

FY2026 ANNUAL REPORT



KENTUCKY FIRE COMMISSION



A photograph of three firefighters on a roof. One firefighter in the foreground is using a chainsaw to cut through wooden decking. Another firefighter is standing nearby, and a third is visible in the background. The roof is partially covered with dark shingles and partially with exposed wooden planks. A blue tarp is visible in the lower left corner. The sky is blue with some clouds.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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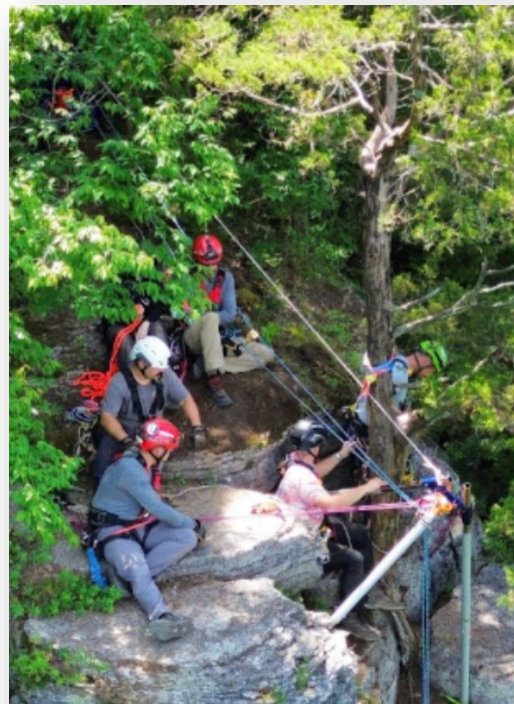
Social Media
KYFireCommission



Mobile App
Kentucky Fire Commission

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MISSION STATEMENT



The Kentucky Fire Commission is committed to enhancing safety and education within the fire service for the citizens and industries within the Commonwealth through standardized special and technical education, training, communication, coordination and the distribution of funds to the agencies throughout the Commonwealth of Kentucky.



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

As you read through this annual report, I hope it provides a deeper understanding of the work taking place behind the scenes at the Fire Commission. Over the past year, we have continued to experience tremendous growth and progress, adding yet another chapter to our ongoing story of service and support for Kentucky's fire service.

As the fire service continues to evolve, so does the Fire Commission. In response to the changing challenges facing our industry, we remain focused on strategic program development and service delivery that support firefighters and fire departments as they faithfully serve their communities each day. We are committed to ensuring the Fire Commission remains a lasting and meaningful resource for Kentucky's fire service by continually evaluating and enhancing our programs to meet emerging needs.

One significant achievement during the most recent legislative session was the enactment of Cancer Screening Reimbursement funding. Funded through the Commission's Health and Wellness Program, this initiative provides firefighters with reimbursement for proactive screenings aimed at the early detection of occupational cancers and cardiovascular abnormalities, which remain among the leading causes of firefighter deaths.

