

KENTUCKY FIRE COMMISSION

Fire Commission Meeting

Minutes

July 31, 2025

Maysville, 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

Father Matthew Young

Absent:

Ex Officio Members

Present:

Joe Baer

Kyle Carpenter

Absent:

Nathan Mulvey

Ricky King called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm (EST). Chris Black motion to approve the minutes from June 12, 2025. Dwane Smeathers seconded. Motion approved.

Ricky King thanked Kyle Carpenter and the KFA for hosting this meeting and for their hospitality. Ricky thanked the Fire Commission and SFRT for everything that they do.

Health and Wellness

Dr. Smith said the Health and Wellness committee met this morning. We reviewed some of the data for the UDS screening. We have a recommendation to bring to the Commission today involving the proposed qualifications of regulations for the cancer screening KAR. The requirements are: Has to be Basic I or II certified firefighter, has to be a firefighter for three years, the screening will be available every three years, for firefighters who are retired for up to ten years, has to be a non-tobacco user, firefighter will pay for the screening up front and get reimbursed by the Fire Commission up to \$325.00, Invoices should be mailed to the Fire Commission within fifteen days of the screening with the proper paperwork, the firefighter or department should notify the Fire Commission prior to the screening, the reimbursement process will start within 90 days after the invoice and paperwork is completed and we would like screen up to 500 firefighters annually as long as the funds are available, this would not include dermatologists, the screening test has to be USFDA approved. This is a pilot project. Mike Sutt motion to approve. Father Matthew Young seconded. Motion approved.

Grants Committee

Chris Black said the Grants Committee met this morning to discuss a couple of items. Erlanger Fire Department was awarded with a Training Facility Grant for a project that was going to be done in phases. The committee approved a grant for their second phase. Erlanger started working on phase one with this grant money. Chris said we received an email from Erlanger requesting to use these monies for phase one. The Grants Committee approved this morning for them to use this funding for phase one.

Dwane Smeathers motion to approve. Father Matthew Young seconded. Motion approved.

Chris Black said the thermal imaging camera dates will be August 15, 2025 through September 15, 2025. The committee will review the applications on October 15, 2025. Mike Sutt motion to approve. Dwane Smeathers seconded. Motion approved.

Chris Black said that Carrie Wilburn received an email from the Garrard County Fire Department requesting an extension on their Training Facility grant. The Committee approved the extension until September 15, 2025. Cheryl Allen motion to approve. Andrew Scott seconded. Motion approved.

Eligibility Committee

Dwane Smeathers said the Eligibility Committee met this morning to discuss a LODD for Charlie Shaw with the Taylor County Fire Department. Dr. Smith has reviewed all of his records, and they met the qualifications for LODD. Chris Black motion to approve. Mike Sutt seconded. Motion approved.

Dwane Smeathers said that Carrie Wilburn received an email from the Cromwell Fire Department concerning their State Aid. They dropped a few firefighters off of their roster which dropped them below the thirteen members. The committee motion to deny their request for State Aid. Father Matthew Young motion to deny reinstatement for Cromwell's State Aid. Chris Black seconded. Motion approved.

EMS Committee

Nick Clark said the EMS Committee met this morning to discuss the EMT class and the Advanced EMT class. The hybrid EMT class graduated fifty eight students from the class. Thirty one students have passed the test. They hybrid AEMT had forty three students that attempted to test. Twenty seven students have passed the test. These numbers are still coming in. Nick said we have put together budget numbers for the upcoming classes. We are going to set up a meeting with Brenda and Bruce to discuss this.

State Fire Rescue Training

Marc Rudder said that SFRT delivered 7,112 classes to 709 fire departments during FY25. Marc said the Accredited Certification Office has delivered of testing that resulted in 3,193 skill exams and 5020 written exams. Marc said the Fire Academy of Kentucky has an EMT class that will finish this week. Recruit class #007 will start on August 18, 2025. Marc said they are looking to complete the dormitory project and will add weeklong classes throughout the year. Marc said their Training Specialists are working across the Districts to deliver classes for certification. They are excited to have a fourth training specialist to begin in August. Marc said SFRT has received an additional four tailored props in 2025. Marc said that KCTCS, the Kentucky Fire Commission and SFRT has entered into an agreement with Emergency Management to deliver grant funded hazmat training to responders across the Commonwealth. Marc said they had over thirty firefighters who attended the National Fire Academy. Marc said the District Offices are now accepting training requests for FY26.

