

KENTUCKY FIRE COMMISSION

Fire Commission Meeting

Minutes

June 12, 2025

Lexington, Kentucky

Present:

Cheryl Allen
Chris Black
Nick Clark
Joe Choate
Mike Haney
Josh Keats
Ricky King
Andrew Scott
Dwane Smeathers
Dr. Irvin Smith
Jerry Stephens
Mike Sutt

Absent:

Father Matthew Young

Ex Officio Members

Present:

Joe Baer
Kyle Carpenter
Nathan Mulvey

Absent:

Ricky King called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm (EST). Chris Black motion to approve the minutes from April 2, 2025. Cheryl Allen seconded. Motion approved.

Grants Committee

Chris Black said the Grants Committee has met several times in the last six weeks. Chris said they had sixty seven total applications. They awarded fifty one applicants. Dwane Smeathers motion for these grants to come out of committee. Jerry Stephens seconded. Motion approved. Chris Black said the following departments were awarded Training Facility Grant monies:

Name	Amount
Anchorage Middletown	\$21,000.00
Ashland Fire Department	\$30,000.00
Auxier Volunteer Fire Dept	\$30,000.00
Big Creek Volunteer Department	\$4,300.00
Boone County Fire Chief's Assoc.	\$15,000.00
Browning Fire Department	\$2,200.00
Campbell County FF Edu. Assoc.	\$37,500.00
Cornettsville Fire Dept	\$7,500.00
Cynthiana Fire Dept	\$65,000.00
Elsmere Fire Dept	\$29,750.00
Erlanger Fire Department	\$20,000.00
Flat Gap Volunteer Fire Dept	\$6,200.00
Frankfort Fire Dept	\$10,000.00
Garrard Co Fire Dept	\$30,000.00
Glendale Fire Dept	\$3,000.00
Gulnare Fire Dept	\$3,000.00
Harlan City Fire Dept	\$5,000.00
Henderson Fire Dept	\$25,000.00
Hopkinsville Fire Dept	\$10,000.00
Jessamine County	\$43,000.00
KY Regional Fire Training Academy	\$35,000.00
Kirksville Volunteer Fire Dept	\$25,000.00
Laurel Co Fire Dept	\$40,000.00
Leatherwood Volunteer Fire Dept	\$10,000.00
Lebanon Junction Fire Dept	\$29,750.00
London Fire Dept	\$4,000.00
Madisonville Fire Dept	\$15,000.00

Millers Creek Fire Dept	\$65,000.00
Nicholasville Fire Dept	\$35,000.00
Olympian Springs Fire Dept	\$9,000.00
Owensboro Fire Dept	\$4,000.00
Paintsville Fire Dept	\$10,000.00
Paris Fire Dept	\$10,000.00
Pigeon Roost Fire Dept	\$2,000.00
Pikeville Fire Dept	\$8,000.00
Piner Fiskburg Fire Dept	\$10,000.00
Plano Fire Dept	\$29,750.00
Pleasure Ridge Park	\$17,000.00
Richmond Fire Dept	\$20,000.00
Russellville Fire Dept	\$59,600.00
Shelbyville Fire Dept	\$15,000.00
Smith's Grove Rural Fire Dept	\$9,000.00
St. Matthews Fire Dept	\$9,000.00
Thelma Volunteer Fire Dept	\$30,000.00
Versailles Fire Dept	\$25,000.00
Viper Fire Dept	\$6,000.00
W.R. Castle Fire Dept	\$7,700.00
Wallins Volunteer Fire Dept	\$2,000.00
Washington Co Fire Dept	\$10,000.00
Wilmore Fire Dept	\$29,750.00
Woodburn Community Fire Dept	\$21,000.00

Joe Choate motion to approve these departments for the Training Facility Grant monies. Dwane Smeathers seconded. Motion approved.

Loan Committee

Dwane Smeathers said the Loan Committee met this morning to discuss two loans. Spencer County Fire Protection District is requesting \$125,000.00 for a two-site Simulcast Radio System. Chris Black motion to approve. Mike Sutt seconded. Motion approved.

Viper Fire Department is requesting \$70,000.00 for a 2015 Ram 3500 4X4 Rescue truck. Jerry Stephens motion to approve. Chris Black seconded. Motion approved.

Finance Committee

Joe Choate said the Finance Committee met on June 9, 2025 and went over the FY 2026 budget. The committee recommends approval on the budget as presented by Brenda Goddard. Andrew Scott motion to approve. Dwane Smeathers seconded. Motion approved.

