

KENTUCKY FIRE COMMISSION

Fire Commission Meeting

Minutes

December 4, 2024

Paris, Kentucky

Present:

Cheryl Allen
Chris Allen (Proxy for Josh Keats)
Chris Black
Nick Clark
Ricky King
Andrew Scott
Dwane Smeathers
Dr. Irvin Smith
Jerry Stephens
Mike Sutt

Absent:

Joe Choate
Mike Haney
Father Matthew Young

Ex Officio Members

Present:

Joe Baer
Kyle Carpenter

Absent:

Nathan Mulvey

Ricky King called the meeting to order at 1:00 am (EST). Andrew Scott motion to approve the minutes from October 9, 2024 in Paris Kentucky. Dwane Smeathers seconded. Motion approved.

Ricky King said we are moving forward with policies. Carrie Wilburn has been working on them. We would like to have them in place to look at by the February Fire Commission meeting. Ricky King said that Bruce Roberts and Marc Rudder at

looking at anything above an instructor level I cost will go to the firefighter or the fire department to pay instead of the Fire Commission paying for it. Ricky said we are looking at charging for the specialty classes. Bruce Roberts said this will be for the IFSAC classes over and above which is the specialty classes. These classes may be for individual wants and they may not need it for their job. Bruce said we are not in it to make money; we are trying to recoup some of the cost.

Health and Wellness Committee

Dr. Smith said the Health and Wellness Committee met virtually on November 26, 2024. The committee did have a recommendation to the Commission regarding the firefighter cancer screening. The committee recommends that the Fire Commission enters into an arrangement with the United Diagnostic Services (UDS) for the purposes of cancer screening and cardiovascular screening. Dr. Smith said we think the best way to do this is on a reimbursement basis so firefighters can be reimbursed for any out of pocket expenses. The committee would like to do this as a pilot project with sites that UDS already has planned in Lexington, Jessamine County and Richmond. The second part of the recommendation is that we would like for all of the firefighters in the Commonwealth register with the NIOSH National Cancer Registry. The committee discussed the requirements for eligibility. The recommendation for eligibility for screening would be the firefighter would have to be certified in good standing with their department, have three years of working in the fire service in the Commonwealth, they will be eligible for rescreening on a three year interval, and the screening will be extended for a ten year period after a firefighter retires from the fire service. The electronic paperwork will have to be submitted within thirty days of when the testing is done. Dr. Smith said this is just a starting point. The way the KRS is worded, any testing that is reimbursed with have to be FDA approved. Mike Sutt motion to approve. Jerry Stephens seconded. Nick Clark asked with using UDS, will we set up testing across the state. Dr. Smith said our initial ideas were to tie these in with existing fire school locations. Bruce said with the pilot program, we were looking at the fire departments who set up their own testing with UDS. We will reimburse that firefighter. We cannot get into a service contract with an outside agency. Bruce said down the road, we may be able to schedule at the fire schools. Joe Baer said the way that we drafted House Bill 323 which resulted in the cancer screenings was with the intent of the individual determining what screening they wanted as long as it was FDA approved. Mike Sutt

said there is another screening with UDS scheduled in Louisville in January of 2025. Motion approved.

Loan Committee

Dwane Smeathers said the Loan Committee met to discuss three loans. Campbell Fire and Rescue is requesting \$60,000.00 for two sets of Holmatro cutters and spreaders. Chris Black motion to approve. Cheryl Allen seconded. Motion approved.

Robertson- Mt. Olivet Fire Department is requesting \$100,000.00 for a 2001 Pierce pumper tanker. Cheryl Allen motion to approve. Jerry Stephens seconded. Motion approved.

Middle Creek Volunteer Fire Department is requesting \$15,000.00 for a 1992 Navistar heavy rescue truck. Jerry Stephens motion to approve. Chris Black seconded. Motion approved.

Eligibility Committee

Dwane Smeathers said the Eligibility Committee met this morning. Dwane said that Darrell Helton from the Belfry Fire Department passed away from a cardiac event. Jerry Stephens motion to approve the LODD for Darrell Helton. Cheryl Allen seconded. Motion approved.

Dwane said that Donita Shaffer from the Hitchins Fire Department passed away from a cerebral bleed. Cheryl Allen motion to approve the LODD for Donita Shaffer. Chris Black seconded. Motion approved.

