



From: John Summers wbrindependent@gmail.com

Subject: Re: Public Records Request Under Louisiana Revised Statutes 44:1 et seq.

Date: August 20, 2025 at 9:45 AM

To: Deanna Fourroux Deanna.Fourroux@wbrfire.org

Cc: Michelle Tullier Michelle.Tullier@wbr council.org, Jason Manola Jason.Manola@wbr council.org, Carey Denstel Carey.Denstel@wbr council.org, Chance Stephens Chance.Stephens@wbr council.org

Mrs. Fourroux,

Please note a correction to my previous email: Thank you for your August 19, 2025 email regarding payment (not August 1st as I mistakenly wrote).

The substance of my message remains unchanged - I need to consult with my attorney before proceeding with payment given the unresolved legal issues surrounding this public records request.

Respectfully,

John Summers
WBR Independent

On Wed, Aug 20, 2025 at 9:41 AM John Summers <wbrindependent@gmail.com> wrote:

Mrs. Fourroux,

Thank you for your August 1, 2025 email regarding payment for the requested records.

Please disregard my earlier phone message. After reviewing the circumstances surrounding this public records request, including the missed statutory deadlines, legally frivolous response from your counsel, and dramatic reduction in costs from the original "\$1,500+" estimate to \$83, I need to consult with my attorney before proceeding with payment.

There remain unresolved legal issues regarding your agency's compliance with Louisiana Revised Statutes 44:1 et seq., including potential violations of mandatory response deadlines and statutory requirements.

I will be in touch after receiving legal counsel on how to proceed with both the payment and the underlying legal violations.

Respectfully,

John Summers
WBR Independent

On Tue, Aug 19, 2025 at 4:19 PM Deanna Fourroux <Deanna.Fourroux@wbrfire.org> wrote:

Mr. Summers,

The records related to your request are ready for electronic delivery, pending payment of \$83.00. Once your payment has been received and processed, the records will be released to you. Please remit payment to:

West Baton Rouge Parish Council

(Include a note on the check indicating that the payment is for your records request)

P. O. Box 757

Port Allen, La 70767

From: John Summers <wbrindependent@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, July 28, 2025 3:01 PM

To: Michelle Tullier <Michelle.Tullier@wbr council.org>; Jason Manola

<Jason.Manola@wbr council.org>; Deanna Fourroux <Deanna.Fourroux@wbrfire.org>;

Carey Denstel <Carey.Denstel@wbr council.org>; Chance Stephens
<Chance.Stephens@wbr council.org>

Subject: RE: Public Records Request Under Louisiana Revised Statutes 44:1 et seq.

Dear Records Custodian:

Pursuant to the Louisiana Public Records Act (R.S. 44:1 et seq.), I respectfully request access to the following public records related to the West Baton Rouge Parish Fire Protection District No. 1 Emergency Medical Services operations:

REQUESTED RECORDS:

1. Financial Documentation (January 2024 - Present):

- Detailed revenue reports showing actual collections per EMS call/transport
- Accounts receivable aging reports for EMS billing
- Insurance reimbursement records by payor type
- Write-off and adjustment reports for uncollectable EMS accounts
- Monthly financial statements for EMS operations
- Cost accounting reports showing per-call operational expenses

2. Budget and Planning Documents:

- Original business plan or feasibility study for EMS service implementation
- Budget projections vs. actual performance reports
- Grant funding documentation including terms, conditions, and expiration dates
- Any independent financial analysis commissioned regarding EMS sustainability

3. Operational Reports:

- Monthly transport statistics and response time data
- Staffing cost analysis for EMS personnel
- Equipment and vehicle operational cost reports
- Service area analysis and demographic studies

4. Contracts and Agreements:

- All contracts with billing companies for EMS revenue collection
- Insurance participation agreements and reimbursement schedules
- Mutual aid agreements affecting EMS operations
- Any consulting agreements related to EMS financial analysis

BACKGROUND:

This request follows public statements by Fire Superintendent H. "Butch" Browning at the April 24, 2025 Fire Board meeting claiming EMS revenue of "about \$650 per call" and assertions that the service is "tracking where we thought we need to be" financially. Given the significant public investment in EMS operations and ongoing personnel commitments, taxpayers deserve access to documentation supporting these financial claims.

REQUEST FOR EXPEDITED PROCESSING:

Given the public interest in ongoing budget discussions and the Fire Board's next quarterly meeting scheduled for July 24, 2025, I respectfully request expedited processing of this request.

PREFERRED FORMAT:

Electronic copies in PDF format are preferred and may be sent to wbrindependent@gmail.com. If electronic copies are not available, I will arrange to inspect and copy physical records at your convenience.

FEE ACKNOWLEDGMENT:

I understand that reasonable fees may be charged for copying costs. Please provide a fee estimate if charges will exceed \$25.00.

STATUTORY TIMELINE:

Louisiana R.S. 44:32 requires public bodies to respond to records requests within three business days. If any requested records are not immediately available, please provide written notice of the timeline for production as required by law.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

John O. Summers
Editor, WBR Independent
815 Avenue G
Port Allen, LA 70767
Phone: (225) 274-6625
Email: wbrindependent@gmail.com

If you have any questions regarding this request or need clarification on any items, please contact me immediately. I look forward to your prompt response in accordance with Louisiana public records law.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

John O. Summers
Editor
WBR Independent

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INGRAM LAW FIRM
200 GAUSE BOULEVARD, SUITE 200
SLIDELL, LOUISIANA 70458

TROY G. INGRAM

tgi@troyingram.com

TELEPHONE (985) 646-0765

FACSIMILE (985) 645-3981

July 30, 2025

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL (wbrindependent@gmail.com)

Mr. John O. Summers
Editor, WBR Independent
815 Avenue G
Port Allen, LA 70767

Re: Public Information Requests dated July 28, 2025.

Dear Mr. Summers:

This will acknowledge receipt of two public records requests, each of which was sent to West Baton Rouge Fire Protection District No. 1 on July 28, 2025.

It appears that all documents which you have requested are included in the first public records request (PRR); however, you indicated in the second PRR that it is a supplement to the first PRR. Out of an abundance of caution, I understand that the documents you seek are as follows:

1. Financial Documentation (January 2024 - Present):

- Detailed revenue reports showing actual collections per EMS call/transport
- Accounts receivable aging reports for EMS billing
- Insurance reimbursement records by payor type
- Write-off and adjustment reports for uncollectable EMS accounts
- Monthly financial statements for EMS operations
- Cost accounting reports showing per-call operational expenses

2. Budget and Planning Documents:

- Original business plan or feasibility study for EMS service implementation
- Budget projections vs. actual performance reports
- Grant funding documentation including terms, conditions, and expiration dates
- Any independent financial analysis commissioned regarding EMS sustainability

Exhibit 2

3. Operational Reports:

- Monthly transport statistics and response time data
- Staffing cost analysis for EMS personnel
- Equipment and vehicle operational cost reports
- Service area analysis and demographic studies

4. Contracts and Agreements:

- All contracts with billing companies for EMS revenue collection
- Insurance participation agreements and reimbursement schedules
- Mutual aid agreements affecting EMS operations
- Any consulting agreements related to EMS financial analysis

Be advised that the Fire District is not obligated to produce the requested documents in the format which you have requested. Rather, it must only produce the documents in the format as they are generated, received, and kept in the normal course of its operations.