Ricky King appointed a working group to study the Fire Commission salaries. The following people will be on this work group: Joe Baer, Chris Black, Brenda Goddard, Carrie Wilburn, and Marc Rudder. Ricky asked for a report back before the July 31st Fire Commission meeting. Chris Black will be the chair of this work group.

Eligibility Committee

Dwane Smeathers said the Eligibility Committee met this morning to discuss several items. The first item is South McCreary Fire and Rescue is requesting an extension on their State Aid. Joe Choate motion to approve. Cheryl Allen seconded. Motion approved.

Dwane Smeathers said the next item is for the Recovery of Incentive payments for the Anchorage Middletown Fire Department. The Finance Committee denied this request. Chris Black motion to deny this request for recovery of incentive payments. Joe Choate seconded. Motion approved. Mike Sutt abstained from voting.

Dwane Smeathers said the next item is an incentive and pension application for Olive Hill Fire Department. Chris Black motion to approve. Nick Clark seconded. Motion approved.

Dwane Smeathers said the next item is an incentive and pension application for Northern Pendleton Fire District. Chris Black motion to approve. Cheryl Allen seconded. Motion approved.

Dwane Smeathers said the next item is an incentive and pension application for Nelson County Fire Protection District. Joe Choate motion to approve. Mike Haney seconded. Motion approved.

Dwane Smeathers said we have a LODD for Allen Stapleton. He was with the Olive Hill Fire Department. Chris Black motion to approve. Cheryl Allen seconded. Motion approved.

Dwane Smeathers said we have a LODD for Barry Darnall. He was with the West Marshall Fire Department. Nick Clark motion to approve. Mike Haney seconded. Motion approved.

Dwane Smeathers said we have a LODD for Leslie Leatherman. He was with the Laurel County Fire Department. Chris Black motion to approve. Cheryl Allen seconded. Motion approved.

Dwane Smeathers said we have a LODD for Paul Thomas. He was with the Norton Branch Fire Department. Joe Choate motion to approve. Mike Haney seconded. Motion approved.

EMS Committee

Nick Clark said the EMS Committee met this morning. Nick said for the Hybrid EMT class, fifty eight students passed. For the Hybrid Advanced EMT class, seventy four students passed. Nick said the EMS Committee recommends hosting two refresher courses. The total cost for these courses will be \$1,500.00. Dwane Smeathers motion to approve the refresher classes. Jerry Stephens seconded. Motion approved.

State Fire Rescue Training

Marc Henderson said the Districts have delivered training to 92% of the fire departments in Kentucky. This training will continue through June 30, 2025. Marc said SFRT has purchased four additional Survival and Rescue training props. Marc said that the class 006 graduated from the Fire Academy on May 16, 2025. Thirty nine students have requested to attend class number 007.

Fire Commission Operations

Carrie Wilburn said we have hired a new Financial Analyst Melissa Norsworthy. Carrie said we hired Dustin Staves as the Training Records and Compliance Specialist.

Carrie said we are going to try to get notifications out to the departments concerning the Training Facility Grants as soon as possible. Carrie said they are working on closing out the TIC grants. The State Aid paperwork is due on July 31, 2025.

Fire Commission Facilities

Derrick Hall said there is discussion on the District 5 property. Derrick said the new ladder truck has been delivered to District 7. Derrick said we are looking at additional property for District 9. Derrick said they are looking at properties for Districts 11 and 12. Derrick said we have moved all of the equipment to the District 14 Office.

Fire Marshal's Office

Mike Haney filled a position for Hazardous Materials Inspector. They are working on the 26-27 budget years.

Kentucky Office of Homeland Security

Josh Keats said their Deputy Director is retiring. They have been working with the St. Matthews Fire Department on obtaining property.

Kentucky Firefighter's Association

Kyle Carpenter thanked everyone for coming out to the State Fire School. Kyle said the KFA Conference is coming up in Maysville from July 30th through August 3rd.

Kentucky Association of Fire Chiefs

Nathan Mulvey said the KAFC annual conference will be held in Bowling Green in August. Nathan said NERIS is replacing NFIRS. The KAFC is looking at taking over the NERIS program.

Kentucky Professional Firefighters Association

Joe Baer said they had their convention in May in Covington. The Delegates voted to endorse Andy Barr for Senate. Joe said they are working on their Legislative agenda for the upcoming session. Joe said they are working on moving tier 3 back to tier 2. Joe said they have a request for IAFF for a peer support for the Eastern Kentucky.

Marc Henderson said he has been appointed to the Cancer Support Network.

Old Business

None.

New Business

None.

Announcements from the Audience

None.

Mike Sutt motion to adjourn. Josh Keats seconded. Meeting adjourned at 1:53 pm (EST).