

KENTUCKY FIRE COMMISSION

Fire Commission Meeting

Minutes

April 2, 2025

Paris, Kentucky

Present:

Cheryl Allen
Chris Black
Joe Choate
Mike Haney
Ricky King
Andrew Scott
Dwane Smeathers
Dr. Irvin Smith
Jerry Stephens
Mike Sutt
Father Matthew Young

Absent:

Nick Clark
Josh Keats

Ex Officio Members

Present:

Todd Kilburn
Joe Baer
Kyle Carpenter
Nathan Mulvey

Absent:

Ricky King called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm (EST). Andrew Scott motion to approve the minutes from February 21, 2025 in Owensboro Kentucky. Dwane Smeathers seconded. Motion approved.

Ricky King thanked Bruce Roberts and the Fire Commission for all of their hard work.

Loan Committee

Joe Choate said the Loan Committee met this morning to discuss two loan requests. Valley Creek Fire Department is requesting \$56,280.00 for fourteen sets of new turnout gear. Dwane Smeathers motion to approve. Chris Black seconded. Motion approved.

Middlefork Fire Department is requesting \$107,527.00 for new PPE and SCBA's. Chris Black motion to approve. Dwane Smeathers seconded. Motion approved.

Eligibility Committee

Dwane Smeathers said the Eligibility Committee met this morning. Kings Creek Fire Department is requesting to receive their State Aid for last year. They have a new fire chief and board of directors. The Eligibility Committee recommends approving Kings Creek for their State Aid as long as they meet the 50% on their training. Father Matthew Young motion to approve. Dwane Smeathers seconded. Motion approved.

State Fire Rescue Training

Marc Rudder said currently SFRT has trained about 75% of the fire departments across the state. Last year around this time it was 95%. Each of the District Offices are doing a great reaching to their areas. They are planning for their regional fire schools.

Fire Commission Operations

Carrie Wilburn thanked her staff for their hard work. Carrie said the Training Facility grants opened yesterday. Carrie said if you had a PPE grant, please get your paperwork in right away. We want to get that completed by the end of the fiscal year. Carrie said she is still handling the loan requests for now. Carrie said Chuck Bonta is our new Training and Compliance Investigator.

Fire Commission Facilities

Derrick Hall said the property transfer for District 2 is complete. The Fire Academy has had their first on site meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for this Friday. Derrick said that he, Marc Rudder, and Tony Morgan visited a factory last week in South Dakota. Derrick said they are waiting on some property follow ups for District 9. The IFSAC testing Office will move to Mt. Sterling next week. Derrick said that District 11 has approval for an appraisal on property. District 12 is having an appraisal on property in their area. District 13 just got approval for an appraisal on extra property near their facility.

Fire Marshal's Office

Mike Haney said the State Fire Marshal's Office is focused on licensed facilities. They have been working with the State Fair Grounds on enhancing fire prevention. Mike said they have several Fire Inspector I, and II classes scheduled throughout the year. They have hired two Deputy Fire Marshals in the last month and four for the year.

Kentucky Office of Homeland Security

None.

Kentucky Firefighters Association

Kyle Carpenter said the joint meeting at Officer's school went really well. Kyle said the KFA has been working on State Fire School. Kyle thanked both Marc and Ericka for their hard work. Registration is now open for State Fire School. Kyle said the KFA Conference will be held in Maysville on July 30th through August 3rd.

Kentucky Association of Fire Chiefs

Nathan Mulvey said Mike Morgan could not be here today. Nathan said they are working on building a strategic plan. Nathan said they restructured their sponsorship. The KAFC Conference will be held in August in Bowling Green Kentucky.

Kentucky Professional Firefighters Association

Joe Baer said this Legislative session ended this past Friday. Joe said we were fortunate to have four bills passed. House Bill 30 which exempts from pension spiking passed. Joe said if you have any questions on this House Bill, please see him. The second was House Bill 131 which relates to firefighter work schedules. Joe said we were very happy to get this bill passed. The third bill was House Bill 152, which is an act relating to a Medicaid supplemental payment program for public ground ambulance providers. Joe said he hopes this will add additional revenue to the departments across the Commonwealth in fire based and EMS. The last bill was Senate Bill 10, which is an act relating to retiree health provisions of the County Employees Retirement System. Joe said SB 10 will kick up the stipend to \$22.00.

Joe Baer said the IAFF and KPFF Memorial will be held on April 20th in Colorado Springs. Joe said federally a lot of programs are being cut. One of the programs is the firefighter investigation program. The second program is the National Firefighter Cancer Registry. Joe said that leadership from the IAFF has met with Washington concerning this. Joe said the KPFF Biennium Convention will be held May 19th through May 21st in Florence Kentucky. Joe said they are running a raffle for the Chip Terry Foundation.

Executive Director Report

Bruce Roberts thanked the Staff for their support. Bruce said the Fire Commission has been going through some audits. There has been no misappropriation of money, and no money is missing. Bruce said the IAFF Peer Support Training will be held on April 22nd and 23rd in Burlington Kentucky. There are still seven slots available. Bruce said we just finished the pilot program for cancer screening. Over three hundred individuals were screened.

Old Business

None.

New Business

Todd Kilburn said we have been looking for an Executive Director for the Fire Commission and we asked Bruce Roberts to be the new Director. Bruce said yes. This position is pending approval from the Fire Commission Board. Chris Black motion to approve accepting Bruce Roberts as the new Executive Director of the Fire Commission. Dwane Smeathers seconded. Motion approved. Joe Baer congratulated Bruce on his new position.

Announcements from the Audience

None.

Chris Black motion to adjourn. Dwane Smeathers seconded. Meeting adjourned at 1:31 pm (EST).