It is my understanding that there are hundreds, perhaps thousands, of documents which may be responsive to your PRRs. Before production of any documents may occur, each must be reviewed individually, completely and carefully to determine whether it contains confidential medical information that is exempt from disclosure. *See, Hill v. East Baton Rouge Parish Dept. of Emergency Medical Services*, 2005-1236 (La. App. 1 Cir. 12/22/05), 925 So.2d 17, 23.

The Fire District will produce any and all documents which are not subject to any properly asserted privilege, exception or exemption afforded by law, in accordance with LSA R.S. §44:3(A)(1) - (8), 3(B). *See also* LSA. R.S. §44:4.1. Such exceptions and exemptions may include documents which are privileged by the attorney-client relationship, documents which are produced in preparation for, or in anticipation of, litigation and documents that are subject to the work product doctrine.

Personnel files of public safety officers are typically exempt from production under the provisions of LSA R.S. 44:3, *et seq.* as are internal investigations of employees. *See e.g.*, LSA R.S. 40:2432 (which requires that internal affairs records be presented to a court of competent jurisdiction for in camera inspection to determine whether they must be disclosed). Finally, LSA R.S. 44:3(a)(1) exempts from disclosure the following:

“Records containing security procedures, investigative training information or aids, investigative techniques, investigative technical equipment or instructions on the use thereof, criminal intelligence information pertaining to terrorist-related activity, or threat or vulnerability assessments collected or obtained in the prevention of terrorist-related activity, including but not limited to physical security information, proprietary information, operational plans, and the analysis of such information, or internal security information.”

In order to properly respond to your requests, the Fire District will be required to assimilate hundreds of documents, followed by a thorough review to ensure that any protected, privileged or exempt information is redacted prior to their release. Suffice it to say that this will be a Herculean undertaking, given the Fire District's current staffing.

The Fire District cannot attempt this undertaking during its normal business hours, as it will overwhelm the District's staff and may disrupt and interfere with District operations. Such disruption may endanger public safety.

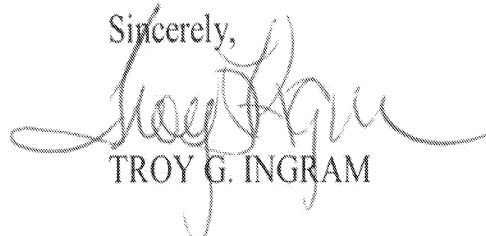
Accordingly, any response to your request will have to be done after hours by designated representatives of the District, who must be compensated for such overtime work. Because of the broad scope of the documents which you have requested, the Fire District will make an assessment of the costs associated with gathering and examining the documents to ascertain whether any are privileged or exempt from production as outlined above. At this time, the Fire District is unable to provide a realistic estimate as to the costs associated with production of these documents; however, it could well exceed \$1,500.

Pursuant to La. R.S. 44:32(A), the Fire District will require an advance deposit before any production will commence. *See* La. Atty. Gen. Op. No. 81-615 (6/15/81); La. Atty. Gen. Op. No. 96-303 (07/03/96); La. Atty. Gen. Op. No. 02-0391 (01/03/03); *see also, Carter v. City of Shreveport*, 51,589 at pp. 11-12 (La. App. 2 Cir. 9/27/17), ___ So.3d _____. In accordance with Title IV, §301 of the Louisiana Administrative Code, the Fire District will charge \$0.25 per page for document copies and will also require reimbursement for the cost of any materials associated with copying any recordings.

Suffice it to say that the Fire District anticipates that it will take longer than three (3) business days to identify those documents which may be responsive to your request, and to determine the administrative costs and fees associated with this public records request.

The Fire District conservatively estimates that it may take as long as thirty days to locate and to assess the number of documents that are responsive to your request, and to provide an estimate of the costs for producing these records, which must be pre-paid.

Sincerely,



TROY G. INGRAM

cc: Mr. Jason Manola
West Baton Rouge Parish President

H. Butch Browning, Fire Chief
West Baton Rouge Fire Protection District No. 1



Public Records Request - January 24, 2026 Structure Fire, Maple Street, Erwinville

22 messages

John Summers <wbrindependent@gmail.com>

Mon, Jan 26, 2026 at 12:19 PM

To: butch@browning.red <butch@browning.red>

Cc: Jason Manola <jason.manola@wbr council.org>, Deanna Fourroux <Deanna.Fourroux@wbrfire.org>

Bcc: anthony.j.summers@gmail.com, Lobdell.chief@yahoo.com

This is a formal request pursuant to the Louisiana Public Records Act (La. R.S. 44:1 et seq.).

I am requesting the following records related to the structure fire at the 12000 block of Maple Street, Erwinville, on January 24, 2026:

1. GPS logs and/or AVL (Automatic Vehicle Location) data for all responding units
2. Incident report / fire report
3. Personnel roster showing which firefighters/units responded to this incident
4. Duty roster showing all firefighters on shift at the time of the call (5:17 a.m.)
5. Station staffing levels for all WBR Fire stations at the time of the call
6. Total number of firefighters (paid and volunteer) on duty parish-wide at time of dispatch

Please provide these records electronically to wbrindependent@gmail.com within three business days as required by law.

If any portion of this request is denied, please cite the specific statutory exemption justifying the denial and provide all non-exempt portions. Be advised that I am prepared to exhaust all legal remedies available under La. R.S. 44:35 to ensure compliance.

John Summers Editor, WBR Independent

Deanna Fourroux <Deanna.Fourroux@wbrfire.org>

Tue, Jan 27, 2026 at 12:41 PM

To: John Summers <wbrindependent@gmail.com>, butch@browning.red <butch@browning.red>

Cc: Jason Manola <Jason.Manola@wbr council.org>

John,

We have received the records request referenced below. Please complete your request using the following link provided by the Parish: <https://url.usb.m.mimecastprotect.com/s/BaKICQArPAizm4NCxfVHGafm0?domain=wbrparish.org>

We will begin working on it. Please note that some of the requested records may be considered working documents, as certain matters remain under investigation.

Deanna Fourroux

Chief of Administration

West Baton Rouge Parish Fire District 1

Office: 225-215-5302

Exhibit 3

Fax: 225-490-0049

deanna.fourroux@wbrCouncil.org

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Disclaimer

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John Summers <wbrindependent@gmail.com>

Tue, Jan 27, 2026 at 12:46 PM

To: Deanna Fourroux <Deanna.Fourroux@wbrfire.org>

Dear Ms. Fourroux:

Thank you for your response. I must address two issues.

Form Requirement

I decline to complete the parish form. No provision of R.S. 44:1 et seq. requires requesters to use agency-created forms. My written request of January 26 satisfies statutory requirements, and the three-day response period under R.S. 44:32(D) is running.