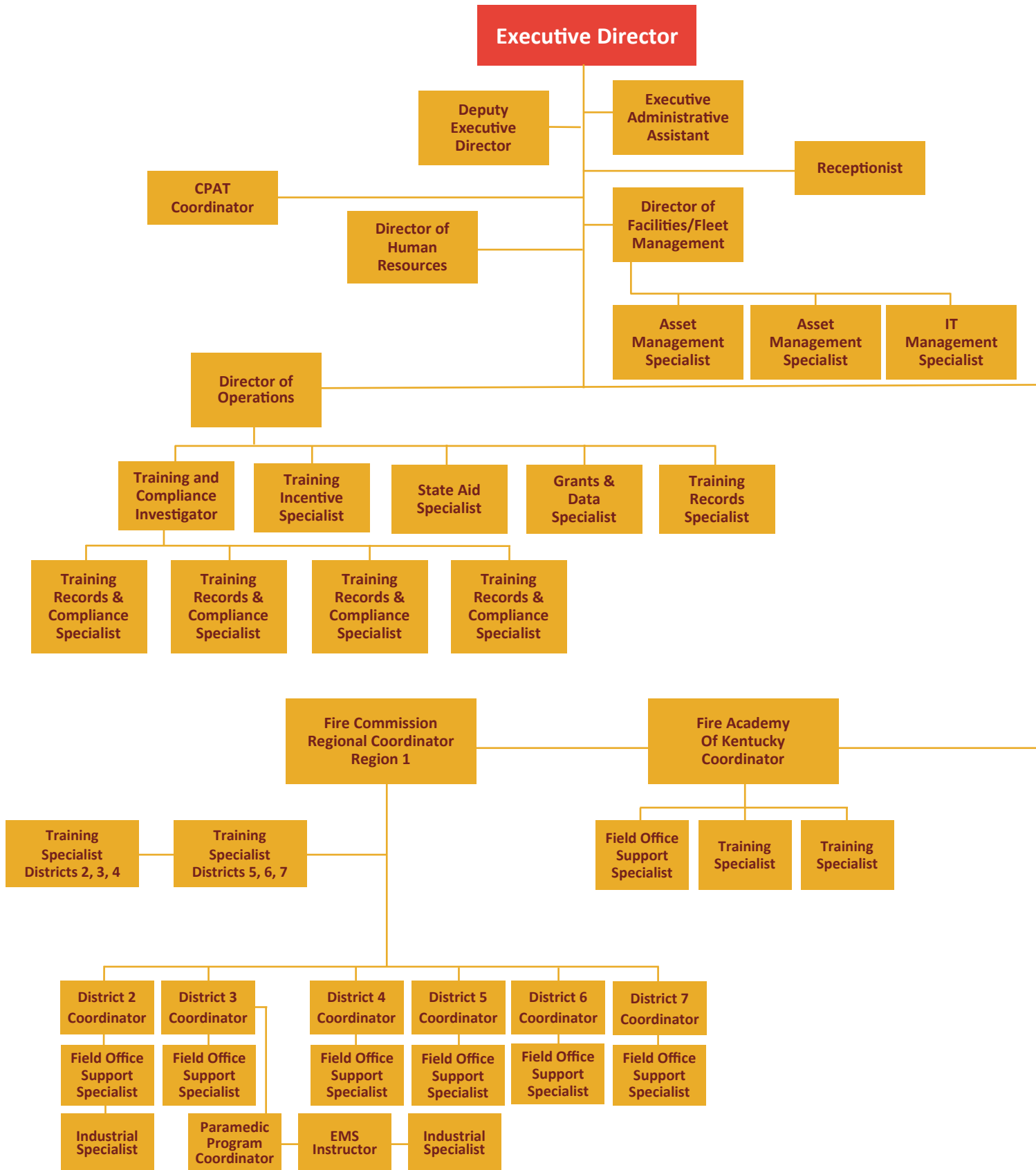
Development of the Fire Academy of Kentucky's facilities and programs continues to move forward. What began as a vision has become a continued reality, with Class 009 currently underway. Planned improvements to the property include the construction of a large maintenance, equipment, and apparatus facility, scheduled to begin in FY2027. In addition, final preparations are underway to restructure the Academy's recruit training program, including the addition of a third recruit class each year to help meet the growing demand for training new firefighters across the Commonwealth.

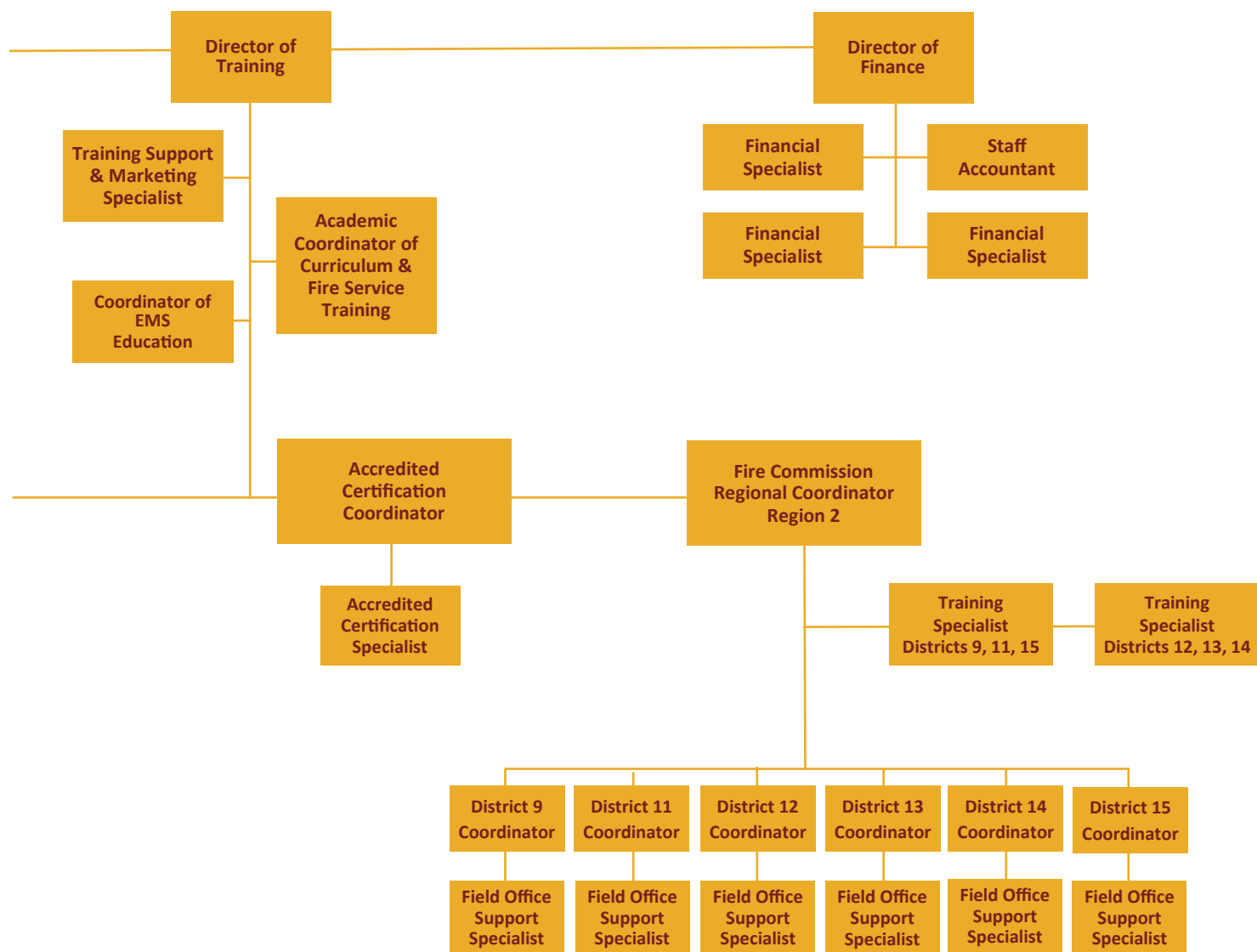
The success of the Fire Commission's programs is made possible by the dedication of our outstanding team. I am honored to work alongside a group of committed professionals whose passion, expertise, and service-minded approach drive our mission of supporting the fire service throughout Kentucky.

