

# **KENTUCKY FIRE COMMISSION**

## **Fire Commission Meeting**

### **Minutes**

**February 21, 2025**

**Owensboro, Kentucky**

#### **Present:**

Cheryl Allen  
Chris Black  
Nick Clark  
Mike Haney  
Josh Keats  
Ricky King  
Dwane Smeathers  
Dr. Irvin Smith  
Jerry Stephens  
Mike Sutt  
Father Matthew Young

#### **Absent:**

Joe Choate  
Andrew Scott

#### **Ex Officio Members**

#### **Present:**

Joe Baer  
Kyle Carpenter  
Nathan Mulvey

#### **Absent:**

Ricky King called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm (CST). Pat Thompson thanked everyone for being here today. Kyle Carpenter asked for a moment of silence for Mr. Stapleton and Mr. Wiseman.

## **Old Business**

Chris Black motion to approve Ricky King as the Chairman of the Fire Commission Board. Dwane Smeathers seconded. Motion approved.

Mike Sutt motion to approve Dwane Smeathers as the Vice Chairman of the Fire Commission Board. Chris Black seconded. Motion approved.

Father Matthew Young motion to approve Chris Black as the Secretary of the Fire Commission Board. Dwane Smeathers seconded. Motion approved.

Dwane Smeathers motion to approve the minutes from December 4, 2024 in Paris Kentucky. Jerry Stephens seconded. Motion approved.

## **Guest Speaker**

Dr. Ryan Quarles

## **Education Committee**

Kyle Carpenter said the Education Committee met this morning and we discussed the Junior Firefighter program. Carrie Wilburn said there were two proposed changes to the JFF program that came about because of phone calls. The first change is that JFF's cannot drive ATV's and UTV's on actual scenes or in training. We checked with our Worker's Compensation Representative, and they said that it would not be a permissible activity. The second change was a question that was asked on whether a junior firefighter can attend search and rescue events and actually function in a search and rescue capacity? Worker's Compensation said that is not a permissible activity. Carrie said these two items will be added to the JFF handbook as not permissible activities.

Casey Hall said we had a brief update on the Fire Science Technology Degree Program. Casey said that the Fire Academy of Kentucky is working with Madisonville CTC. Casey said we are working with the Department of Education, and we are seeing an influx with the High School programs. There are approximately twenty high schools participating in the Fire Science programs across the state.

Dwane Smeathers motion to approve the changes to the Junior Firefighter program. Jerry Stephens seconded. Motion approved.

### **Grants Committee**

Chris Black said the Grants Committee met this morning to discuss a few items. The first item is that we have a request from the Newport Fire Department for alternate items. Lieutenant Holmes sent an email to Carrie Wilburn on January 30, 2025 requesting to take \$2,200.00 of their grant funds and put towards other items. Cheryl Allen motion to approve. Nick Clark seconded. Father Matthew Young abstained from voting. Motion approved.

Chris Black said that Garrard County Fire District 1 is requesting an extension on their Training Facility Grant. They ran into some issues getting the Conex containers set due to the weather. Chris said the Committee approved a sixty day extension for them. Father Matthew Young motion to approve. Cheryl Allen seconded. Motion approved.

Chris Black said that the Paris Fire Department is requesting an extension to complete their training facility grant. The Committee approved a sixty day extension for them. Cheryl Allen motion to approve. Dwane Smeathers seconded. Motion approved.

Chris Black said the Training Facility grants will open on April 1, 2025 and close on April 30, 2025. Chris said this Committee will meet on May 13, 2025 and May 14, 2025 to review the applications. Chris said the interviews for Training Facility Grants will be conducted on June 3, 2025 and June 4, 2025.

### **Loan Committee**

Dwane Smeathers said the Loan Committee met this morning to discuss six different loans. Corydon Civil Defense Fire and Rescue is requesting \$115,000.00 for a 2016 tanker that includes SCBA's, hoses, and hand tools. Jerry Stephens motion to approve. Chris Black seconded. Motion approved.

Kite-Topmost Fire Department is requesting \$30,000.00 for a 1992 tanker. Cheryl Allen motion to approve. Chris Black seconded. Motion approved.

Manchester Fire Department is requesting \$53,435.00 for extrication tools. Nick Clark motion to approve. Chris Black seconded. Motion approved.

Owingsville Fire Department is requesting \$114,744.00 for a 2026 tanker. Chris Black motion to approve. Cheryl Allen seconded. Motion approved.

Southeast Casey County Fire Department is requesting \$25,000.00 for a 1995 tanker. Mike Sutt motion to approve. Chris Black seconded. Motion approved.

