



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION ADMINISTRATION
FIRST RESPONDER NETWORK AUTHORITY
SPECIAL COMBINED BOARD AND FINANCE AND INVESTMENT COMMITTEE
MEETING TRANSCRIPT
August 18, 2025

Acting Board Chair, Renee Gordon: Good afternoon. I am Acting FirstNet Authority Board Chair Renee Gordon and today I'm convening a Special Virtual Combined Board and Finance and Investment Committee Meeting for a discussion and vote on the FirstNet Authority's proposed Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 budget by the Board's Finance and Investment Committee and the full Board.

I'm pleased to announce that I've asked Sheriff Michael Adkinson to serve as Acting Board Vice Chair to assist me in my current role as Acting Board Chair. Thank you, Sheriff, for agreeing to do this additional responsibility.

I would also like to congratulate Chief Trisha Welford for the recent appointment of the 149th as President of the International Association of Fire Chiefs. We look forward to the great things that you will do in this role.

I would like to ask the Board Secretary to call roll for the Board to confirm that each committee has a quorum. Madam Secretary, please call the roll and then read the conflicts of interest statement.

Jennifer Watts: Thank you, Madam Chair. I will mark you as present.

Jennifer Watts: Michael Adkinson?

Michael Adkinson: Yes, present.

Jennifer Watts: Billy Bob Brown, Jr.?

Billy Bob Brown Jr.: Present.

Jennifer Watts: Mark Calabria

Mark Calabria: Present.

Jennifer Watts: Damon Darsey

Damon Darsey: Present

Jennifer Watts: Alexandra Fernández Navarro?

Alexandra Fernández Navarro: Present.

Jennifer Watts: Erik Gaull?

Erik Gaull: Present.

Jennifer Watts: Sean McDevitt?

Sean McDevitt: Present.

Jennifer Watts: Warren Mickens?

Warren Mickens: Present.

Jennifer Watts: Jocelyn Moore?

Jocelyn Moore: Present.

Jennifer Watts: Jeffrey Norman?

Jeffrey Norman: Present.

Jennifer Watts: Rasheid Scarlett?

Rasheid Scarlett: Present.

Jennifer Watts: Trisha Wolford?

Trisha Wolford: Present.

Jennifer Watts: Madam Chair, we do have a quorum for the Board as well as for all four committees. Now I will read the conflicts statement. Prior to participating in the FirstNet Authority Combined Board and Committees Meeting today, the Board members have reviewed the agenda as well as the conflict-of-interest guidance provided by the Ethics Law and Program Division of the Department of Commerce, Office of General Counsel regarding the conflict-of-interest standards that apply to the Board members. All Board members have responded prior to today's meeting that they do not have a conflict and will not need to recuse themselves from participation in any portion of this meeting. Thank you.

Renee Gordon: Thank you, Madam Secretary. Each member of the Board has before him or her the minutes of the June meeting of the Board. Are there any additions or corrections to those minutes? And hearing none, I will take a motion that we accept these minutes.

Warren Mickens: So moved.

Erik Gaull: This is Erik, moved.

Renee Gordon: I have a first and a second.

Jeffrey Norman: Jeffrey Norman, I that second motion.

Renee Gordon: All right, all in favor?

Jeffrey Norman: Jeffrey Norman, I second the motion.

Renee Gordon: All in favor, say aye.

All: Aye.

Renee Gordon: Opposed, indicate by saying nay. Are there any abstentions? The June meeting minutes are accepted. Madam Secretary, please make the minutes available to the public following this meeting. I'd like to now turn to the Finance and Investment Committee Chair, Sean McDevitt, for an overview of the and vote on Finance and Investment Committee Resolution 38 – Recommendation on Fiscal Year 2026 Budget.

Sean McDevitt: Thank you, Chair Gordon. It's a pleasure to be with everyone today. The FirstNet Authority expects to have \$867,093,529 in available funds for Fiscal Year 2026. These funds reflect a combination of fees from AT&T as part of our network contract, as well as unobligated funds that will roll over to Fiscal Year 2026 from Fiscal Year 2025. The FirstNet Authority again this year completed a zero-based budgeting formulation process to prepare the Fiscal Year 2026 operational budget. The management team performed a comprehensive review of past year's initiatives as well as the Fiscal Year 2026 initiatives that are required to accomplish the goals and objectives of the FirstNet Authority. This thorough review gives us confidence in management's operational funding request.