Claimed Exemption

Your reference to "working documents" and matters "under investigation" does not satisfy Louisiana law. If you intend to withhold any records, please identify: (1) which specific records are exempt, (2) the specific statutory exemption that applies to each, and (3) the nature and authority of the referenced investigation.

GPS logs, incident reports, duty rosters, and staffing data are operational records documenting what occurred—not deliberative materials. Please produce all responsive records or provide specific statutory justification for any withholding.

The statutory deadline applies to my original request as submitted.

Respectfully,

John Summers Editor, WBR Independent

[Quoted text hidden]

John Summers <wbrindependent@gmail.com>

Tue, Jan 27, 2026 at 12:47 PM

To: Deanna Fourroux <Deanna.Fourroux@wbrfire.org>, anthony.j.summers@gmail.com

Cc: butch@browning.red <butch@browning.red>, Jason Manola <Jason.Manola@wbrCouncil.org>

Dear Ms. Fourroux:

Thank you for your response. I must address two issues.

Form Requirement

I decline to complete the parish form. No provision of R.S. 44:1 et seq. requires requesters to use agency-created forms. My written request of January 26 satisfies statutory requirements, and the three-day response period under R.S. 44:32(D) is running.

Claimed Exemption

Your reference to "working documents" and matters "under investigation" does not satisfy Louisiana law. If you intend to withhold any records, please identify: (1) which specific records are exempt, (2) the specific statutory exemption that applies to each, and (3) the nature and authority of the referenced investigation.

GPS logs, incident reports, duty rosters, and staffing data are operational records documenting what occurred—not deliberative materials. Please produce all responsive records or provide specific statutory justification for any withholding.

The statutory deadline applies to my original request as submitted.

Respectfully,

John Summers Editor, WBR Independent

On Tue, Jan 27, 2026 at 12:41 PM Deanna Fourroux <Deanna.Fourroux@wbrfire.org> wrote:

[Quoted text hidden]

Deanna Fourroux <Deanna.Fourroux@wbrfire.org>

Thu, Jan 29, 2026 at 11:14 AM

To: John Summers <wbrindependent@gmail.com>

Cc: butch@browning.red <butch@browning.red>, Jason Manola <Jason.Manola@wbr council.org>, Chance Stephens <Chance.Stephens@wbr council.org>, Troy Ingram <tgi@troyingram.com>

John,

Please see attached response to your request.

[Quoted text hidden]

[Quoted text hidden]

 **PRR Response_Summers.pdf**
631 KB

John Summers <wbrindependent@gmail.com>

Thu, Jan 29, 2026 at 11:26 AM

To: Deanna Fourroux <Deanna.Fourroux@wbrfire.org>

Cc: butch@browning.red <butch@browning.red>, Jason Manola <Jason.Manola@wbr council.org>, Chance Stephens <Chance.Stephens@wbr council.org>, Troy Ingram <tgi@troyingram.com>

Ms. Fourroux:

Thank you for your January 29 response. I will remit \$46.50 for items 1, 3, 4, 5, and 6. Please advise whether you accept credit card payment.

Regarding the alleged \$83 "outstanding balance": There is no outstanding balance. I declined to proceed with that request and never received records. Payment is required upon receipt of records, not upon filing a request. This is not a debt requiring a "waiver"—please correct your records.

Regarding item 2 (incident report): I do not accept this withholding. The fire department's incident report is an operational record created by your personnel documenting your agency's emergency response. It is not part of the State Fire Marshal's investigation into fire origin and cause.

The State Fire Marshal investigating a fire does not convert your agency's pre-existing operational records into exempt investigative materials. The incident report existed before any investigation began and documents response times, actions taken, and resources deployed—not fire causation.

Please cite the specific statutory exemption under R.S. 44:3 or elsewhere in R.S. 44:1 et seq. that you claim applies to this record. "Ongoing investigation" by a separate agency is not a statutory exemption. If no valid exemption applies, produce the record immediately. If portions are legitimately exempt, segregate and produce all non-exempt portions as required by law.

John Summers Editor,
WBR Independent
225-274-6625
wbrindependent@gmail.com wbrindependent.com
[Quoted text hidden]

Chance Stephens <Chance.Stephens@wbrCouncil.org> Thu, Jan 29, 2026 at 12:41 PM
To: John Summers <wbrindependent@gmail.com>, Deanna Fourroux <Deanna.Fourroux@wbrfire.org>
Cc: butch@browning.red <butch@browning.red>, Jason Manola <Jason.Manola@wbrCouncil.org>, Troy Ingram <tgi@troyingram.com>

John,

In regards to the payment of the \$46.50, the administration office does not accept credit card payments. We accept check, money order or cash.

Thank you,

Chance Stephens

Director of Finance

Administration

Chance.Stephens@wbrCouncil.org

Office: (225) 383-4755 **Fax:** (225) 387-0218

Direct: (225) 490-8553

880 N. Alexander Ave, PO Box 757, Port Allen, LA, 70767

Municode // Follow us on Facebook

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24 KB

John Summers <wbrindependent@gmail.com>

Thu, Jan 29, 2026 at 12:48 PM

To: Chance Stephens <Chance.Stephens@wbrCouncil.org>

Cc: Deanna Fourroux <Deanna.Fourroux@wbrfire.org>, butch@browning.red <butch@browning.red>, Jason Manola <Jason.Manola@wbrCouncil.org>, Troy Ingram <tgi@troyingram.com>

Thank you. I will come by today with cash.

Please confirm records will be delivered electronically as requested, and that the other matters raised in my email—the \$83 balance correction and the withholding of item 2—will be addressed separately.

John Summers Editor,

WBR Independent

225-274-6625

wbrindependent@gmail.com wbrindependent.com

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 **image002.jpg**
8 KB

Chance Stephens <Chance.Stephens@wbrCouncil.org>

Thu, Jan 29, 2026 at 2:02 PM

To: John Summers <wbrindependent@gmail.com>

Cc: Deanna Fourroux <Deanna.Fourroux@wbrfire.org>, butch@browning.red <butch@browning.red>, Jason Manola <Jason.Manola@wbrCouncil.org>, Troy Ingram <tgi@troyingram.com>

All,

Mr. Summers has paid the \$46.50. Please release the files electronically as requested.

Thanks,

[Quoted text hidden]

[Quoted text hidden]

 **image002.png**
24 KB

Deanna Fourroux <Deanna.Fourroux@wbrfire.org>

Thu, Jan 29, 2026 at 3:28 PM

To: John Summers <wbrindependent@gmail.com>, Chance Stephens <Chance.Stephens@wbrCouncil.org>

Cc: butch@browning.red <butch@browning.red>, Jason Manola <Jason.Manola@wbrCouncil.org>

I'm using Mimecast to share large files with you. Please see the attached instructions.

John,

See attached.

[Quoted text hidden]

[Quoted text hidden]

----- Forwarded message -----

From: deanna.fourroux@wbrfire.org

To: wbrindependent@gmail.com

Cc:

Bcc:

Date: Thu, 29 Jan 2026 13:27:52 -0800

Subject: You've been sent large files

 Logo

You've been sent large files

Deanna Fourroux sent you large files. Download them before Thu, 12 Feb 2026 21:59 -0800.