With such a dedicated team in place, we are well prepared to meet the opportunities and challenges that FY2027 may bring while continuing our tradition of exceptional customer service. Thank you for your trust, partnership, and support of the Fire Commission. We remain committed to serving you, and if we can be of assistance at any time, please do not hesitate to contact us.



ORGANIZATIONAL CHART





Committees of the Board

- ♦ Finance
- ♦ Public Education
- ♦ Loans
- ♦ Education
- ♦ Grants
- ♦ Health & Wellness
- ♦ Eligibility
- ♦ EMS

Board of Directors Representation

Chairman
Vice Chairman
Secretary

Ricky King
Dwane Smeathers
Chris Black

Paid Fire Chiefs

Nick Clark

County Judge Executive

Joe Choate

Volunteer Fire Chiefs

Cheryl Allen

Practicing Physician

Dr. Irvin Smith

County Fire Depts

Chris Black

Ofc Homeland Security

Amy Hess

Volunteer Fire Depts

Dwane Smeathers

State Fire Marshal

Michael Burke

KRS 95 Fire Depts

VACANT

Fire-Based EMS Services

Mike Sutt

KRS 75 or 273 Fire Depts

Ricky King

KY Firefighters Assn

Chris Crawford

General Public

Fr. Matthew Young

KY Professional FFs

Joe Baer

Mayors

Andrew Scott

KY Assoc of Fire Chiefs

Steve Kyle

Building & Safety

Scott Lawson

KCTCS CFO

Todd Kilburn



ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Executive Director	Bruce Roberts	bruce.roberts@kctcs.edu
Director of Training	Marc Rudder	marc.rudder@kctcs.edu
Director of Finance	Brenda Goddard	brenda.goddard@kctcs.edu
Director of Facilities/Fleet Management	Derrick Hall	derrick.hall@kctcs.edu
Director of Human Resources	Val Parks	val.parks@kctcs.edu
Director of Operations	Carrie Wilburn	carrie.wilburn@kctcs.edu

SUPPORT STAFF

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Rick Larkins	CPAT Coordinator	rick.larkins@kctcs.edu
Joe Mardis	IT Specialist	joe.mardis@kctcs.edu
Ashley McWaters	Training Records & Compliance Specialist	ashley.mcwaters@kctcs.edu
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Dustin Staves	Training Records & Compliance Specialist	dustin.staves@kctcs.edu
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Cheryl Watkins	Receptionist	cheryl.watkins@kctcs.edu
Richard Wright	Asset Management Specialist	richard.wright@kctcs.edu



STATE FIRE SCHOOL

The 95th edition of the Kentucky State Fire School was held June 10-14 in Lexington. 635 students from 215 departments/agencies participated in 36 classes.

INCENTIVE & PENSION

The Incentive & Pension fund continues to supplement eligible local governments, plus an amount equal to the required employers contribution on the supplement to the defined benefit pension plan, or to a plan qualified under Section 401(1) or Section 457 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 as amended.

To be eligible for incentive pay, firefighters must have a minimum of 300 training hours, work at least 2,080 hours and earn at least \$8,000 annually. To maintain eligibility, all firefighters in the department must complete one hundred (100) hours of training annually. Eligible firefighters each received \$4,562 during FY2026 through this program.

Incentive and pension funds totaling \$26,720,179.12 were distributed to 4,326 firefighters during FY2026.

HEPATITIS VACCINATIONS

During FY2026, the Fire Commission's voluntary Hepatitis vaccination program assisted in providing funds for 87 Hepatitis immunizations. The Fire Commission collaborates with local health departments in this program and sponsors Hepatitis A, Hepatitis B or a combination of both Hepatitis A/B vaccines for Kentucky's firefighters.