The FirstNet Authority's investment team also performed extensive research and forecasting to formulate the Fiscal Year 2026 funding request for the Reinvestment in the Network Enhancement Fund. The FirstNet Authority proposes as follows to allocate \$867,093,529 in Fiscal Year 2026 resources into 3 funding categories. First, \$88,091,335 in Operations on an obligation basis, which represents a 12% reduction over current levels. This decrease represents the combination of the FirstNet Authority's compliance with relevant Executive Orders and increasingly disciplined operations and management. The approximately \$88 million continues to reflect the increasing efficiency and financial discipline of the FirstNet Authority and their Board as this budget now decreases to its lowest level of only 10% of available funds. Next \$44,045,668 in an Operational Contingency Reserve, which is set to be equal to 50% of the

Fiscal Year 2026 Operations budget. This continues the prior Board's decision for Fiscal Year 2025 to lower the contingency reserve from its previous level of 100%, as this now balances prudent financial planning and reflects that payments from AT&T are now semiannual. Thirdly, \$734,956,526 in Reinvestment in Network Enhancement Fund on an obligation basis, plus or minus any budgetary sources derived in Fiscal Year 2026, including year-end Fiscal Year 2025 reconciliations.

If we can move to the next slide. Thank you. Before we vote, let me open the floor for any Finance and Investment Committee members who may have any questions about the proposed resolution. Hearing none, we're prepared to vote on the Finance and Investment Committee Resolution 38. Madam Secretary, would you please read the operative language?

Jennifer Watts: Sure thing. Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Finance and Investment Committee hereby recommends that the FirstNet Authority Board approve the FirstNet Authority's Fiscal Year 2026 Budget of \$867,093,529 for the three major funding categories of FirstNet Authority Operations; Operational Contingency Reserve; and Reinvestment in Network Enhancement Fund;

Be it further resolved that the Finance and Investment Committee recommends that the Board approve the Fiscal Year 2026 FirstNet Authority Operations budget of \$88,091,335 on an obligations basis (plus, with advance notice to the Board, up to a 10% management reallocation allowance from the Operational Contingency Reserve in the event of unplanned and extraordinary circumstances); Operational Contingency Reserve allocation of \$44,045,668 (an amount equal to 50% of the FirstNet Authority Operations budget for Fiscal Year 2026); and Reinvestment in Network Enhancement Fund allocation of \$734,956,526. Should the FirstNet Authority receive any additional sources of income in Fiscal Year 2026, including Fiscal Year 2025 reconciliations and fees payment, they will be added to the Reinvestment in Network Enhancement Fund;

Be it further resolved that the Finance and Investment Committee recommends that the Board authorize the FirstNet Authority to enter into the necessary agreements to meet Fiscal Year 2026 strategic objectives;

Be it further resolved that the Finance and Investment Committee recommends that the Board authorize the FirstNet Authority to take all actions necessary to execute existing nationwide public safety broadband network Task Orders;

Be it further resolved that if the FirstNet Authority has a combined total of more or less than \$867,093,529 available funds on an obligations basis in the FirstNet accounts in Fiscal Year 2026, then the amount allocated to the Reinvestment in Network Enhancement Fund will be increased or decreased to reflect the difference; and

Be it further resolved that the Finance and Investment Committee recommends that the Board authorize the FirstNet Authority to reallocate, with advance notice to the Board, up to a 10% management allowance, up to an aggregate of \$8,809,134 from the Operational Contingency Reserve, in the event of unplanned and extraordinary circumstances. This 10% management

allowance may be apportioned commensurate with the \$88,091,335 FirstNet Authority Operations budget for availability at the beginning of Fiscal Year 2026. Back to you.

Sean McDevitt: Thank you. May I have a motion to approve the Finance and Investment Committee Resolution 38 from a Finance and Investment Committee member?

Jocelyn Moore: Mr. Chairman, this is Board member Jocelyn Moore. Thank you for your leadership. I move that we approve this resolution.

Sean McDevitt: Thank you very much. Is there a second?

Rasheid Scarlett: I second the motion. This is Rasheid Scarlett.

Sean McDevitt: Thank you, Rasheid. All Finance and Investment Committee members, all in favor, please say aye.

Mark Calabria, Jocelyn Moore, Rasheid Scarlett: Aye.

Sean McDevitt: Anyone opposed? Please indicate by saying nay. Are there any abstentions? The resolution is hereby adopted. Madam Secretary, please make the resolution available to the public following this meeting. This concludes the Finance and Investment Committee's business for today, and I shall hand the floor back over to you, Chair Gordon. Thank you.

