracking is a first-response search resource used to help verify witness statements, establish the Point Last Seen (PLS), determine direction of travel, and follow physical evidence to locate a missing person. Students will work as tracking teams to practice fundamental techniques and apply them in realistic scenarios. This is a certification course for all eligible students.

6 students participated.

Training Provided By: *Mark Culp -- St. Ignatius, MT*

Motion to approve the Silver Bow 15-90 County SAR Training Reimbursement for \$2364.20 with funding authorized by State DES (Hansen). Second (Darby). Passed unanimous.

→ Stillwater County SAR

May 2, 2026

Total = \$8,000.00

Training Type: *Jetboat Operator*

Description: This intensive 24-hour course is designed for the rescue professional looking for a complete understanding of how to handle a motorized boat in moving or still water. Whether a novice to boat operations or a seasoned professional, this course has something to offer everyone. The course will focus on personal safety, reading water, and group leadership. Participants will walk away from the course with a knowledge of their own strengths and weaknesses and a fundamental understanding of the dynamics of boat operations.

11 students participated.

Training Provided By: *Whitewater Rescue Institute, Inc.*

Motion to approve the Stillwater County SAR Training Reimbursement for \$8,000.00 with funding authorized by State DES (Hansen). Second (Curtis). Passed unanimous.

➤ Equipment

- Jefferson County Elkhorn SAR
Equipment: Starlink Mini
Starlink MINI purchased for mobile wifi on location.
Date Purchased: February 15, 2026
Total Cost: \$314.00
Local Match: \$109.90
Requested Amount: \$204.10

- Jefferson County Elkhorn SAR
Equipment: AED Pads
New AED pads as our other set expired.
Date Purchased: March 16, 2026
Total Cost: \$97.25
Local Match: \$34.04
Requested Amount: \$63.21

- Jefferson County Elkhorn SAR
Equipment: GPS Units
4 new GPS units, we are working towards a complete new set of units for all members as our current inventory are old and having breakdowns continually.
Date Purchased: May 12, 2026
Total Cost: \$1,999.96
Local Match: \$699.99
Requested Amount: \$1,299.97

- Jefferson County Elkhorn SAR
Equipment: Terrain Navigator Pro Annual Subscription
Terrain Navigator Pro, annual subscription for one of our programs we use on our searches.
Date Purchased: January 14, 2026
Total Cost: \$432.00
Local Match: \$151.20
Requested Amount: \$280.80

- Jefferson County Elkhorn SAR
Equipment: New Laptop
New laptop for our mission planning and conducting searches in the field, our other laptops are older and need replacing with newer faster model.
Date Purchased: March 25, 2026
Total Cost: \$1,714.98
Local Match: \$600.24
Requested Amount: \$1,114.74

→ Jefferson County Elkhorn SAR

Equipment: New Tires

New set of tires on our flatbed Dodge hauling/towing SAR truck, one of our current tires tore a sidewall and could not be repaired so a new set had to be installed due to the wear left on the remaining tires.

Date Purchased: May 7, 2026

Total Cost: \$1,379.00

Local Match: \$482.65

Requested Amount: \$896.35

Discussion regarding tires being within the reimbursement guidelines. Historical practice has been if the equipment, in this case tires, were damaged during a mission or training exercise that the equipment could be replaced.

Motion to approve Jefferson Elkhorn County SAR Equipment Reimbursement for \$204.10, \$63.21, \$1299.97, \$280.80, \$1114.74, and \$896.35 (total \$3,859.17) with funding authorized by State DES (Hansen). Second (Richter). Passed unanimous.

→ Lake County SAR

Equipment: Transport Bed

This transport bed is designed to fit our Polaris Ranger and allows for the safe movement of patients in remote areas. It supports either a backboard or a Stokes litter and provides a secure, seated position for a medical attendant. Many locations within our jurisdiction are inaccessible to larger emergency vehicles, limiting our ability to bring an ambulance directly to the patient. These areas are commonly reached by ATVs or other 4-wheel-drive vehicles, and in the past we have had to transport patients either seated or unsecured in the rear of a UTV. This system will greatly improve safety and patient care during transport.

Date Purchased: October 29, 2025

Total Cost: \$4,595.00

Local Match: \$1,608.25

Requested Amount: \$2,986.75

→ Lake County SAR

Equipment: Personal Flotation Devices

This request is for seven personal flotation devices (PFDs) and a foot pump for use with our rigid-hull rescue boat. The vessel responds to emergencies and search operations on Flathead Lake, one of the largest and most volatile lakes in Montana. Ensuring that our rescuers are properly trained and equipped is essential for conducting safe and effective operations in these challenging conditions.

