

# KENTUCKY FIRE COMMISSION

Fire Commission Meeting

Minutes

April 15, 2026

Paris, KY

## **Present:**

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

## **Ex Officio Members**

## **Present:**

Joe Baer  
Todd Kilburn  
Steve Kyle  
Eddie Rucker

## **Absent:**

Joe Choate  
Mike Haney  
Andrew Scott

## **Absent:**

Ricky King called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm (EST). Ricky said that Mayor Scott called and he is not going to be able to attend today's meeting. His absence

will be excused. Richard Wright conducted the swearing in of Amy Hess. Chris Black motion to approve the minutes from February 20, 2026. Dwane Smeathers seconded. Motion approved. Ricky King thanked everyone for everything that they do. Ricky thanked Bruce Roberts and Joe Baer for all their hard work in Frankfort.

### **Education Committee**

Mike Sutt said the Education Committee met this morning to discuss putting a cap on the number of logins for the SFRT virtual lead classes. The committee voted to put the cap to seventy-five logins per virtual class. Cheryl Allen motion to approve. Chris Black seconded. Nick Clark asked where did the number of seventy-five come from. Mike Sutt said it is an arbitrary number as of this point to see if that will help. Marc Rudder said a login can have several people in the class. Motion approved.

### **Loan Committee**

Father Matthew Young said the loan committee met this morning. Carrie Wilburn conducted a presentation on the loan requirements and application process.

Bagdad Fire Protection District is requesting \$56,153.40 for a 2026 Dodge 3500 Field Unit. Father Matthew Young motion to approve. Chris Black seconded. Motion approved.

Spottsville Fire Department is requesting \$32,560.68 for a 2025 Kawasaki Ridge Crew UTV and Wildland Skid Sprayer Unit. Father Matthew Young motion to approve. Dwane Smeathers seconded. Motion approved.

Baskett Community Fire Department is requesting \$79,139.00 for a 2001 American LaFrance Engine Tanker. Father Matthew Young motion to approve. Chris Black seconded. Motion approved.

## **State Fire Rescue Training**

Marc Rudder said through March 31, 2026, SFRT has trained 625 fire departments. Marc said we delivered 5,316 classes, which is an 8.4 increase from last year. The number of people who have attended our classes is 77,960. Marc said that State Fire School will be held on June 10<sup>th</sup> through the 14<sup>th</sup>. Registration is currently open with some of the classes already being filled. Marc said the Accredited Certification Office has given 2,987 written exams this year. Through the end of March 2026, 1,802 seals have been issued. Marc said the Academy class number 8 is in session with thirty-six students. Graduation will be held on May 15, 2026.

## **Fire Commission Operations**

Carrie Wilburn said the Incentive deadline is April 30, 2026. Carrie said that the Incentive departments need to notify Lisa Bradley within thirty days if they have someone out on medical leave, or military leave. Carrie said this also goes for adding a firefighter to the Incentive program. Carrie said the Training Facility Grants deadline is April 30, 2026, at noon. Carrie said the PPE paperwork for reimbursement is due on May 29, 2026. Carrie said the volunteer departments need to have their training hours in by June 30, 2026, to qualify for State Aid.

## **Fire Commission Facilities**

Derrick Hall said that the Fire Commission hired Rick Bolin and he will be located at the District 4 Office in Bowling Green. He will cover Districts 2, 3, 4, 5, and the Fire Academy. Derrick said there is currently a meeting going on at the Fire Academy for the maintenance building. Derrick said they are continuing the discussion on the property for District 5. They are looking at some property in Glendale area. Derrick said they had contractors on site at the District 4 Office to look at building repairs. Derrick said the District 6 building is having their roof replaced. Derrick said we have been hosting CPAT here while that building is being worked on. Derrick said they are working on the utility approval for the District 11 building. Derrick said District 15 and the Fire Commission Office is looking at having the roof replaced.