Files

01_23_2026_Summers.pdf (16.7 MB)

image001.png (207 Bytes)

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 **image001.png**
24 KB

John Summers <wbrindependent@gmail.com>

Thu, Jan 29, 2026 at 4:15 PM

To: Deanna Fourroux <Deanna.Fourroux@wbrfire.org>

Cc: Chance Stephens <Chance.Stephens@wbrCouncil.org>, butch@browning.red <butch@browning.red>, Jason Manola <Jason.Manola@wbrCouncil.org>, Troy Ingram <tgi@troyingram.com>

Ms. Fourroux:

Thank you for delivering the files. I have received items 1, 3, 4, 5, and 6.

My January 29 email raised two matters that remain unaddressed:

1. **Item 2 (incident report):** Please cite the specific statutory exemption under R.S. 44:3 or elsewhere in R.S. 44:1 et seq. that you claim applies to this record. The fire department's incident report is an operational record documenting your agency's response—it is not part of the State Fire Marshal's investigation into fire origin and cause.

2. **\$83 balance correction:** There is no outstanding balance. I declined to proceed with that request and never received records. Please confirm this has been corrected.

John Summers Editor, WBR Independent

[Quoted text hidden]

John Summers <wbrindependent@gmail.com> Thu, Jan 29, 2026 at 4:17 PM
To: Deanna Fourroux <Deanna.Fourroux@wbrfire.org>
Cc: Chance Stephens <Chance.Stephens@wbr council.org>, butch@browning.red <butch@browning.red>, Jason Manola <Jason.Manola@wbr council.org>, Troy Ingram <tgi@troyingram.com>

Ms. Fourroux:

One additional item: I do not see item 1 (GPS logs and/or AVL data for responding units) in the materials provided. Your January 29 letter stated this item was complete. Please provide this data.

John Summers Editor, WBR Independent

[Quoted text hidden]

Chance Stephens <Chance.Stephens@wbr council.org> Thu, Jan 29, 2026 at 4:30 PM
To: John Summers <wbrindependent@gmail.com>, Deanna Fourroux <Deanna.Fourroux@wbrfire.org>
Cc: butch@browning.red <butch@browning.red>, Jason Manola <Jason.Manola@wbr council.org>, Troy Ingram <tgi@troyingram.com>

John,

Please see the last email correspondence I received from you in regards to the records request associated with the \$83.00 from August of 2025. The matter was left as seeking legal advice, will be in touch.

With that said the matter is resolved as the balance has been waived anyway whether you agree a balance should exist or not.

Hope this clears that up.

[Quoted text hidden]

[Quoted text hidden]

[Quoted text hidden]

Cc: Michelle Tullier <Michelle.Tullier@wbr council.org>, Jason Manola <Jason.Manola@wbr council.org>, Carey Denstel <Carey.Denstel@wbr council.org>, Chance Stephens <Chance.Stephens@wbr council.org>

Bcc:

Date: Wed, 20 Aug 2025 14:45:03 +0000

Subject: Re: Public Records Request Under Louisiana Revised Statutes 44:1 et seq.

2 attachments

 **image002.png**
24 KB

 **Re: Public Records Request Under Louisiana Revised Statutes 44:1 et seq..eml**
59 KB

Deanna Fourroux <Deanna.Fourroux@wbrfire.org>

Thu, Jan 29, 2026 at 4:33 PM

To: John Summers <wbrindependent@gmail.com>

Cc: Chance Stephens <Chance.Stephens@wbr council.org>, butch@browning.red <butch@browning.red>, Jason Manola <Jason.Manola@wbr council.org>, Troy Ingram <tgi@troyingram.com>

John,

In response to your records request for Item 2 (incident report), please note that the report is currently incomplete. We are working diligently with other investigative agencies to finalize the report in accordance with applicable law. Once completed, the report will be made available. We anticipate it may be available as early as next week, or sooner if possible.

[Quoted text hidden]

[Quoted text hidden]

John Summers <wbrindependent@gmail.com>

Thu, Jan 29, 2026 at 4:38 PM

To: Deanna Fourroux <Deanna.Fourroux@wbrfire.org>

Cc: Chance Stephens <Chance.Stephens@wbr council.org>, butch@browning.red <butch@browning.red>, Jason Manola <Jason.Manola@wbr council.org>, Troy Ingram <tgi@troyingram.com>

Ms. Fourroux:

Thank you for the update on item 2. Please note your January 29 letter stated the incident report was withheld due to the State Fire Marshal's investigation—now you indicate it is incomplete. These are different issues. Please provide the completed portions of the report, including response times, units dispatched, and actions taken. Any investigative conclusions can follow separately.

I still have not received a response regarding item 1 (GPS/AVL data). Your letter stated this item was complete, but it was not included in the files delivered. Please advise.

Mr. Stephens, thank you for clarifying the \$83 matter and pulling that email. I appreciate you resolving it.

John Summers Editor, WBR Independent

[Quoted text hidden]

Deanna Fourroux <Deanna.Fourroux@wbrfire.org>

Thu, Jan 29, 2026 at 4:39 PM

To: John Summers <wbrindependent@gmail.com>

Cc: Chance Stephens <Chance.Stephens@wbr council.org>, butch@browning.red <butch@browning.red>, Jason Manola <Jason.Manola@wbr council.org>, Troy Ingram <tgi@troyingram.com>

John,

Pages 2–68 were provided in response to your request and contain the detailed AVL GPS information available in our tracking system.

[Quoted text hidden]

[Quoted text hidden]

John Summers <wbrindependent@gmail.com>

Thu, Jan 29, 2026 at 4:49 PM

To: Deanna Fourroux <Deanna.Fourroux@wbrfire.org>

Cc: Chance Stephens <Chance.Stephens@wbr council.org>, butch@browning.red <butch@browning.red>, Jason Manola <Jason.Manola@wbr council.org>, Troy Ingram <tgi@troyingram.com>

Ms. Fourroux:

My apologies—the file did not download correctly on my end. I have the AVL data now. Thank you.

Please provide the incident report when it becomes available.

John Summers Editor, WBR Independent

[Quoted text hidden]

Deanna Fourroux <Deanna.Fourroux@wbrfire.org>

Thu, Jan 29, 2026 at 5:09 PM

To: John Summers <wbrindependent@gmail.com>

Cc: Chance Stephens <Chance.Stephens@wbrCouncil.org>, butch@browning.red <butch@browning.red>, Jason Manola <Jason.Manola@wbrCouncil.org>, Troy Ingram <tgi@troyingram.com>

John,

You're welcome. Please see the sited statement below from the January 29th letter stating that item 2 is incomplete. We will provide that report upon completion. However, we anticipate the timeline stated below may be shorter.

"We have completed your records request for items 1, 3, 4, 5, and 6. Due to an ongoing investigation by the Louisiana State Fire Marshall's office, item 2 is incomplete. Once the investigation is complete, item 2 will be produced at that time (estimated completed of 1-2 weeks)".