THERMAL IMAGING CAMERA GRANT

It is the goal of the Kentucky Fire Commission to ensure every fire department throughout the Commonwealth has at least one thermal imaging camera. 154 departments were awarded thermal imaging cameras in FY2026.

TRAINING FACILITY GRANT

The Fire Commission's Training Facility Grant program allows eligible and approved fire departments access to much needed funds to enhance their department's training program with facilities and equipment. During FY2026, 51 departments were awarded a total of \$1,000,000 in grant funds.



PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT GRANT

The Fire Commission's FY2026 Personal Protective Equipment Grant provided reimbursement funds to awarded fire departments for structural firefighting coats and pants. Funds for 200 sets of this crucial equipment was awarded to 100 fire departments through this grant.

FIRE DEPARTMENT COMPLIANCE INSPECTIONS

The Fire Commission conducts compliance inspections of training and financial documentation, State-Aid and Incentive Pay disbursements, grant equipment and purchases, and department apparatus and equipment.

Our team of four Training Records & Compliance Specialists conducted 666 inspections during FY2026 and will continue to conduct annual inspections throughout the Commonwealth.

LOW INTEREST LOANS

The Low Interest Loan program is available for any volunteer fire department that meets certain criteria. Volunteer fire departments can borrow up to \$125,000. Funds in the amount of \$640,782.40 were distributed to 7 departments in FY2026.

STATE AID

The Fire Commission's State Aid program is available to all qualifying volunteer fire departments in the Commonwealth of Kentucky. During FY2026, the Kentucky Fire Commission allotted up to \$15,000 to each qualifying volunteer fire department throughout the Commonwealth.

In FY2026, 654 departments were awarded State Aid for a total of \$10,033,750. Monies must be allocated toward specific expenditures approved by the Fire Commission.

Funds are required to be spent in total each fiscal year. Departments may hold the entirety of the funds over into the following fiscal year to acquire enough funds for a more substantial project. Partial carryover is disallowed.

Funds may also be applied toward Fire Commission loan payments.

JUNIOR FIREFIGHTERS

The Junior Firefighter program allows youth ages 15-17 the opportunity to learn about fire and emergency services organizations in a safe, supervised, controlled and fun manner. There are 481 departmental junior programs registered in Kentucky.

The Fire Commission held a training class specific to junior firefighters during State Fire School in June in Lexington. 39 junior firefighters from 14 fire departments participated in this class.



HEALTH AND WELLNESS

The Fire Commission's Health & Wellness Program funds the purchase of fitness equipment and gear extractors for qualifying fire departments of the Commonwealth. Through this grant in FY2026, 12 fire departments received fitness equipment and 15 fire departments received gear extractors.



FIREFIGHTER CANCER SCREENING REIMBURSEMENT

Cancer is a rising and dangerous threat to firefighter health and safety. Firefighters face a higher risk of being diagnosed with, and dying of, cancer than the general U.S. population. Early detection is paramount to manage this risk.

In FY2026, the Fire Commission continued to pilot a program to reimburse eligible firefighters for the cost of cancer screenings performed at designated testing sites. This pilot program was met with great interest and it was revisited during the 2026 legislative session through House Bill 419. Reimbursement funding for this screening program was ultimately passed into law.

For the FY2026 pilot program, 243 firefighters were screened for cancer and \$78,975.00 in reimbursement funds were distributed.



STRESS INJURY TREATMENT REIMBURSEMENT

Firefighters have long been about helping others; these days more than ever, that includes fellow firefighters. The Kentucky Fire Commission is proud to offer a program for line-of-duty stress injury treatment reimbursement. This program establishes funds for reimbursement of out-of-pocket expenses that a firefighter has incurred after being diagnosed with a line-of-duty stress injury through firefighting related experiences. Each qualifying individual may receive reimbursement benefits up to \$50,000 for care or treatment that was provided on or after July 1, 2020.

During FY2026, 132 firefighters received reimbursements totaling \$310,886.77.

***No one should suffer with PTSD on their own.
If you are a firefighter struggling with this, or you know one who is, we
encourage you to seek help from a licensed mental health professional.***

PEER SUPPORT TRAINING

The Kentucky Fire Commission partnered with the International Association of Firefighters to present two Peer Support Training Classes during FY2026. 69 participants received training and skills practice to become effective peer counselors and learn how to establish peer support teams for their fire departments. This program is designed specifically for firefighters, EMS providers, dispatchers, chaplains, firefighter retirees, behavioral health specialists and any member of the fire service interested in supporting their fellow firefighters during tough times.