Dwane Smeathers said the next item is for Incentive eligibility for two different firefighters from the Shelbyville Fire Department. The first firefighter was Jeff Elam. The City Clerk sent us a letter and she had failed to send in the paperwork within the thirty days. This was for the time period of October 1st through November 4th. This was rejected and she asked for it to be reinstated. The second person was Charles Fugate. This firefighter was a transfer, and his effective date was on 10-14-24. In the letter she said she failed to add his name to the list. Mike Sutt motion to approve. Cheryl Allen seconded. Bruce Roberts said there is a policy out there since 2010 that says they have to notify the Fire Commission within thirty days. If we do not receive

the letter within the thirty days, we will pay from the time that we received notification. Bruce said he would strongly encourage that as of January 1, 2025 that we go by that policy. Ricky King said we have policies in place for a reason. We need to go by them. Bruce said this policy is on the website. Chris Black amended the motion that we pay these gentlemen, but moving forward we will stick to the policy. Carrie Wilburn said if a request is sent in that is six months late, we could run into budgetary implications. Dwane Smeathers seconded. Mike Sutt asked Bruce, does he think this will cause an issue to approve. Bruce said he thought it created an issue before because the policy is there. Dwane Smeathers said the Committee voted to approve, but we can vote the Committee's recommendation down. The Board voted as follows on the amendment only:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Yes or No</u>
Cheryl Allen	Yes
Chris Black	Yes
Nick Clark	Yes
Joe Choate	Not present
Mike Haney	Not present
Josh Keats	Not present
Ricky King	Yes
Andrew Scott	Yes
Dwane Smeathers	Yes
Dr. Smith	Yes
Jerry Stephens	Yes
Mike Sutt	No
Father Matthew Young	Not present

Ricky King said now we vote on the motion as read. Dwane Smeathers said he thinks the best thing to do is vote the motion down. Chris Black said he agrees with Dwane. Nick Clark asked are these people not going to receive their incentive pay. Lisa Bradley said she was going to pay them from the time that she was notified. Bruce said this person would get a partial payment also. Next month, they will start drawing their full incentive pay. Dr. Smith asked could the motion made, be reread? Chris Black said the amendment to the motion is that these two gentlemen will receive their incentive pay back to the dates that 10-1-24 to 11:14-24 for Jeff Elam and for

Charles Fugate back to 10-14-24. After this we will stick to the policy. Ricky King asked for a roll call for this motion. The Board voted as follows:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Yes or No</u>
Cheryl Allen	No
Chris Black	No
Nick Clark	Yes
Joe Choate	Not present
Mike Haney	Not present
Josh Keats	Not present
Ricky King	No
Andrew Scott	No
Dwane Smeathers	No
Dr. Smith	No
Jerry Stephens	No
Mike Sutt	No
Father Matthew Young	Not present

Ricky King said this motion fails.

Dwane Smeathers said that the HWY 172/ Peddler's Gap Fire Department sent in an appeal for their State Aid. They had a computer error and the Chief didn't realize that firefighters who should have been removed from the roster weren't and there was training hours that had not been entered into KyFIRES. The Chief said they would have to shut their doors if they do not receive their State Aid. Carrie Wilburn said with those individuals being removed from their roster, they should be compliant. We will not know until we remove them and rerun the Batch Report. Cheryl Allen motion to approve. Jerry Stephens seconded. Nick Clark asked are we following our policy on this. Bruce said the training should be entered by June 30th for the volunteer departments. Nick said this could be a slippery slope. Carrie said there are multiple factors for training for State Aid. Mike Sutt said was this caught on a training audit. Carrie said yes. The Board voted on this motion as follows:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Yes or No</u>
Cheryl Allen	Yes

Chris Black	Yes
Nick Clark	Yes
Joe Choate	Not present
Mike Haney	Not present
Josh Keats	Not present
Ricky King	Yes
Andrew Scott	Yes
Dwane Smeathers	Yes
Dr. Smith	Yes
Jerry Stephens	Yes
Mike Sutt	No
Father Matthew Young	Not present

Motion approved.

Grants Committee

Chris Black said the Grants Committee met this morning. We have four different items that we addresses. Madisonville Fire Department turned down their grant of \$38,300.00. Chris said we have two departments that asked for more than they received. The Committee decided to take the \$38,300.00 and split it between Lancaster Fire Department and Paris Fire Department in the amount of \$19,150.00 apiece. Dwane Smeathers motion to approve. Cheryl Allen seconded. Motion approved.

Chris Black said that Carrie Wilburn received an email from Franklin County requesting a one month extension on their 2023 grant. Cheryl Allen motion to approve. Dwane Smeathers seconded. Motion approved.

Chris Black said that the Scott County Fire Department was awarded \$15,000.00 for their original project. One of the contractors did this project for them for free. Scott County has asked can this money be reallocated so they can purchase a ventilation prop. Cheryl Allen motion to approve. Jerry Stephens seconded. Motion approved.

Chris Black said the last item was for the Thermal Imaging Camera grants. We had 270 applicants. We have \$500,000.00 to spend. We usually give out \$3,250.00 per

department. Chris Black said we have come up with 154 fire departments that we can award the thermal imaging cameras to. These departments have not received cameras in the last two cycles and are compliant. Dwane Smeathers motion to approve the departments on the list for the thermal imaging cameras. Jerry Stephens seconded. Motion approved. Carrie Wilburn said Bonita Oldham will be sending out the award letters.