[Quoted text hidden]

[Quoted text hidden]

Chance Stephens <Chance.Stephens@wbrCouncil.org>

Mon, Feb 2, 2026 at 10:32 AM

To: John Summers <wbrindependent@gmail.com>, Deanna Fourroux <Deanna.Fourroux@wbrfire.org>

Cc: butch@browning.red <butch@browning.red>, Jason Manola <Jason.Manola@wbrCouncil.org>, Troy Ingram <tgi@troyingram.com>

John,

The fire incident report is complete and ready for delivery. The report is 14 pages so the additional charge will be \$7.00 (charged at \$0.50 as if it were included in the first batch of pages).

Once payment is received documents will be sent electronically.

[Quoted text hidden]

[Quoted text hidden]

 **image001.png**
24 KB

John Summers <wbrindependent@gmail.com>

Mon, Feb 2, 2026 at 10:35 AM




To: Chance Stephens <Chance.Stephens@wbrCouncil.org>

Cc: Deanna Fourroux <Deanna.Fourroux@wbrfire.org>, butch@browning.red <butch@browning.red>, Jason Manola <Jason.Manola@wbrCouncil.org>, Troy Ingram <tgi@troyingram.com>

Will do today.

John Summers Editor,
WBR Independent
225-274-6625
wbrindependent@gmail.com wbrindependent.com
[Quoted text hidden]

3 attachments

-  **image002.jpg**
8 KB
 -  **image003.jpg**
428 B
 -  **image004.jpg**
359 B
-

Mon, Feb 2, 2026 at 1:24 PM

Chance Stephens <Chance.Stephens@wbrCouncil.org>

To: John Summers <wbrindependent@gmail.com>

Cc: Deanna Fourroux <Deanna.Fourroux@wbrfire.org>, butch@browning.red <butch@browning.red>, Jason Manola <Jason.Manola@wbrCouncil.org>, Troy Ingram <tgi@troyingram.com>

All,

I am in receipt of payment for Mr. Summers's \$7.00 charge.

John please see attached fire incident report.

[Quoted text hidden]
[Quoted text hidden]

[Quoted text hidden]
[Quoted text hidden]

[Quoted text hidden]
[Quoted text hidden]

[Quoted text hidden]
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Error! Filename not specified.

[Quoted text hidden]
[Quoted text hidden]

[Quoted text hidden]
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[Quoted text hidden]

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[Quoted text hidden]

2 attachments

-  **image001.png**
24 KB

 **WBRFD Incident Report.pdf**
3.7 MB

Mon, Feb 2, 2026 at 1:47 PM

John Summers <wbrindependent@gmail.com>

To: Chance Stephens <Chance.Stephens@wbrCouncil.org>

Cc: Deanna Fourroux <Deanna.Fourroux@wbrfire.org>, butch@browning.red <butch@browning.red>, Jason Manola <Jason.Manola@wbrCouncil.org>, Troy Ingram <tgi@troyingram.com>

Received, thank you.

[Quoted text hidden]



March 9th, 2026 Records Request

13 messages

Chance Stephens <Chance.Stephens@wbrCouncil.org>

Thu, Mar 12, 2026 at 2:03 PM

To: John Summers <wbrindependent@gmail.com>

Cc: Chief Butch Browning <butch@browning.red>, Deanna Fourroux <Deanna.Fourroux@wbrfire.org>

John,

In regards to your records request made to the WBR Fire Department on March 9th, 2026 with the below items requested:

“To Whom It May Concern:

Pursuant to the Louisiana Public Records Act (La. R.S. 44:1 et seq.), I am requesting copies of the following records related to the wood pellet warehouse fire in Port Allen on March 7, 2026:

1. GPS logs and/or AVL (Automatic Vehicle Location) data for all responding units
2. Incident report / fire report
3. Personnel roster showing which firefighters/units responded to this incident
4. Duty roster showing all firefighters on shift at the time of dispatch
5. Station staffing levels for all WBR Fire stations at the time of dispatch
6. Total number of firefighters (paid and volunteer) on duty parish-wide at time of dispatch
7. Mutual aid requests, if any – including requesting agency, responding agency, and times

Please provide these records electronically to wbrindependent@gmail.com.

If any portion of this request is denied, please cite the specific statutory exemption and provide the portions that are not exempt.

Thank you,

John Summers

Editor, WBR Independent

WBRIndependent.com”

Exhibit 4

The AVL and staffing records are ready. The total page count is 218. Your charge will be **\$121.50** per our fee schedule. Once payment is received records will be released.

Once the fire report is complete you will receive a follow up email informing you. Estimated completion date is Tuesday March 17th, 2026.

Please remit payment to:

West Baton Rouge Parish Council

Attn: Records Request

PO Box 757

Port Allen, LA 70767

Payment may also be dropped off in person at:

880 N Alexander Ave

Port Allen, LA 70767

Documents can be picked up or sent electronically, your preference.

Thanks,

Chance Stephens

Director of Finance

Administration

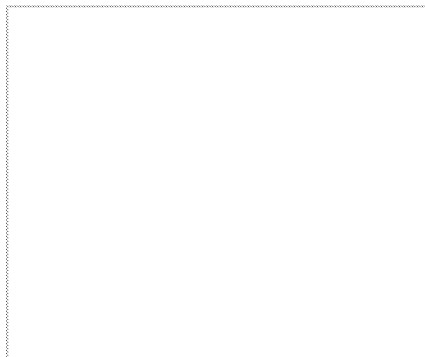
Chance.Stephens@wbrCouncil.org

Office: (225) 383-4755 Fax: (225) 387-0218

Direct: (225) 490-8553

880 N. Alexander Ave, PO Box 757, Port Allen, LA, 70767

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2 attachments

 **image001.png**
24 KB

 **image003.jpg**
8 KB

John Summers <wbrindependent@gmail.com>

Fri, Mar 20, 2026 at 10:39 AM

To: Chance Stephens <Chance.Stephens@wbr council.org>

Cc: Deanna Fourroux <Deanna.Fourroux@wbrfire.org>, Hillary Browning <butch@browning.red>

Mr. Stephens,

I stopped by this morning and remitted payment of \$4.00 for the fire report.

I want to be clear that this payment applies only to the fire report and does not reflect any change in my position regarding the \$121.50 fee assessed against the AVL and staffing records. That dispute remains open and my prior correspondence on that matter stands.

Thank you,

John Summers Editor,

WBR Independent

225-274-6625

wbrindependent@gmail.com wbrindependent.com

Chance Stephens <Chance.Stephens@wbr council.org>

Fri, Mar 20, 2026 at 11:34 AM

To: John Summers <wbrindependent@gmail.com>

Cc: Deanna Fourroux <Deanna.Fourroux@wbrfire.org>, Hillary Browning <butch@browning.red>

From: John Summers <wbrindependent@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, March 20, 2026 10:39 AM

To: Chance Stephens <Chance.Stephens@wbr council.org>

Cc: Deanna Fourroux <Deanna.Fourroux@wbrfire.org>; Hillary Browning <butch@browning.red>

Subject: RE: March 9th, 2026 Records Request

Mr. Stephens,

I stopped by this morning and remitted payment of \$4.00 for the fire report.