IAFF PEER SUPPORT TRAINING

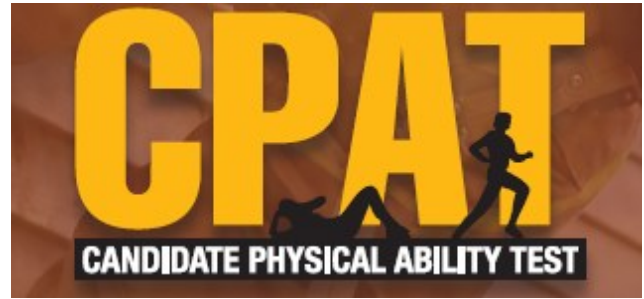
Developed and Delivered by Peers



CPAT

Since 2013, administrative regulations in the state of Kentucky mandate all newly hired career firefighters pass the Candidate Physical Ability Test (CPAT). CPAT is set up to develop a fair and valid evaluation tool in the selection of firefighters to ensure that all firefighter candidates possess the physical ability to complete critical tasks effectively and safely. CPAT is a sequence of events requiring the participant to progress along a predetermined path from event to event in a continuous manner. Stations include: Stair Climb, Hose Drag, Equipment Carry, Ladder Raise and Extension, Forcible Entry, Search, Rescue and Ceiling Breach and Pull.

The Fire Commission has three fixed testing locations: Burlington, Louisville and Paris, and administers testing monthly.



34

Testing Sessions

1,087

Candidates

692

Cards Issued

Rick Larkins

CPAT Coordinator



APPRENTICE I & II CERTIFICATION

The Kentucky Fire Commission has established two firefighter certification levels for students enrolled into Kentucky Department of Education (KDE)-sponsored Fire Science programs. Students engage in hands-on and lecture training in an environment that will allow them to work toward certification as a Kentucky Apprentice I Firefighter (100 hours of training) and as a Kentucky Apprentice II Firefighter (200 hours of training). These programs enable students to acquire knowledge and aptitude of fire service administration and firefighting tasks while still in high school, allowing them to accrue necessary skills toward service as a career or volunteer firefighter once they turn 18.

Students with Fire Science Program of Studies course codes successfully transcribed will be eligible to request approval for credit for prior learning credits upon enrolling into a KCTCS campus offering the Fire Science Degree Program.

Apprentice I and Apprentice II certifications are only available to students enrolled in a KDE-sponsored Fire Science pathway.

During school year 2025-2026, Fire Science Pathway programs were offered at 13 Kentucky high schools, with active student enrollment of 591. Apprentice I certifications were awarded to 41 students, and Apprentice II certifications were awarded to 3 students.



The Fire Commission offers a weekly e-mail communication. If you are interested in receiving information on trainings, fire schools, employment opportunities, items for sale, and other news and events, please send an email to: kyfirecommission@kctcs.edu.

BUDGETARY

45% Incentive & Pension	3% Mobile Facilities
20% State Aid	3% Expanded Programs
5% Training Initiatives	2% FF Stress Injury
5% Administrative	2% Training Facility Grants
4% Workers Comp.	2% Health, Wellness & Safety
4% Personal Protective Equip.	6% Other
	Fire Training Academy
	Hepatitis A/B
	Technical Innovations
	EMS Training & Equipment
	WMD/HazMat, Terr
	Safety Education
	Driver/Operator
	NFA Weekends



LEGISLATIVE



The 2026 Kentucky Legislative Session saw numerous bills related to Kentucky’s fire service introduced. Representatives of Kentucky’s fire service and the Kentucky Fire Commission continued their efforts to educate legislators, protect the interests of the Kentucky’s fire service and campaign on behalf of moving the fire service of the Commonwealth forward.

House Bill 419 related to the Fire Commission and was passed through Committee and was ultimately passed into law.

This bill covered:

Amending the Kentucky Fire Commission to 18 members by transferring 4 ex-officio members to full member status	Allowing firefighter cancer screening reimbursements
Renaming the Thermal Vision Grant Program to Thermal Vision and Technical Innovation Grant Program	Permitting the Thermal Vision and Technical Innovation Grant Program to provide grants for automated external defibrillators, gas monitors, and thermal vision devices



BY THE NUMBERS

835

**Basic 1
Certifications**

**Basic 2
Certifications**

519

709

**Volunteer
Departments**

**Career
Departments**

53

14,953

**Volunteer
Firefighters**

**Career
Firefighters**

4,423



IN MEMORIAM



The lives of Darrell Helton, David Studer, Richard Givan, Donita Shaffer, Robert Lindsey, Steven Burns, Frank Whitt, Travis Ransom and John Vickers, Jr. were honored in October at the Kentucky Fallen Firefighter Memorial Service.





MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Fire Rescue Training is to plan, direct and administer a quality, comprehensive and uniformly delivered training program through the most efficient use of available resources to assist in meeting the training needs of fire, rescue and other emergency services personnel so that lives and property may be saved more safely and effectively. In addition, to provide health and safety training programs for industries, institution, government agencies and other such entities to assist in meeting their training needs mandated by federal, state and local laws.

VISION

The vision of Fire Rescue Training is to be recognized as a national leader in providing comprehensive educational programs for current and future emergency responders at the local, regional, state and national levels.