Date Purchased: September 22, 2025

Total Cost: \$493.65

Local Match: \$172.78

Requested Amount: \$320.87

→ Lake County SAR

Equipment: Stokes Litter

This purchase request is for a Stokes litter. A Stokes litter basket is used for safely transporting injured or immobilized patients over rough terrain or in technical rescue situations. The patient is securely strapped into the basket, often with a backboard for spinal immobilization, and can then be carried, lowered, or hauled by hand or rope systems. The basket is deep to contain the patient and prevent them from falling out during vertical lifts or on uneven ground.

Date Purchased: August 14, 2025

Total Cost: \$1,569.00

Local Match: \$549.15

Requested Amount: \$1,019.85

→ Lake County SAR

Equipment: Compact Aerial Drone

This request is for a compact aerial drone to enhance search capabilities and support training in remote trail environments. Our current primary drone, operated by Polson Rural Fire Department, is too large to deploy in many backcountry locations. A smaller drone with identical control functions will allow field teams to conduct rapid aerial assessments, improve search efficiency, and increase responder safety in areas inaccessible to larger equipment.

Date Purchased: September 16, 2025

Total Cost: \$549.00

Local Match: \$183.15

Requested Amount: \$356.85

→ Lake County SAR

Equipment: Radio Transmit Head Sets

Radio Transmit Head sets and necessary equipment for the rescue boat radio.

Date Purchased: April 28, 2026

Total Cost: \$7,049.61

Local Match: \$2,467.37

Requested Amount: \$4,582.24

→ Lake County SAR

Equipment: Snowmobile 2025 Ski-Doo Summit Neo+660 EFI.

Snowmobile 2025 Ski-Doo Summit Neo+600 EFI, This equipment will aid in our winter search and rescue missions.

Date Purchased: May 2, 2026

Total Cost: \$7,267.97

Local Match: \$2,543.79

Requested Amount: \$4,724.18

Motion to approve the Lake County SAR Equipment Reimbursement for \$2986.75, \$320.87, \$1019.85, \$356.85, \$4582.24, \$4724.18 (total \$13,990.74) with funding authorized by State DES (Hansen). Second (Belke). Passed unanimous.

→ Lake County Swan Mission SAR

Equipment: Trail Bikes

We purchased two Honda CRF300FT trail bikes to meet the needs of our SAR calls for off road situations. Our service area offers many miles of USFS and DNRC dirt/gravel and off road recreation areas. We have many miles of single track trails that are frequented by hikers, dirt bikers, mountain bikers and walkers. These small trail bikes are more rider friendly and will provide quicker response times in areas where UTV's and on-road vehicles don't have access. These bikes will be used by our hasty team for quick access to the victim/victims for a rapid assessment of the situation.

Date Purchased: May 2026

Total Cost: \$11,896.00

Local Match: \$4,163.60

Requested Amount: \$7,732.40

Motion to approve Lake County Swan Mission County SAR Equipment Reimbursement for \$7732.40 with funding authorized by State DES (Hansen). Second (All). Passed unanimous.

→ Powell County SAR

Equipment: Training Shirts

Uniformity & Identification Matching t shirts create a consistent, professional appearance that helps the public, partner agencies, & team members quickly identify SAR personnel during missions, training, & community events.

Comfort & Functionality Short sleeve shirts are lightweight & breathable, making them ideal for strenuous outdoor activities in warm weather allowing for ease of movement during rescues, searches, & extended deployments.

Durability & Safety High quality shirts withstand rugged conditions, repeated washing, & exposure to the elements. Bright colors can also improve visibility, enhancing safety during operations.

Community Engagement & Branding Branded apparel reinforces our team's identity & credibility when interacting with the public, & partner organizations. It strengthens community trust & promotes awareness of our mission.

Cost Effectiveness Investing in durable, standardized shirts reduces the need for frequent replacements & ensures long term savings.

Date Purchased: August 11, 2025

Total Cost: \$501.44

Local Match: \$175.50

Requested Amount: \$325.94

→ Powell County SAR

Equipment: SAR Unit Long Sleeve Shirts

Protection & Safety: Long sleeves shield team members from sun exposure, abrasions, insect bites, & harsh weather conditions, reducing risk during missions in rugged environments.

Comfort & Functionality: The shirts balance warmth & ventilation, for comfort in variable climates & allowing full mobility during strenuous activities.

Uniformity & Identification: Standardized apparel creates a consistent, professional appearance that helps the public & partner agencies quickly recognize SAR personnel in the field.

Durability: High-quality materials withstand repeated washing & heavy use, making them a

cost-effective investment for long-term team needs.