I want to be clear that this payment applies only to the fire report and does not reflect any change in my position regarding the \$121.50 fee assessed against the AVL and staffing records. That dispute remains open and my prior correspondence on that matter stands.

Thank you,

John Summers Editor,
WBR Independent
225-274-6625
wbrindependent@gmail.com wbrindependent.com

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 **Incident-260308-225147-WBRFD.pdf**
224 KB

John Summers <wbrindependent@gmail.com>
Draft

Mon, Mar 23, 2026 at 1:41 PM

John Summers
Editor, WBR Independent
WBRIndependent.com

Forwarded Conversation

Subject: March 9th, 2026 Records Request

From: **Chance Stephens** <Chance.Stephens@wbrCouncil.org>
Date: Thu, Mar 12, 2026 at 2:03 PM
To: John Summers <wbrindependent@gmail.com>
Cc: Chief Butch Browning <butch@browning.red>, Deanna Fourroux <Deanna.Fourroux@wbrfire.org>

John,

In regards to your records request made to the WBR Fire Department on March 9th, 2026 with the below items requested:

“To Whom It May Concern:

Pursuant to the Louisiana Public Records Act (La. R.S. 44:1 et seq.), I am requesting copies of the following records related to the wood pellet warehouse fire in Port Allen on March 7, 2026:

1. GPS logs and/or AVL (Automatic Vehicle Location) data for all responding units
2. Incident report / fire report
3. Personnel roster showing which firefighters/units responded to this incident
4. Duty roster showing all firefighters on shift at the time of dispatch

5. Station staffing levels for all WBR Fire stations at the time of dispatch
6. Total number of firefighters (paid and volunteer) on duty parish-wide at time of dispatch
7. Mutual aid requests, if any – including requesting agency, responding agency, and times

Please provide these records electronically to wbrindependent@gmail.com.

If any portion of this request is denied, please cite the specific statutory exemption and provide the portions that are not exempt.

Thank you,

John Summers

Editor, WBR Independent

WBRIndependent.com”

The AVL and staffing records are ready. The total page count is 218. Your charge will be **\$121.50** per our fee schedule. Once payment is received records will be released.

Once the fire report is complete you will receive a follow up email informing you. Estimated completion date is Tuesday March 17th, 2026.

Please remit payment to:

West Baton Rouge Parish Council

Attn: Records Request

PO Box 757

Port Allen, LA 70767

Payment may also be dropped off in person at:

880 N Alexander Ave

Port Allen, LA 70767

Documents can be picked up or sent electronically, your preference.

Thanks,

Chance Stephens

Director of Finance

Administration

Chance.Stephens@wbrCouncil.org

Office: (225) 383-4755 **Fax:** (225) 387-0218

Direct: (225) 490-8553

880 N. Alexander Ave, PO Box 757, Port Allen, LA, 70767

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From: John Summers <wbrindependent@gmail.com>

Date: Thu, Mar 12, 2026 at 2:31 PM

To: Chance Stephens <Chance.Stephens@wbr council.org>

Cc: Chief Butch Browning <butch@browning.red>, Deanna Fourroux <Deanna.Fourroux@wbrfire.org>

Mr. Stephens,

Thank you for your response. My original request specifically asked that records be provided electronically. The records at issue – AVL logs and staffing rosters – are digital records that already exist in electronic format.

Under La. R.S. 44:32(C)(1)(a), fees for the transmission of electronic copies of public records must be included in the agency's posted fee schedule. The parish's published fee schedule contains no line item for the electronic transmission of digital documents. Applying a paper per-page reproduction rate to electronically delivered digital files for which there is no printing or physical copying cost is inconsistent with the requirement that fees be reasonable.

The Louisiana Supreme Court held in *Shane v. Parish of Jefferson*, 209 So. 3d 726 (La. 2015), that public records fees must be based on actual costs and cannot be so burdensome as to effectively deny access. The Third Circuit further held in *Johnson v. City of Pineville*, 9 So.3d 313 (La. App. 3 Cir. 2009), that agencies cannot restrict electronic reproduction of records where no law limits digital format delivery and the cost to the agency is minimal.

Before remitting payment, I am asking you to identify the specific line item on the parish's posted fee schedule that applies to the electronic transmission of these digital records, and explain the basis for applying a paper per-page rate to electronically delivered files.

Additionally, under La. R.S. 44:32(C)(3), no fee shall be charged to inspect or review public records. I hereby reserve the right to inspect these records in person and make my own copies, at no charge, should the fee dispute not be resolved to my satisfaction.

Thank you,

John Summers Editor,
WBR Independent
225-274-6625
wbrindependent@gmail.com wbrindependent.com

From: John Summers <wbrindependent@gmail.com>
Date: Thu, Mar 12, 2026 at 3:23 PM
To: Chance Stephens <Chance.Stephens@wbrCouncil.org>
Cc: Chief Butch Browning <butch@browning.red>, Deanna Fourroux <Deanna.Fourroux@wbrfire.org>

Mr. Stephens,

I write to supplement my earlier email of today's date regarding the \$121.50 fee assessed against my March 9, 2026 records request.

In reviewing records previously produced in response to my January 26, 2026 request for the same categories of documents – AVL/GPS logs, staffing rosters, and incident reports – I have identified a pattern that directly bears on the fee dispute.

Documented Print-and-Rescan Pattern

The NFIRS incident report delivered on February 2, 2026 (WBRFD Incident Report.pdf) bears a system-generated footer on every page reading "PRINTED ON 2/2/2026 AT 10:10 AM." This timestamp is embedded by the NFIRS software when a physical copy is generated. The record existed as a native digital file. The agency printed it and rescanned it before delivery.

The primary delivery file from January 29, 2026 (01_23_2026_Summers.pdf) – containing AVL data and staffing rosters – was 16.7 MB. Native digital exports of AVL and staffing data are text-based and a fraction of that size. The staffing roster within that file is visibly off-center, consistent with a physical page placed on a scanner bed rather than a native digital export.

Every record produced in response to the January request was digitally created – the NFIRS report by federal reporting software, the AVL data by a fleet tracking system, and the staffing roster by a scheduling system. Not a single record originated on paper. The only paper in that transaction was introduced by the agency itself, through an unnecessary print step, and then used as the basis for per-page fee charges.

The parish is now assessing \$121.50 – 218 pages at \$0.50 – for the same record types using the same methodology.

Request for Clarification

Before remitting any payment, I am requesting written confirmation of the following:

1. Whether the AVL and staffing records responsive to my March 9, 2026 request will be delivered as native digital exports or as scanned printouts of digital files.
2. If native digital exports, the actual cost to the agency of producing and transmitting those files electronically.

3. If the parish intends to again print and rescan native digital records before delivery, the written justification for that workflow and the statutory authority for charging per-page fees on the resulting scanned images.

Be advised that if this matter is not resolved, I am prepared to seek judicial relief under La. R.S. 44:35, which provides for attorney fees, costs, and damages upon a finding that the agency acted arbitrarily, capriciously, or without probable cause.