West McCracken Fire Department is requesting \$125,000.00 for a new Spartan pumper. Cheryl Allen motion to approve. Dr. Smith seconded. Motion approved.

### **Eligibility Committee**

Dwane Smeathers said the Eligibility Committee met this morning and unfortunately, we had two line of duty deaths to approve. Dwane Smeathers said we have a LODD for Steve Burns with the Providence Fire Department. This was from 2023 and was a cardiac issue. Jerry Stephens motion to approve. Josh Keats seconded. Motion approved.

Dwane Smeathers said we have a LODD for David Studer with the Covington Fire Department. This was from 2022 and was due to Covid. Chris Black motion to approve. Jerry Stephens seconded. Motion approved.

Dwane Smeathers said that the Caney Valley Fire Department requested backpay on their State Aid. Dwane said the Eligibility Committee voted to deny this request. Mike Sutt motion to deny this request. Father Matthew Young seconded. Motion approved.

Dwane Smeathers said that the Eubank Fire Department is requesting backpay for their State Aid for 2022-2023. Dwane said the Eligibility Committee voted to deny their request. Mike Sutt motion to deny this request. Nick Clark seconded. Motion approved.

Dwane Smeathers said that the Eubank Fire Department is requesting backpay for their State Aid for 2023-2024. Dwane said the Eligibility Committee voted to deny

their request. Chris Black motion to deny. Father Matthew Young seconded. Josh Keats asked can training be offered to help these departments with their paperwork. Carrie Wilburn said we are conducting Compliance Training every other month and we are planning to have a standalone State Aid class through Zoom to help the departments with their paperwork. Josh Keats asked will this fall on the individual firefighter or the department. Carrie Wilburn said it will fall on the fire department. Motion approved.

### **EMS Committee**

Nick Clark said the EMS Committee met virtually on January 30, 2025 to discuss the Fire Commission sponsored Advanced EMT and EMT classes. Nick Clark thanked Marc Rudder and Gary Hall for all of their hard work on these classes. Nick Clark said the challenge is having the classes online and the students have to test out at skills sites. Ricky King asked did we have enough Kentucky Firefighters register for the classes. Nick Clark said in the Advanced EMT class we had 241 applicants. 113 of these applicants were fire based. Nick said he does not have the numbers for EMT class yet.

### **Health and Wellness**

Dr. Smith said the Health and Wellness Committee met this morning. Dr. Smith said we received an update on the Cancer Screening pilot programs that were held in January 2025. Those screenings went well. We are going to follow up with the UDS people on these screenings.

### **New Business**

Ricky King said we are still working on the Board Member Policy and Procedures. Ricky turned the meeting over to John Wood. John said he thinks the most appropriate place to establish this would be in the By-Laws. John said he will work on preparing the drafts for each committee.

Jerry Stephens said he has been asked about the District 9 Coordinator position being posted. Marc Rudder said this is currently an open position. This position is currently being run by Mark Hammond.

Nick Clark asked about the Hep B funding. Bruce Roberts said the Hep B funding is mandated by law. Bruce said we have been working with the Legislators to change the title of to Hep A, B and Cancer Screening.

### **Correspondence**

David Jansing said he was notified by Ashley Tackett that she did not have records from FEMA that their runs had been submitted. David said he went back to Emergency Reporting, and they said that the Commission will not accept runs from a third party. David Jansing said with the buyout, we have switched to ESO. David said they were submitting their runs to Emergency Report, but they were not submitting them to Washington.

Bruce Roberts thanked the Staff at the Fire Commission Office. We are going through two audits right now. Brenda has been overwhelmed with all of the financial reporting, and we are vacant with one of the positions.

Bruce said we have two KAR changes that will need motions made on them. The first KAR is for the Fire Department reporting requirements. This is basically language. They changed the wording from a fire department to a fire district. Dwane Smeathers motion to approve. Chris Black seconded. Motion approved.

Bruce said the second KAR is for volunteer fire department aid. The paperwork used to be due by July 31<sup>st</sup>. We are changing the language so the paperwork will be due by September 30<sup>th</sup>. This will give the departments more time to turn in their proof of purchase and paperwork for State Aid. Chris Black motion to approve. Nick Clark seconded. Motion approved.

Bruce Roberts said that IFSAC has grown. The Fire Commission has paid out a lot towards the IFSAC program. We are doing more certifications than what is required. Bruce said he would like to put a working group together and to charge for these specialized certificates. Bruce said this is not to make money, but to recoup some of the costs that we are paying. Bruce asked Ricky King if we can put a working group together to start looking at the costs of IFSAC. This is not for FF I, II Hazmat Awareness, Hazmat Operations, Instructor I, etc. This working group will look at the higher certifications. Ricky King said that Mike Sutt will chair this work group. The following people will be on the work group: Chris Black, Marc Rudder, Pat

Thompson, and Christy Rodgers. Bruce said he would like to have a report back by the April Fire Commission meeting to tweak it and look at a date to implement it. Scott Reusing asked what are the classes that are above and beyond. Marc Rudder said anything above the Fire Instructor I. Marc Rudder said that would be Fire Officer III, IV, and Ropes.