Community Engagement & Branding: Branded shirts reinforce our team's identity, build public trust, & promote awareness of our mission during training, & fundraising activities. This purchase will strengthen our team's safety, professional image, & operational effectiveness while ensuring cost-efficient use of resources.

Date Purchased: October 6, 2025

Total Cost: \$1,655.91

Local Match: \$579.57

Requested Amount: \$1,076.30

→ Powell County SAR

Equipment: Reflective Hats

Bright orange reflective hats are essential high-visibility safety gear for Search and Rescue personnel. The fluorescent color and reflective striping increase visibility during daylight operations, low-light missions, and adverse weather. These hats help team members identify one another quickly in dense terrain and improve visibility to aircraft, ground teams, and subjects. They will be used during trainings, callouts, and community events to enhance safety, team recognition, and operational effectiveness.

Date Purchased: November 17, 2025

Total Cost: \$1,094.00

Local Match: \$382.90

Requested Amount: \$711.10

→ Powell County SAR

Equipment: Mobile Radios

We've added two new mobile radios to our fleet and upgraded several of our existing units with new parts. These improvements strengthen our communication capabilities during searches and trainings as we continue serving our neighbors across Powell County, MT. Reliable communication saves time—and time saves lives. We're grateful for the support that helps us stay mission-ready.

Date Purchased: August 11, 2025

Total Cost: \$1,141.93

Local Match: \$399.68

Requested Amount: \$742.25

Motion to approve the Powell County SAR Equipment Reimbursement for \$325.94, \$1076.30, \$711.10, \$742.25 (total \$2,855.59) with funding authorized by State DES (Hansen). Second (Weiss). Passed unanimous.

- Sanders County SAR
 Equipment: Litter
Litter for going into the back country and extracting injured residents and visitors.
 Date Purchased: June 9, 2026
 Total Cost: \$6,767.74
 Local Match: \$2,368.74
Requested Amount: \$4,399.00
Motion to approve Sanders County SAR Equipment Reimbursement for \$4399.00 with funding authorized by State DES (Hansen). Second (Darby). Passed unanimous.

- Silver Bow County 15-90 SAR
 Equipment: EMT Medic Bags
We ordered 3 bags and pack frames to be utilized as large EMT medic bags while out on searches, training, etc. for our members that have completed their EMT certification.
 Date Purchased: February 17, 2026
 Total Cost: \$788.75
 Local Match: \$276.07
Requested Amount: \$512.68

- Silver Bow 15-90 SAR
 Equipment: Large EMT Packs
Purchased 3 more Large EMT Pack with all of the specialized equipment that goes in them for the rest of our certified EMTs.
 Date Purchased: November 3, 2025
 Total Cost: \$1,770.00
 Local Match: \$619.50
Requested Amount: \$1,150.50

- Silver Bow 15-90 SAR
 Equipment: EMULE Rescue Cart
EMULE rescue cart needed during difficult searches in the mountains to get injured individuals out of the woods. Has the ability to have a backboard put on top of it and provide electrical assistance to rescue crews to maneuver the patient over difficult terrain.
 Date Purchased: April 4, 2026
 Total Cost: \$5,000.00
 Local Match: \$1,750.00
Requested Amount: \$3,250.00
Motion to approve the Silver Bow 15-90 County SAR Equipment Reimbursement for \$512.68, \$1150.50, \$3250.00 (total \$4,913.18) with funding authorized by State DES (Hansen). Second (Darby). Passed unanimous.

With the above mission, training, and equipment reimbursement requests approved at 100%, \$9339.49 remains in the annual appropriation for missions through the end of the state fiscal year. If there are final mission requests, submit the reimbursement ASAP, and voting will be conducted via email.

Open Comment/Public Comment

None

Next Meetings (tentative)

- September 15, 2026 – in **GREAT FALLS**

If there is interest from the subcommittee, the meeting will be held in Great Falls at Malmstrom in conjunction with a training with the 40th HS which will include a capabilities brief, face to face time with pilots and flight engineers, briefing on air to ground comms, standardized hand signals, and a chance to see the helicopter.

Members of the SAR subcommittee expressed interest. Chair Boxmeyer and Nanette will work with Capt. Cannon and Maj. Schneider on the details, logistics, and requirements to get people on the base.

Participants will have to RSVP and complete the required DOD paperwork if you are not retired military and/or do not currently have base access.

RSVP NO LATER THAN August 15. *Nanette will coordinate with Schneider on logistics!*

- January 5, 2027 – Ft. Harrison in Helena
- April 6, 2027 – Ft. Harrison in Helena
- June 8, 2027 – Ft. Harrison in Helena