Respectfully,

John Summers Editor, WBR Independent 225-274-6625 wbrindependent@gmail.com wbrindependent.com

From: John Summers <wbrindependent@gmail.com>

Date: Wed, Mar 18, 2026 at 10:44 AM

To: Chance Stephens <Chance.Stephens@wbr council.org>

Cc: Chief Butch Browning <butch@browning.red>, Deanna Fourroux <Deanna.Fourroux@wbrfire.org>

Subject: Follow-Up: March 9th, 2026 Records Request – Fee Dispute

Mr. Stephens,

I am following up on my emails of March 12, 2026, to which I have received no response in six calendar days.

To summarize the outstanding dispute:

My original request specifically asked that records be provided electronically. The AVL logs and staffing rosters at issue are digital records that already exist in electronic format. Under La. R.S. 44:32(C)(1)(a), fees for the electronic transmission of public records must be included in the agency's posted fee schedule. The parish's published fee schedule contains no line item for the electronic transmission of digital documents. Where no posted schedule covers a fee category, the agency has no legal authority to charge that fee.

The Louisiana Supreme Court held in *Title Research Corp. v. Rausch*, 450 So.2d 933 (La. 1984), that the choice of reproduction method rests with the requester, not the custodian. I chose electronic delivery. The custodian may not substitute paper production for the format I requested.

The Third Circuit held in *Johnson v. City of Pineville*, 9 So.3d 313 (La. App. 3 Cir. 2009), that forcing paper production of records that exist in digital format is constitutionally impermissible. I have also documented in my March 12 supplemental email a pattern in which the agency printed native digital records and rescanned them before delivery in response to my January 2026 request – the NFIRS report bearing a system-generated "PRINTED ON 2/2/2026 AT 10:10 AM" footer on every page, and the primary delivery file being 16.7 MB with visibly off-center pages consistent with scanner bed placement rather than a native digital export.

I have also reserved my right under La. R.S. 44:32(C)(3) to inspect these records in person and make my own copies at no charge.

I am requesting a written response to the following questions, which I first posed on March 12:

1. Whether the AVL and staffing records will be delivered as native digital exports or as scanned printouts of digital files.
2. If native digital exports, the actual cost to the agency of producing and transmitting those files electronically.
3. If the parish intends to again print and rescan native digital records before delivery, the written justification for that workflow and the statutory authority for charging per-page fees on the resulting scanned images.

If I do not receive a written response by the close of business on Friday, March 20, 2026, I will have no choice but to seek judicial relief under La. R.S. 44:35, which provides for attorney fees, costs, and damages upon a finding that the agency acted arbitrarily, capriciously, or without probable cause.

Respectfully,

John Summers
Editor, WBR Independent
wbrindependent@gmail.com

From: **Chance Stephens** <Chance.Stephens@wbr council.org>
Date: Thu, Mar 19, 2026 at 3:30 PM
To: John Summers <wbrindependent@gmail.com>
Cc: Chief Butch Browning <butch@browning.red>, Deanna Fourroux <Deanna.Fourroux@wbrfire.org>

John,

The fire report document has been completed and is ready for pickup. The report is a total of 8 pages at \$0.50 per page with a total cost of \$4.00.

Please remit payment to:

West Baton Rouge Parish Council

Attn: Records Request

PO Box 757

Port Allen, LA 70767

Payment may also be dropped off in person at:

880 N Alexander Ave

Port Allen, LA 70767

In regards to your other questions I will have a formal response to you by EOB Friday March 20th as request.

From: **John Summers** <wbrindependent@gmail.com>
Date: Thu, Mar 19, 2026 at 3:39 PM
To: <Chance.Stephens@wbr council.org>
Cc: Deanna Fourroux <Deanna.Fourroux@wbrfire.org>, Hillary Browning <butch@browning.red>

Mr. Stephens,

Thank you for your response. I will stop by in the morning to pick up the fire report and remit payment of \$4.00.

I look forward to your formal written response on the fee dispute by

end of business tomorrow, March 20, 2026.

Additionally, I want to note for the record that as the records custodian on this request, Ms. Fourroux has not responded to any of my communications directly. Going forward, I expect written responses on records matters to come from the designated records custodian, as required under Louisiana law.

Thank you,

John Summers
Editor, WBR Independent
wbrindependent@gmail.com

From: Chance Stephens <Chance.Stephens@wbrCouncil.org>
Date: Fri, Mar 20, 2026 at 9:56 AM
To: John Summers <wbrindependent@gmail.com>
Cc: Jason Manola <Jason.Manola@wbrCouncil.org>

John,

In regards to your emails below regarding the \$121.50 charge:

We disagree with both your interpretation of La. R.S. 44:32(C)(1)(a) and your claim that we are using something other than our adopted fee schedule "as the basis for per-page fee charges".

La. R.S. 44:32(C)(1)(a) states:

C.(1)(a) For all public records, except public records of state agencies, it shall be the duty of the custodian of the public records to provide copies to persons so requesting, unless the requestor fails to pay the applicable copying fees after being notified of the amount in advance of production or the requestor has an outstanding balance from a prior request. The custodian may establish and collect reasonable fees for making copies of public records, which may include the transmission of electronic copies of public records. Any custodian who elects to establish and collect such fees shall establish a reasonable fee schedule and post the schedule where it can be readily accessed by the public. The custodian may request payment of fees in advance of production. Copies of records may be furnished without charge or at a reduced charge to indigent citizens of this state.

Nowhere in there does it say "fees for the transmission of electronic copies of public records must be included in the agency's posted fee schedule."

In regards to your other claim, our fee schedule is the same for all records. The type of record, nor the mode of transmission chosen by the requestor has any affect or change on the adopted fee schedule. It is very simple. It is a per page produced cost.

In conclusion your charge still remains \$121.50 for these records that you have requested and have been compiled.

Thanks,

Chance Stephens

Director of Finance

Administration

Chance.Stephens@wbrCouncil.org

Office: (225) 383-4755 Fax: (225) 387-0218

Direct: (225) 490-8553

880 N. Alexander Ave, PO Box 757, Port Allen, LA, 70767

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From: John Summers <wbrindependent@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, March 12, 2026 3:24 PM

To: Chance Stephens <Chance.Stephens@wbrCouncil.org>

Cc: Chief Butch Browning <butch@browning.red>; Deanna Fourroux <Deanna.Fourroux@wbrfire.org>

Subject: Re: March 9th, 2026 Records Request

Mr. Stephens,

From: John Summers <wbrindependent@gmail.com>

Date: Fri, Mar 20, 2026 at 10:12 AM

To: Chance Stephens <Chance.Stephens@wbrCouncil.org>

Cc: Deanna Fourroux <Deanna.Fourroux@wbrfire.org>, Hillary Browning <butch@browning.red>

Mr. Stephens,

Thank you for your response. I have reviewed your position and respectfully disagree.

Your own language is instructive. You describe the charge as a "per page produced cost." These records – AVL logs and staffing rosters – exist as native digital files. They are not produced on paper. There is no page being produced. A per-page produced cost cannot attach to a record that requires no physical production.

The Louisiana Supreme Court held in *Title Research Corp. v. Rausch*, 450 So.2d 933 (La. 1984), that the choice of reproduction method rests with the requester, not the custodian. I chose electronic delivery. The custodian may not substitute paper production for the format I requested, and may not charge a per-page produced cost for files that are emailed directly from a digital system.