Bruce Roberts said we are going to have a peer support training class on April 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> in Burlington. Bruce said if you are interested in attending, the link is on our website.

Chris Black motion to adjourn. Dwane Smeathers seconded. Fire Commission meeting adjourned at 1:54 pm (CST).

## **Agenda – Kentucky Association of Fire Chiefs**

Call to Order- Nathan Mulvey

Opening Comments – Nathan Mulvey

Treasurers Report- Bobby Bunnell

District VP Rollcall

1 <sup>st</sup>	Owen	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Mayfield	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Millikan	4 <sup>th</sup>	Hughes	5 <sup>th</sup>	Malone
6 <sup>th</sup>	Vacant	7 <sup>th</sup>	Whalen	9 <sup>th</sup>	Anderson	10 <sup>th</sup>	Rodgers	11 <sup>th</sup>	Vacant
12 <sup>th</sup>	Hays	13 <sup>th</sup>	Madden	14 <sup>th</sup>	Rutheford	15 <sup>th</sup>	Thompson		

Committee Reports

- Legislative
- Education

- Health & Safety
- Constitution & By-Laws
- EMS
- Conference

#### Old Business

- OSHA Update
- Association Logo
- KMAS Update

#### New Business

- 2025 Meeting Dates
- District VP Vacancies

#### **Break [if needed]**

#### **Agenda – Kentucky Firefighters Association**

#### Call Meeting to Order – President Kyle Carpenter

- Roll Call of Officers – Secretary Eric Philpot

#### Approval of 2024 Fall Meeting Minutes (Ashland, KY)

#### Officers Reports

- President Kyle Carpenter
- 1<sup>st</sup> VP Eddie Rucker
- 2<sup>nd</sup> VP Chris Crawford



- 3<sup>rd</sup> VP Troy Roberts
- VP at Large Pat Thompson
- Treasurer Bonita Bobo
- Secretary Eric Philpot

#### Treasurers Report – Bonita Bobo

- Financial standings

#### Membership Report – Eric Philpot

- Membership status

#### Executive Director Report – Randy Lawson

#### KFA Directors Reports:

- |                    |                    |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| • Big Sandy        | Mike Brown         |
| • Bluegrass        | Stephen Fante      |
| • Buffalo Trace    | David Kalb         |
| • Central KY       | Shane Yocum        |
| • Daniel Boone     | Jeff Anderson      |
| • Dixie            | Steve Sheets       |
| • Eastern KY       | Billy Selvage      |
| • Green River      | Dwane Smeathers    |
| • Jackson Purchase | Tex Johnson        |
| • Jefferson        | Joey Bowman        |
| • Lake Cumberland  | David Gross        |
| • Mountain         | Robert Keith       |
| • Northern KY      | Bud Lederer        |
| • South Central    | Nelson Slaughter   |
| • Southeastern KY  | Terry Wattenbarger |

## Committees:

- |                                      |                              |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| • Chapter 75                         | Jason Meiman / Stephen Fante |
| • EMS                                | Levi Hanshaw                 |
| • Legislative                        | Michael “Howdy” Kurtsinger   |
| • NVFC                               | Pat Thompson                 |
| • Special Events & Marketing         | Pat Thompson                 |
| • Honor Guard & Funerals             | Charlie Rafferty             |
| • Memorial                           | Bruce Roberts                |
| • Scholarship                        | Jimmy VanCleve               |
| • History                            | Jimmy VanCleve               |
| • Public Education & Fire Prevention | Adam Fuller                  |
| • Recruitment & Retention            | Adam Fuller                  |
| • Hall of Fame                       | John Beatsch                 |
| • Constitution and By-Laws / SOG’s   | Chris Crawford               |
| • Resolutions                        | Keith Hurm                   |
| • Conference Management              | Randy Lawson / Joel Trandell |
| • Finance                            | Bobby Cowherd                |
| • Steering                           | Stephen Fante                |
| • State Fire School                  | Marc Henderson               |
| • PTSD                               | Greg Buckler                 |
| • ADHOC                              | Pat Thompson                 |

## Old Business

- License Plate Update (Motorcycle)

## New Business

## Good and Welfare

## Executive Session if needed

Next Meeting – Kentucky State Fire School, Lexington, KY June 12, 2025 at 17:00 EST

### **Fire Marshal's Office**

None.