State Fire Rescue Training

Marc Rudder said Class 005 at the Academy had thirty-two students to graduate in November from eighteen agencies. Class 006 will begin in February 2025. Currently there has been a request for thirty-one students out of the forty positions. Marc said we are preparing to push out an 18 month calendar for the courses for certification and the Fire Commission required classes.

Marc Rudder said that the written testing fees for IFSAC will increase to \$50.00 per test beginning on January 1, 2025. Marc said on January 1, 2025, IFSAC will transition to NFPA 470 for Hazmat Awareness and Operations. An anticipated date for FF I and II to change to NFPA 1010 will be on July 1, 2025.

Marc Rudder said that Wes Gilliam at District 9 is resigning at the end of the year. Wes has taken a job with the Kentucky Task Force 1 Urban Search and Rescue Team. Marc said that Buzzy Campbell is the District 15 Coordinator now.

Fire Commission Operations

Carrie Wilburn thanked the Operational Staff. The checks for the Training Facility grants are being distributed. We can mail the checks, or the departments can come in and pick them up. Carrie said we will be sending out the award letters for the thermal imaging grants. Carrie said the loans position is open. Please send the loan request emails to the general loan email box. Carrie said the State Aid is on a first come, first serve basis. Carrie said we will be pushing out reminders for the incentive deadline. Carrie said the next Fire Department Operations and Compliance Zoom classes will be on December 9th and December 17th.

Fire Commission Facilities

Derrick Hall said we are waiting on the signatures from the Industrial Park Supervisor and the Judge to get the property transferred for District 2. The property in Calhoun for the old District 3 location has been transferred back to the Green River Association. Derrick said at the Fire Academy hopefully we can do the test burns at the tower next week. Derrick said there is a sinkhole problem at District 4. Derrick said we have touched base again on the possible land transfer for District 5. Derrick said there has been discussion about adding an additional fifteen acres to District 9. Derrick said they are still looking for property for the District 11 office. Derrick said he received notification of a possible piece of property for District 12. Derrick said they received notification that the flashover trailer refurb should be completed this week.

Fire Marshal's Office

None.

Kentucky Office of Homeland Security

Chris Allen said Homeland Security awarded over \$3,000,000.00 in 2024 for the State Homeland security grant. For the 2024 non-profit security grant, they have awarded over \$5,000,000.00. Chris said he is the new Kentucky Intelligence Director for the Fusion Center.

Kentucky Firefighter's Association

Kyle Carpenter thanked the State Fire School committee. They have been busy getting ready for State Fire School this year. The KFA Conference will be held from July 30th to August 3rd in Maysville. The KFA winter meeting will be at Green River Officer's school on February 21st at 9:00 am (CST).

Kentucky Association of Fire Chiefs

Nick Clark said that Chief Mulvey is at a training class today and was unable to attend. Executive Director Mike Morgan has been hired by the Kentucky EMA as the mutual aid coordinator.

Kentucky Professional Firefighters Association

Joe Baer said the KPFF's next meeting will take place next Monday in Lexington. They will be discussing their legislative priorities. They have a number of issues that they would like to see addressed in the session. One of the things that they would like to get done is for retirees healthcare. Joe said they are working with the Fire Service Organization on Chapter 75 revenue issues. They intend to expand on the eligible cancers for the LODD section. Joe said they want to pursue funding for House Bill 323. Joe said the firefighter legislative chili dinner will be on February 5th at the Foundry in Frankfort. Joe said the KPFF convention will take place on May 19th through the 21st in Florence Kentucky.

Director Reports

Bruce Roberts thanked the Staff for this past year. The Office will be closed from December 23rd through January 6th. Bruce said we are looking at having two peer support training classes. The first one will be on April 22nd and 23rd. The second class will be on September 9th and 10th. Bruce said he would like to do one class in the East and one in the North. Chris Black said he will arrange a place in the North.

Old Business

Ricky King said the EMS course offerings will begin in the new year. Additional information will be sent out.

New Business

Ricky King said we need to set the Fire Commission meeting dates for 2025. The meeting dates are as follows:

Fire Commission Meeting Dates- 2025

Date	Time	Location
February 21, 2025	1:00 pm (CST)	Owensboro
April 17, 2025	1:00 pm (EST)	Paris
June 12, 2025	1:00 pm (EST)	Lexington
July 31, 2025	1:00 pm (EST)	Maysville
October 15, 2025	1:00 pm (EST)	Paris
December 3, 2025	1:00 pm (EST)	Paris

Ricky King said the next item on the agenda is for the elections of Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary. Ricky said he sent a letter for the Chair position. Dwane Smeathers sent a letter for the Vice Chair position. Chris Black sent a letter for the Secretary position. Bruce Roberts said the elections will be held at the Fire Commission meeting in February at Owensboro.

Correspondence

None.

Announcements from the Audience

None.

Dwane Smeathers motion to adjourn. Chris Black seconded. Meeting adjourned at 2:21 pm (EST).