The Third Circuit held in *Johnson v. City of Pineville*, 9 So.3d 313 (La. App. 3 Cir. 2009), that forcing paper production of records that exist in digital format is constitutionally impermissible.

I also note that your fee schedule contains no line item for the electronic transmission of digital documents. Under La. R.S. 44:32(C)(1)(a), a custodian who elects to charge fees must post a schedule covering those fees. No such line item exists in your published schedule for this category of records.

I am reiterating my right under La. R.S. 44:32(C)(3) to inspect these records in person at no charge and make my own copies. Should that become necessary, I would expect inspection to be made available at the Parish Council office at 880 N. Alexander Avenue, not at any fire department facility.

Please advise how you wish to proceed.

From: **Chance Stephens** <Chance.Stephens@wbrCouncil.org>
Date: Fri, Mar 20, 2026 at 10:22 AM
To: John Summers <wbrindependent@gmail.com>
Cc: Deanna Fourroux <Deanna.Fourroux@wbrfire.org>, Hillary Browning <butch@browning.red>

Mr. Summers,

If you wish to inspect the records please let me know of dates/times you plan to do so, so we can make the records available for you.

Thanks,

Chance Stephens

Director of Finance

Administration

Chance.Stephens@wbrCouncil.org

Office: (225) 383-4755 **Fax:** (225) 387-0218

Direct: (225) 490-8553

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From: John Summers <wbrindependent@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 20, 2026 10:13 AM
To: Chance Stephens <Chance.Stephens@wbrCouncil.org>

From: John Summers <wbrindependent@gmail.com>
Date: Fri, Mar 20, 2026 at 10:30 AM
To: Chance Stephens <Chance.Stephens@wbrCouncil.org>
Cc: Deanna Fourroux <Deanna.Fourroux@wbrfire.org>, Hillary Browning <butch@browning.red>

Mr. Stephens,

Thank you for your response. I need to review this matter further before scheduling an inspection. I will follow up with available dates and times.

Thank you,

From: John Summers <wbrindependent@gmail.com>
Date: Fri, Mar 20, 2026 at 10:39 AM
To: Chance Stephens <Chance.Stephens@wbrCouncil.org>
Cc: Deanna Fourroux <Deanna.Fourroux@wbrfire.org>, Hillary Browning <butch@browning.red>

Mr. Stephens,

I stopped by this morning and remitted payment of \$4.00 for the fire report.

I want to be clear that this payment applies only to the fire report and does not reflect any change in my position regarding the \$121.50 fee assessed against the AVL and staffing records. That dispute remains open and my prior correspondence on that matter stands.

From: **Chance Stephens** <Chance.Stephens@wbrCouncil.org>

Date: Fri, Mar 20, 2026 at 11:34 AM

To: John Summers <wbrindependent@gmail.com>

Cc: Deanna Fourroux <Deanna.Fourroux@wbrfire.org>, Hillary Browning <butch@browning.red>

From: John Summers <wbrindependent@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, March 20, 2026 10:39 AM

To: Chance Stephens <Chance.Stephens@wbrCouncil.org>

Cc: Deanna Fourroux <Deanna.Fourroux@wbrfire.org>; Hillary Browning <butch@browning.red>

Subject: RE: March 9th, 2026 Records Request


Mr. Stephens,

3 attachments

 **image001.png**
24 KB

 **image003.jpg**
8 KB

 **Incident-260308-225147-WBRFD.pdf**
224 KB

From: Chance Stephens Chance.Stephens@wbrCouncil.org 
Subject: RE: Public Records Request — March 2026 Post-Incident Debrief Meeting, Port Allen Warehouse Fire
Date: March 20, 2026 at 4:51 PM
To: John Summers wbrindependent@gmail.com
Cc: Butch Browning butch@browning.red, Jason Manola Jason.Manola@wbrCouncil.org, Deanna Fourroux Deanna.Fourroux@wbrfire.org



Mr. Summers,

Please see the attached petition filed today.

We will not be responding to the below request sent on March 18th, nor will we be responding to any new Public Records requests until an official court ruling is made on the matter.

Thanks,

Chance Stephens

Director of Finance

Administration

Chance.Stephens@wbrCouncil.org

Office: (225) 383-4755 **Fax:** (225) 387-0218

Direct: (225) 490-8553

880 N. Alexander Ave, PO Box 757, Port Allen, LA, 70767

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Moving Our Parish Forward. Together!



From: Butch Browning <butch@browning.red>

Sent: Wednesday, March 18, 2026 11:43 AM

To: Chance Stephens <Chance.Stephens@wbrCouncil.org>; Jason Manola <Jason.Manola@wbrCouncil.org>

Subject: Fwd: Public Records Request — March 2026 Post-Incident Debrief Meeting, Port Allen Warehouse Fire

Chief Butch Browning, EFO CFO

Butch@browning.red

Cell 225-806-0803

Begin forwarded message:

From: John Summers <wbrindependent@gmail.com>

Exhibit 5

FROM: JOHN SUMMERS <wbrindependent@gmail.com>

Date: March 18, 2026 at 12:22:34 PM EDT

To: Deanna Fourroux <Deanna.Fourroux@wbrfire.org>, Hillary Browning <butch@browning.red>

Subject: Public Records Request – March 2026 Post-Incident Debrief Meeting, Port Allen Warehouse Fire

To: Deanna Fourroux Deanna.Fourroux@wbrfire.org **CC:** Hillary Browning butch@browning.red

Subject: Public Records Request – Post-Incident Debrief Meeting, Port Allen Warehouse Fire

Ms. Fourroux:

Pursuant to the Louisiana Public Records Act (La. R.S. 44:1 et seq.) and La. Const. art. XII, §3, I am requesting copies of the following records related to the post-incident debrief meeting between the West Baton Rouge Fire Department and the Baton Rouge Fire Department, referenced in a post published to the West Baton Rouge Fire Department's official Facebook page on March 18, 2026, regarding the wood pellet warehouse fire in Port Allen on March 7, 2026:

1. The full, unedited video recording of the debrief meeting, including all portions not published to the West Baton Rouge Fire Department's public Facebook page
2. Any agenda, outline, or written materials distributed or presented during the meeting
3. Attendance records or sign-in sheets for the meeting
4. Any after-action report, incident review, or written summary produced in connection with this meeting or the March 7, 2026 incident

Where responsive records exist in electronic format, please provide them in that format. Forcing paper production of digital records is constitutionally impermissible under *Johnson v. City of Pineville*, 9 So.3d 313 (La. App. 3 Cir. 2009). I do not consent to paper substitution for electronic records, including the printing and rescanning of native digital files.

Please provide these records electronically to wbrindependent@gmail.com.

If any portion of this request is denied, please cite the specific statutory exemption and provide the portions that are not exempt.

Thank you,

John Summers Editor, WBR Independent wbrindependent@gmail.com WBRIndependent.com

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**WBRFPD.GenAdv.Stamped-Filed
Petition.E-Filed 3-20-2026.pdf**

2.7 MB