Fire Commission Operations

Carrie Wilburn said the Training Facility Grant deposits will be going out soon. Carrie said the cut off date for the PPE grants will be on August 30, 2025. Carrie said they have been receiving questions on the NERIS program. Carrie said we do not have passwords or access to go into the NERIS program. NERIS does have a Facebook page. Carrie said State Aid is due today. We pay the State Aid out in the order that it was received.

Fire Commission Facilities

Derrick Hall said they are working on a couple of projects for District 2. Derrick said that District 3 had a flooding incident with a hot water heater that had a line break. Derrick said they are working on the new dorms at the Fire Academy. They are also working on a maintenance building there. Derrick said they had a walk through for District 5 for twenty acres of land. Derrick said District 6 had some damage to their building. Derrick said they received a truck for District 7. Derrick

said they have a letter of intent for land for District 11. Derrick said they have a letter of intent for District 13 for an additional 3.8 acres. Derrick said that District 14 has moved to a new location.

Fire Marshal's Office

Mike Haney said the Fire Marshal's Office is getting ready for the State Fair. They have made significant improvements over the last three or four years at the fairgrounds. Mike said they have received approval for a new Deputy State Fire Marshal in the Frankfort area. They have a new hazmat employee that will be starting with them tomorrow. Mike said they have one employee who retired today. Mike said they hope to get more funding for additional training and additional staffing.

Kentucky Office of Homeland Security

Josh Keats said they have hired a new administrative assistant. They have an employee who is retiring. The Homeland Security Conference will be held at the end of August. Nick Clark asked who the contact person is for the Satellite phone numbers. Josh said to use the Fusion Center mailbox to get the numbers.

Kentucky Firefighter's Association

Kyle Carpenter thanked everyone for being here. The KFA Memorial will be at 3:00 pm at the St. Patrick Church. Kyle thanked the Commission Board for everything.

Kentucky Association of Fire Chief's

Ricky King said that Nathan Mulvey is retiring today. Ricky thanked Nathan for what he has done in the Fire Service. Nathan said today is his last day. His position will be turned over to Steve Kyle. Nathan said their Conference will be held in August in Bowling Green.

Kentucky Professional Firefighters Association

Joe Baer said a couple of weeks ago; we had a case go before the Federal Court System regarding improper termination for two of our members who joined the IAFF. Our firefighters won the case. Joe said the KPFF is working on the Legislative agenda for 2026. Joe said they are working the chili dinner for next year. Joe said the chili dinner looks like it will be held on January 13th or 20th. Joe said they had a meeting scheduled this morning to discuss the implementation of Senate Bill 10. Senate Bill 10 is regarding the healthcare stipend for all of those retired or hired on after 2003. Joe said they are working on increasing State Aid and Incentive pay.

Old Business

Chris Black said the Salary Work group has met twice since the last Commission meeting. Chris said right now there is 579 total employees that works for the Fire Commission. Chris said the job title classifications is confusing. Chris said we want to make sure that our employees make a good living. Chris said the Salary Work group is going to meet again next month.

Bruce Roberts said the Fire Commission has been going through a couple of audits. The LRC audit is completed. They had two recommendations. One is to do a KAR for the reduction of hours for the Basic I and II. Bruce said John Wood has put the KAR for this together. Bruce said the other issue was with the 5% administrative fee. Bruce said we are going to meet with KCTCS and get a clarification on the 5%. Bruce said he thought this audit went well. Bruce said we just finished the financial report for the other audit. Hopefully by the end of August, we will have this audit completed. Bruce said the Peer Support class will be held on September 9th and 10th in Bowling Green.

New Business

John Wood went over the proposed regulation for the KAR for the reduction in training hours for the Basic I and II levels. Chris Black motion to approve. Jerry Stephens seconded. Motion approved unanimously.

Announcements from the Audience

None.

Father Matthew Young motion to adjourn. Chris Black seconded. Meeting adjourned at 1:56 pm (EST).