### **Kentucky Office of Homeland Security**

None.

### **Kentucky Professional Firefighters Association**

Joe Baer said to please see him if you are interested in the raffle tickets. Joe said that there have been 1100 bills filed this legislative session. Joe thanked everyone for their help with the chili dinner. Joe said the KPFF Convention will be held on May 19<sup>th</sup> through the 21<sup>st</sup> in Florence, Kentucky. Joe thanked the Fire Commission for hosting the peer support classes. Joe Baer said he was approached last week by Representative John Blanton. The wrecker service representatives approached him about allowing them to run with red lights on their wreckers. Initially they wanted blue lights, but law enforcement said no. Now they want to look at the possibility of putting red lights on their vehicles. Everyone said no. Joe congratulated Chief Mulvey on his upcoming retirement.

### **State Fire Rescue Training**

Marc Rudder said through January 31, 2025, 69% of the fire departments have received training through SFRT. Marc said they currently have an order for drones that is being processed. SFRT will be offering drone courses for certification with NFPA 2400 later this year. Marc said with the launch of our new website, there is a section called courses for certification. There will be options for virtual or in person classes. Many of the virtual classes will have test sites listed. Marc said they will be making changes to the Survival and Rescue props for FY 2026. The Accreditation Office will update to the new Edition of NFPA 1010 for FF I and II in July 2025. That means that anyone who has not completed the skills and written exams will have to start out new. Marc said we will also begin utilizing IFSTA Essentials of Firefighting Eighth Edition and Jones and Bartlett Fundamentals of Firefighter Skills Fifth Edition on July 1, 2025.

Marc Rudder said the Recruit Class 006 started on Monday, February 17, 2025. There are twenty-seven recruits representing fifteen departments. Marc said this class does have several volunteers in it. Marc said the next Academy graduation will be held on May 16, 2025. Marc said he did participate in the ES4 position at the State EOC. It was hectic and chaotic. Marc thanked everyone who stepped up and helped. Marc said that SFRT does offer Swift Water Rescue classes.

### **Fire Commission Operations**

Carrie Wilburn thanked her Operational Staff in the Office for all of their hard work. Carrie said the Training Facility Grant applications will be open from April 1, 2025 through April 30, 2025. Carrie said we are currently trying to close out the PPE grant from several years ago. Carrie said the fire departments are doing a good job getting their Thermal Imaging Camera grant information into the Office for reimbursement.

Carrie said the position for Loans is now closed. If you want a loan through the Fire Commission, please email your information to [fcloans@kctcs.edu](mailto:fcloans@kctcs.edu). Carrie said if you have used your State Aid funds already for this year, please go ahead and get your Proof of Purchase and State Aid paperwork sent into Ashley Tackett. Carrie said she wanted to remind everyone that there is a thirty day notification window for Incentive pay. Carrie said the last of the Training and Compliance classes will be held in April. We will start with special topics through Zoom after that. Carrie said we have a Representative through Acadis that is working directly with us on any issues with KyFIRES. Carrie said the Fire Commission does have a new website that is up and running. Carrie thanked Ericka Cole for all of her hard work on the website.

### **Fire Commission Facilities**

Derrick Hall said we are waiting for a property survey for District 2. Derrick said we will meet on Tuesday at the Fire Academy on construction meetings for the new dormitory building as well as the maintenance building. Derrick said he delivered a tanker to the Fire Academy yesterday. Derrick said we just had an engineering assessment done at District 4. We are waiting on a Geotech survey to be approved for that building also. Derrick said we are still in discussion about a donation of some property for District 5. Derrick said that District 6 had some recent damage from a snowstorm. Derrick said they met with the Industrial Board for adding additional property to District 9. Derrick said we are hopefully looking at some property for

District 11. Derrick said we are having a piece of property appraised for District 12. Derrick said we added an engine to District 13 that was originally from the Fire Academy. Derrick said that District 14 received some flooding damage in the storage building. Derrick said that District 15 received a new mobile air compressor that will be used across the state.

### **KBEMS**

Eddie Slone from KBEMS thanked the Fire Commission for the Advanced EMT and EMT Hybrid classes.

### **Kentucky Emergency Management**

None.

### **Supporting Heroes**

Eric Johnson thanked everyone for the opportunity to speak. There will be twelve firefighters honored at the National Firefighter Memorial Service in Emmetsburg this year. Eric said they have been working with nine of the families to get them registered and pay for their travel and lodging for the Memorial. Eric said the Supporting Heroes 20<sup>th</sup> Gala will be held on July 26, 2025 in Owensboro.

### **Announcements from the Audience**

None.

Meeting adjourned at 3:50 pm (CST).