Renee Gordon: Thank you, Sean. To move forward with the proposed Fiscal Year 2026 budget, the Board is now prepared to vote on Resolution 120. The FirstNet Authority proposes to allocate \$867,093,529 in Fiscal Year 2026 resources into 3 funding categories: \$88,091,335 in Operations on an obligation basis; \$44,045,668 in Operational Contingency Reserve, equal to 50% of the FY 2026 Operations budget; \$734,956,526 in Reinvestment in Network Enhancement Fund on an obligation basis. Before we vote, do any Board members have any questions about the proposed resolution? And hearing none, we're prepared to vote on Board Resolution 120. Madam Secretary, would you please read the operative language?

Jennifer Watts: Certainly. Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Board hereby approves a Fiscal Year 2026 Budget of \$867,093,529 for the three major funding categories of FirstNet Authority Operations; Operational Contingency Reserve; and Reinvestment in Network Enhancement Fund;

Be it further resolved that the Board approves allocation of the Fiscal Year 2026 Budget as follows: FirstNet Authority Operations Budget of \$88,091,335 on an obligations basis (plus, with advance notice to the Board, up to a 10% management reallocation allowance from the Operational Contingency Reserve allocation in the event of unplanned and extraordinary circumstances); Operational Contingency Reserve allocation of \$44,045,668 (an amount equal to fifty percent of the Operations budget for Fiscal Year 2026); and Reinvestment in Network Enhancement Fund allocation of \$734,956,526. Should the FirstNet Authority receive any additional sources of income in Fiscal Year 2026, including Fiscal Year 2025 reconciliations and fees payment, they will be added to the Reinvestment in Network Enhancement Fund;

Be it further resolved that the Board authorizes Senior Leadership to enter into the necessary agreements to meet Fiscal Year 2026 strategic objectives consistent with Board Resolutions 78 and 100;

Be it further resolved that the Board authorizes Senior Leadership to take all actions necessary to execute existing nationwide public safety broadband network Task Orders;

Be it further resolved that if the FirstNet Authority has a combined total of more or less than \$867,093,529 available funds on an obligation basis in the FirstNet Authority accounts in Fiscal Year 2026, then senior management will add or deduct the amount more or less than \$867,093,529 from the Reinvestment in Network Enhancement Fund funding category; and

Be it further resolved that the Board authorizes Senior Leadership to reallocate, with advance notice to the Board, up to a 10% management allowance, up to an aggregate of \$8,809,134 from the Operational Contingency Reserve, in the event of unplanned and extraordinary circumstances. This 10% management allowance may be apportioned commensurate with the \$88,091,335 FirstNet Authority Operations budget for availability at the beginning of Fiscal Year 2026. Back to you, Madam Chair.

Renee Gordon: And thank you. May I have a motion to approve Board Resolution 120?

Alexandra Fernández Navarro: This is Board member Fernández Navarro. I move that we approve the resolution.

Renee Gordon: And can I get a second?

Damon Darsey: This is Board member Damon Darsey, I second that motion.

Renee Gordon: Thank you. All in favor say aye.

All: Aye.

Renee Gordon: Opposed indicate by saying nay. Are there any abstentions? The resolution is adopted. Madam Secretary, please make the resolution available to the public following this meeting. Today's resolution is an important step forward to the continued success of the network and advancing our mission for public safety. Now, I'm going to turn it over to Executive Director and CEO Mike Cannon for closing remarks.

Michael Cannon: Thank you, Madam Chair, and thank you to the Board for your careful consideration and approval of this budget. The FirstNet Authority has developed a streamlined budget of \$88 million for our operating expenses in Fiscal Year 26, which is a reduction from our operating budget of \$100 million in FY 2025. This budget demonstrates our commitment to strong financial management and being fiscally responsible with our funds. The FirstNet Authority is streamlining operations where possible without compromising our core mission, which is serving public safety across the country and meeting our statutory requirements. Even

with a leaner operations budget, the FirstNet Authority remains committed to working with public safety across the Nation and delivering the best network for them. The reinvestment budget will enable us to enhance and expand the FirstNet Authority network for the benefit of first responders across the Nation. Thank you again for your careful consideration and approval of this budget.

Renee Gordon: Thank you, Mike. We are now prepared to adjourn this meeting. May I have a motion to adjourn?

Michael Adkinson: Mike Adkinson, Board Member, motion to adjourn.

Renee Gordon: Is there a second?

Damon Darsey: Board Member Damon Darsey – I second.

Renee Gordon: All in favor say aye.

All: Aye.

Renee Gordon: Opposed indicate by saying nay. Are there any abstentions? Thanks to all who have participated in the Special Combined Board and Finance and Investment Committee meeting and to the audience who joined us today. The meeting is now adjourned.