STATE OF STATE FIRE RESCUE TRAINING



Education has the power to transform lives. Nowhere is that more apparent than State Fire Rescue Training (SFRT). The past year was characterized by strong growth in both class offerings and student participation. During FY2026, we welcomed 109,208 students into Fire Commission classes, a level of engagement not seen since before the pandemic.

Training plays a critical role in firefighter development. From the newest probie to the seasoned chief with more than four decades of fire service experience, SFRT continues to deliver high-quality firefighter education and training across the Commonwealth. We are focused on building a forward-looking innovation culture, with an emphasis on safety and best practices while providing training to align with evolving practices and principles and utilizing realistic props that replicate fireground conditions as close as possible. Our staff remains busy delivering train-the-trainer sessions on several new training props and curriculums to keep current with new standards and models.

The Fire Academy of Kentucky has seen robust growth since its inception. FY2027 will be a transitional year for the Academy, as we work to realign our strategic vision, expanding to three recruit classes annually. We believe this will better assist in serving the needs of our fire departments and appreciate the great support of this program from across the state.

Year after year I watch our team do incredible work. I am privileged and honored to serve alongside such a dedicated and passionate group of employees. Simply put, we serve those who serve our communities. I am grateful to the 450+ part-time SFRT staff and instructors who work endlessly to prepare firefighters to meet the many challenges facing fire department and fireground operations today. Their drive, focus, and dedication to delivering first-class instruction is unparalleled.

We hope this report provides a meaningful overview of the key initiatives and accomplishments of our training programs. I encourage you all to participate in additional professional development and continue to learn new things during your time in the fire service. Numerous training opportunities are posted throughout the year on our website, News & Events calendar, social media, and via our weekly email announcements. If you wish to be added to the e-mail distribution list, please contact the Fire Commission office in Paris.

We remain dedicated to supporting your training needs and helping ensure Kentucky's fire service remains among the best in the nation. Our focus is on adapting our programs, expanding opportunities, and delivering the resources necessary to prepare firefighters for the challenges ahead. Together, we will continue building a stronger, safer future for the communities we serve.



SFRT BY THE NUMBERS

CLASSES

7,470

FY2026

STUDENTS

109,208

FY2026

INSTRUCTIONAL HOURS

31,134

FY2026

FIRE TRAINING:

91,182

STUDENTS

INDUSTRIAL TRAINING:

9,441

STUDENTS

EMS TRAINING:

8,585

STUDENTS

CLASSES BY CATEGORY

3663

FIRE DEPARTMENT

150

FIRE ACADEMY OF KENTUCKY

868

FIRE COMMISSION

318

EMR/EMT/EMT-A

403

FIRE SCHOOL

306

PARAMEDIC

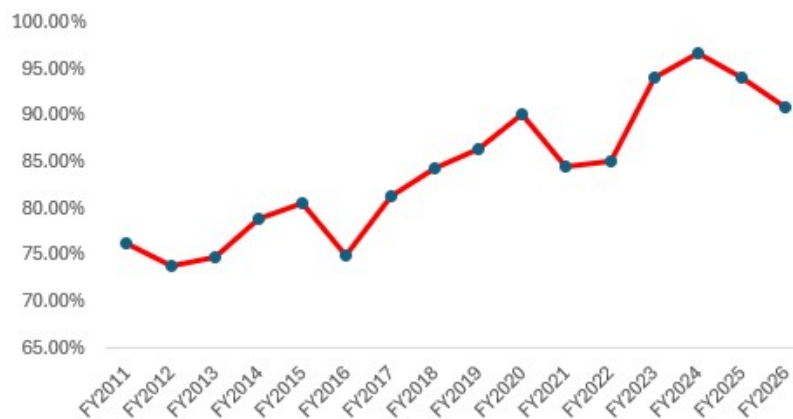
995

DEGREE PROGRAM

767

INDUSTRIAL

% KY Fire Departments Trained By SFRT



SFRT BY THE NUMBERS

TOP 10 SFRT-DELIVERED CLASSES FY2026	CLASSES
Hazardous Materials (all levels)	387
Driver Training	302
Fire Behavior	241
Fire Control	218
Ropes/Knots	198
Forcible Entry	195
Victim Search & Rescue	191
Ventilation	186
Personal Protective Equipment	176
Officer Training (all levels)	167

TOP 10 SFRT-DELIVERED CLASSES BY STUDENTS FY2026	STUDENTS
Hazardous Materials (all levels)	6340
Driver Training	4576
Fire Behavior	3260
Fire Control	3224
Officer Training (all levels)	2746
Forcible Entry	2709
Ropes/Knots	2458
Ventilation	2393
Victim Search & Rescue	2314
Personal Protective Equipment	2277

FIRE COMMISSION CLASSES FY2026	CLASSES	STUDENTS
Firefighter Survival	115	2366
Firefighter Rescue	110	2301
Flashover Recognition	140	3138
Wildland Awareness	109	1865



SFRT DISTRICT OFFICES



SFRT Region 1

Region Coordinator: Marc Henderson

District 2—Princeton

Todd Warner, Training Coordinator
Kelly Bolin, Field Office Support Specialist
Barry Carter, Industrial Specialist

District 3—Greenville

Jimmy VanCleve, Training Coordinator
Jennifer Randolph, Field Office Supp. Spec.
John Dunning, Industrial Specialist
Les Hawthorne, Paramedic Program Coord.
Dinah Chapman, EMS Instructor

District 4—Bowling Green

Ronnie Stinson, Training Coordinator
Tamara Steele, Field Office Support Specialist

District 5—Elizabethtown

John Gentry, Training Coordinator
Janell Townsend, Field Office Support Spec.

