

KENTUCKY FIRE COMMISSION

Special Fire Commission Meeting

Minutes

December 18, 2025

Virtual

Present:

Cheryl Allen
Chris Black
Nick Clark
Josh Keats
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
Todd Kilburn
Steve Kyle
Eddie Rucker

Absent:

Ricky King called the meeting to order 1:00 pm (EST). John Wood said the Commission Members needs to have their cameras turned on.

Nick Clark said the EMS Committee met on December 16, 2025. We received the results of the entrance exam for the EMT class. Gary Hall said we had 186 applicants. 140 people took the entrance exam. Gary said the EMS Committee recommended a cutoff score of 55% for the entrance exam. This will give us around ninety-eight people in the class who passed the exam. Nick said we need a motion to approve the 55% cutoff score for the entrance exam. Nick said we will need another motion to approve Louisville as the fifth testing site. Marc Rudder said we had discussed Bowling Green and Louisville as testing sites. It would be better to clean everything up as of this meeting. Andrew Scott motion to approve the 55% cutoff score or better for the EMT class. Cheryl Allen seconded. Motion approved. Mike Sutt motion to approve adding Louisville as a test site and removing Bowling Green and Burlington as test sites. Dr. Smith seconded. Motion approved. Nick Clark said the five testing sites will be Elizabethtown, Hazard, Paducah, Paris, and Louisville.

Ricky King said the next item on the agenda is for the IFSAC Workgroup. Mike Sutt said we looked at the IFSAC fees. Mike said the IFSAC Workgroup did come up with some recommendations to bring to the Commission. We will be leaving the IFSAC testing fee as is. Mike Sutt said this will impact some departments. We want to give as much advanced notice to the departments as possible. Mike Sutt said we would like to see the fee changes take place on July 1, 2026. The IFSAC Proposed fees are as follows:

Rope Rescue Awareness	\$50.00 Testing Fee
Rope Rescue Operations	\$150.00 Testing Fee
Rope Rescue Technician	\$300.00 Testing Fee
Pilot Passenger Vehicle Rescue Awareness	\$50.00 Testing Fee
Common Passenger Vehicle Rescue Operations	\$150.00 Testing Fee
Common Passenger Vehicle Rescue Technician	\$300.00 Testing Fee
Driver Operator Pumper	\$150.00 Testing Fee
Driver Operator Aerial	\$150.00 Testing Fee
Fire Officer I	\$300.00 Testing Fee
Fire Officer II	\$300.00 Testing Fee
Fire Officer III	\$300.00 Testing Fee

Fire Officer III	\$300.00 Testing Fee
Airport Firefighter	\$300.00 Testing Fee
Fire Inspector	\$300.00 Testing Fee
Small Unmanned Aircraft	\$300.00 Testing Fee

Mike Sutt said this is an in State rate for Kentucky firefighters. The rates for out of state firefighters for these tests are doubled. Dwane Smeathers asked is the Instructor II included in the free tests. Marc Rudder said we requested that the Fire Instructor II be free due to the fact that KAR 739:02060 for live fire instructor in charge. John Wood said he does not believe constitutionally that we can charge out of state people more than in state people. Have to treat equally. Ricky King said he knows that they do this in every other state. Todd Kilburn said that KCTCS does have in state and out of state tuition. Todd said the issue we are having is because of House Bill 4, adversity, equity, and inclusion. We can not give someone who is an undocumented student a benefit of someone who is a citizen. We want to try to move to one consistent tuition fee for in state and out of state. CPE has requirements around that. John Wood asked can we articulate a reason of why it would be higher for out of state. Marc Rudder said the base funding that funds our projects is from the insurance surcharge for the training of Kentucky Firefighters. That is where this program is funded. Brenda Goddard said we charge more for CPAT for out of state firefighters because that funding is from state tax dollars. CPAT and IFSAC are nationally recognized. John Wood asks does it cost more to do out of state testing versus in state testing. Brenda Goddard said yes. Joe Baer asked is this for firefighters who work in Kentucky even if they live outside of the state? Marc Rudder said yes. Mike Sutt said we need a motion to approve the IFSAC skills testing fees that was presented today. Dwane Smeathers motion to approve. Andrew Scott seconded. Motion approved.

Brenda said with this list being approved, she will submit it to the KCTCS Office of Budget and Financial. Ricky said hopefully we will have this in place by July 1, 2026. Brenda said that is the hope. Steve Kyle asked what will be the notification procedure for notifying fire departments of the fee structure. Bruce Roberts said we will get these letters out ASAP to make sure everyone has time to work that into their budget process.

Dr. Smith asked what was the source for the entrance exam for the EMT class. Gary Hall said the exam was commercially produced.

Christy Rodgers said other states do charge for IFSAC testing. Ricky thanked the EMS Committee and the IFSAC Workgroup for all of their hard work.

Nick Clark motion to adjourn. Dwane Smeathers seconded. Meeting adjourned at 1:34 pm (EST).