Ricky King asked Brenda Goddard about an update on Finance. Brenda said with HB 500, there are some changes that will affect us. Brenda said there will be increases in Incentive pay and State Aid. Brenda said one major change that is going to affect us is how SFRT is going to be looked at. Previously SFRT was funded through general funds. Brenda said as of July 1, 2026, SFRT can make a transfer to KCTCS. Brenda said now when we get audited, SFRT will be audited too. Brenda said there is another issue of in the second year there will be a decrease of 1.5%. As of right now, Brenda does not know which bucket lines will be affected by that. Brenda said we have projects for Capital that are still being funded for now. Ricky King said everyone needs to have their budgets turned into Brenda by May 1, 2026. Chris Black motion to for everyone to send their budgets to Brenda Goddard by May 1, 2026, and in future years to send their budgets to Brenda by April 1<sup>st</sup> of each year. Dwane Smeathers seconded. Motion approved. Brenda said the quarterly accruals are in everyone's packets.

### **Fire Commission Human Resources**

Val Parks said KCTCS is in the middle of making some big changes for retirements plans. We are going from four vendors down to two vendors. Val said we have one open position for Technology Solutions for the Fire Commission Office.

### **Fire Commission Accredited Certification**

None.

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

None.

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

Amy Hess thanked everyone for the welcome.

### **Kentucky Firefighter's Association**

Eddie Rucker said the KFA's next meeting will be at the State Fire School on June 11, 2026, at 5:00 pm (EST).

### **Kentucky Association of Fire Chief's**

Steve Kyle said their website for clothing is getting ready to come online. Steve said they have diligently been working on the Fire Chief's handbook.

### **Kentucky Professional Firefighter's Association**

Joe Baer said the Legislative Session ends by midnight tonight. Joe said we have had a successful session. We did not get some of the legislation across the finish line. Joe said HB 34 stalled in Senate. Joe said there are PSOB changes in DC. There is still a lot of questions on how this program is going to be applied. This entails twenty-one cancers. Joe said nobody in the country has a Stress Injury Reimbursement program like us. He has been receiving questions from other states on our program. Joe said that Kentucky will be hosting the Southern Federation of Professional Firefighters conference in Louisville on June 1<sup>st</sup> through the 2<sup>nd</sup>. Joe said he received an invitation from Mayfield Fire Department for the grand re-opening of their building that was damaged by the tornadoes.

### **Kentucky Emergency Management- Urban Search and Rescue**

Chris Black said we should be up and running by July 1, 2026. Right now, management is doing a phenomenal job getting things prepared. Chris said they are doing a lot of training.

### **Health and Wellness Committee**

Dr. Smith said the Health and Wellness Committee met virtually on March 23, 2026, to discuss the need for guidelines for the Stress Injury Reimbursement program. Dr.

Smith said the committee did discuss sending out surveys for the Stress Injury Reimbursement program and the Cancer/ Cardiovascular screening program. Dr. Smith said everyone should have a copy of the drafts of the surveys to look at for approval. Dr. Smith said that Amy Hess has helped us with these surveys and given us some guidance. John Wood asked about the introductory language. Carrie Wilburn read the introductory language to the Board. Dwane Smeathers motion to approve the surveys. Jerry Stephens seconded. Father Matthew Young asked will this information be subject to open records requests. Ericka Cole said these surveys will be on Google forms and there will be no email addresses or names on them. Carrie said this will be raw data. Motion approved.

Todd Kilburn said HB 619 will expand the size of KCTCS's Board.

### **Old Business**

Bruce Roberts said at the December Fire Commission meeting, it was approved that we would start charging for IFSAC tests not required by law on July 1, 2026. Bruce said we received responses from the Fire Chiefs and different organizations regarding the prices. Bruce said anything in law by statute will still be free except for out-of-state people. Bruce said he discussed this with Marc Rudder and Mike Sutt. Bruce said the changes that we recommend will be Airport Firefighter go from \$300.00 to \$125.00 for in state firefighters. For out of state firefighters, the cost will go from \$600.00 to \$250.00. Bruce Roberts said the next recommendation is for the Fire Officer classes to go from \$300.00 down to \$150.00 for in-state firefighters. For out-of-state firefighters, the cost will go from \$600.00 to \$300.00. Jerry Stephens motion to approve. Cheryl Allen seconded. Motion approved.

### **New Business**

None.

### **Correspondence**

None.

## **Announcements from the Audience**

Ericka Cole said the August Fire Commission meeting will be in conjunction with the KFA Conference in Ashland Kentucky. Ericka said she will send out the hotel information to everyone. The host hotel has been sold out for weeks.

Meeting adjourned at 2:08 pm (EST).