District 6—Louisville

Chris Gosnell, Training Coordinator
Sabrina Kauffman, Field Office Support Spec.

District 7—Burlington

Tony Morgan, Training Coordinator
Kacie Mills, Field Office Support Specialist

Training Specialist—Districts 2, 3, 4

Andy Offerman

Training Specialist—Districts 5, 6, 7

Bill Mullins

SFRT Region 2

Region Coordinator: Mark Hammond

District 9—Morehead

Christy Rodgers, Training Coordinator
Tori Earlywine, Field Office Support Specialist

District 11—Paintsville

Greg Gray, Training Coordinator
Karen Richmond, Field Office Support Spec.

District 12—Hazard

Preston Hays, Training Coordinator
Amanda Turner, Field Office Support Spec.

District 13—London

Chantz McPeck, District Coordinator
Jessica Huff, Field Office Support Specialist

District 14—Somerset

Terry Wattenbarger, Training Coordinator
Kim Hollis, Field Office Support Specialist

District 15—Paris

Buzzy Campbell, Training Coordinator
Hannah Swartz, Field Office Support Specialist

Training Specialist—Districts 9, 11, 15

VACANT

Training Specialist—Districts 12, 13, 14

Shane Yocum



EMS EDUCATION



State Fire Rescue Training is a leading provider of emergency services training for all sectors of the emergency response spectrum, including fire departments, EMS services, rescue squads, emergency management, public health, transportation, and community response agencies. SFRT offers training in Emergency Medical Responder, Emergency Medical Technician-Basic, Advanced Emergency Medical Technician, Paramedic, and a full menu of continuing education classes for all levels.

During FY2026 SFRT offered 30 Initial Certification classes with 284 students successfully passing National Registry testing and led 135 Continuing Education classes, serving 2,379 students.

VIRTUAL TRAINING

First implemented during the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic during FY2020, the Fire Commission and State Fire Rescue Training continued to offer training on a Virtual Instructor-Led Training (VILT) Platform in FY2026.

VILT classes are led by an instructor in real-time, thereby allowing firefighters to utilize this type of training to assist toward completion of their Basic 1 and Basic 2 Kentucky certifications while still adhering to administrative regulations that require face-to-face training for initial certification hours. Certified firefighters are also able to use VILT for their annual continuing education requirements.

During FY2026, VILT served 13,408 students via 255 classes.

Today < > June 2026						
SUN 31	MON Jun 1	TUE 2	WED 3	THU 4	FRI 5	SAT 6
Firefighter Rescue 1			6:30pm Virtual Tr 7pm Virtual Traini	7pm Virtual Traini		
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
		CPAT Testing - Paris	CPAT Testing - Paris State Fire School Be	IFSAC Fire Officer II		
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
		IFSAC Driver/Opera 6:30pm Virtual Tr	6:30pm Virtual Tr	6:30pm Virtual Tr		
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
	7pm Virtual Traini	6:30pm Virtual Tr	6pm Virtual Traini 7pm Virtual Traini	6:30pm Virtual Tr		
28	29	30	Jul 1	2	3	4

SFRT DEGREE PROGRAM

KCTCS Fire Science Technology Courses Offered At:

- Bluegrass CTC
- Elizabethtown CTC
- Gateway CTC
- Jefferson CTC
- Madisonville CTC
- Owensboro CTC
- Southcentral KY CTC
- Somerset CTC
- West KY CTC

The Associate of Applied Science in Fire Science Technology Program prepares for the challenges facing today's emergency responders. The Fire Commission's degree program is IFSAC Accredited and recognized by the National Fire Academy's Fire and Emergency Services Higher Education (FESHE) program.

The program offers courses in:

- Fire Suppression
- Fire Prevention
- Technical Rescue
- Hazardous Materials
- Emergency Medical Care
- Leadership

Students may enter the program with or without experience in emergency services. The degree, certificate and diploma programs that are offered can help in obtaining employment in various emergency service fields, or if already a firefighter, help assist in promotional opportunities. The program may be continued as a 2+2 program with Western Kentucky University's Work Force Administration Program. Students may also work with other higher education institutions, such as Eastern Kentucky University, to transfer certain coursework in pursuit of a 4-year collegiate degree.

Academic certificates are also available for Emergency Medical Responder, Emergency Medical Technician, Basic Fire Protection, Basic Firefighter, Advanced Firefighter, Hazardous Materials Technician, and Fire Service Administration. A Fire Chief diploma is offered as well.

Director of Training Marc Rudder serves on the IFSAC Degree Program Board of Governors as the Vice-Chair and Casey Hall, Academic Coordinator of Curriculum & Fire Service Training, serves on the IFSAC Council of Governors as the Vice-Chair.

182 students were enrolled into the Fire Commission's degree program (excluding Emergency Medical Technician courses) during the 2025-2026 school year. Approximately 507 Certificates, Diplomas, and Degrees were awarded to students completing in 2025-2026.



SFRT's degree program has been accredited by IFSAC since 2004



SFRT CURRICULUM UPDATES



During FY2026 the following curriculum or instructional materials/programs were updated, added, or revised:

• Aircraft Rescue Firefighting	• Basic Fire Investigations
• Building Construction	• Chief Officer
• Company Officer	• Fire & Emer. Services Instructor

New curriculum for Firefighter Survival and Firefighter Rescue began development during FY2026, and will be finalized and released mid-year FY2027.

Academic Coordinator of Curriculum & Fire Service Training: Casey Hall

FIRE ACADEMY OF KENTUCKY

The Fire Academy of Kentucky is being developed as the primary facility for Kentucky fire departments to send their new recruits for initial Basic 2 certification as required for full-time career firefighters, and optional for volunteer firefighters.

FY2026 saw Class 007 and Class 008 graduate from the Academy. Recruits from across the Commonwealth assemble in Greenville at the 50-acre campus to undergo 13 weeks of physical, classroom and skills training and exit their time at the Academy fully prepared to protect their citizens. The Academy accepts fire department-sponsored career and volunteer firefighters to its program free of charge. A 4-week accelerated Emergency Medical Technician class is offered to previous Academy graduates, and those registered for the upcoming Academy recruit class.

The Academy is aligned with Madisonville Community and Technical College as a Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges facility. Each recruit receives up to 30 college credits, placing them approximately halfway to a KCTCS Associate of Applied Science-Fire Science Technology degree.

The Academy continued its expansion project during FY2026, with plans being finalized to construct a warehouse on the property. Construction on this facility is anticipated to be completed in August 2027. Plans are also underway during FY2027 to begin offering three recruit classes per year.



2 RECRUIT CLASSES

74 RECRUITS

33 FIRE DEPARTMENTS

1,126 RECRUIT TRAINING HOURS



Coordinator: Pat Thompson

Training Specialist: Charlie Rafferty

Training Specialist: Spence Sowell

Field Office Support Specialist: Mandy Ward

If your department would like to reserve a spot for the next class, please visit:

www.fireacademyky.com/reservation



ACCREDITED CERTIFICATION



Kentucky recognizes the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress (IFSAC) as its certification board. In addition to its certificate program, IFSAC also provides governing for the Fire Commission/State Fire Rescue Training's Fire Science Technology degree program.

IFSAC accreditation is based on a peer-review process. During FY2026, Fire Commission employees participated in 7 site visits to review each entity's IFSAC program. IFSAC brought their annual Fall Conference to Kentucky in October, with attendees from all points of the globe participating in three days of education and training.

SFRT District 9 Coordinator Christy Rodgers serves on IFSAC Certificate Assembly Board of Governors.

Written tests are administered via an online platform monthly in each district office as well as by appointment at the Accredited Certification office. 2,768 seals were issued in FY2026 from 4,532 candidates attempting written testing. 137 skills testing sessions were offered across the state during FY2026 with 2,544 candidates.

- ♦ Airport Firefighter
- ♦ Common Passenger Vehicle (Awareness, Operations, Technician)
- ♦ Driver/Operator
- ♦ Driver/Operator Aerial
- ♦ Driver/Operator Pumper
- ♦ Driver/Operator Mobile Water Supply

- ♦ Firefighter I & II
- ♦ Fire Inspector I
- ♦ Fire Instructor I & II
- ♦ Fire Officer I, II, III, & IV
- ♦ Hazmat (Awareness & Operations)

- ♦ Live Fire Instructor
- ♦ Live Fire Instructor In Charge
- ♦ Rope Rescue (Awareness, Operations, Technician)
- ♦ Small Unmanned Aircraft



FIRE COMMISSION
STATE FIRE RESCUE TRAINING



Accredited Certification Coordinator: Tim Brumfield | Accredited Certification Specialist: Kayla Sisk

FLEET/FACILITIES/EQUIPMENT



Major Purchases

- **Vehicle Acquisition**
 - **Aerial Apparatus**
 - **Chevrolet Silverados**
 - **Chevrolet Tahoes**
 - **Ram 5500s**
- **Property Acquisition**
 - **District 11 Training Center**
 - **District 13 Additional Acreage**





FIRE COMMISSION
STATE FIRE RESCUE TRAINING

Over 1,000,000 Fire/EMS Students Trained!

110 Cleveland Drive

Paris, KY 40361

(800) 782-6823

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