

**KENTUCKY FIRE COMMISSION**

Fire Commission Meeting

Minutes

October 20, 2022

Somerset, Kentucky

**Present:**

Chris Black  
Wayne Briscoe  
Mike Haney  
Josh Keats  
Tamela Kerr  
Ricky King  
Scott Lawson  
Lonnie Madden  
Andrew Scott  
Dwane Smeathers  
Mike Sutt

**Absent:**

Joe Choate

**Ex Officio Members**

**Present:**

Beverly D. Malloy  
Joe Baer  
Rick Bobo  
Cathy Rigney

Ricky King called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm (EST). Andrew Scott motion to approve the minutes from August 4, 2022 in Corbin Kentucky. Wayne Briscoe seconded. Motion approved.

## **Old Business**

None.

## **Loan Committee**

Dwane Smeathers said the Loan Committee met this morning to discuss two loans. Rogers Park/ Turkey Creek Fire Department is requesting \$26,878.32 for a Cascade Compressor System. Chris Black motion to approve. Wayne Briscoe seconded. Motion approved.

Highview Fire Department is requesting \$52,803.75 for 19 sets of PPE and 8 Swift Water Rescue kits. Scott Lawson motion to approve. Wayne Briscoe seconded. Motion approved.

## **EMS Committee**

Mike Sutt said the EMS Committee met this morning. Mike said the EMS Committee is making the recommendation to provide four EMR classes and two EMT classes across the Commonwealth at no cost. The areas selected are Districts 2, 3, 9 and 14 for the EMR classes. Districts 4 and 13 for the two EMT classes. Anybody applying for these classes would have to be with a fire department in good standing with the Fire Commission. They would have to complete Basic Firefighter I or Basic II certifications. The departments that they are with will have to provide emergency medical care to their respective areas. Mike said the department will need to come up with a program for that member to commit their time back to the department. Mike thanked Gary Hall for his work on this. Mike Sutt motion to approve. Dwane Smeathers seconded. Motion approved.

## **Eligibility Committee**

Dwane Smeathers said the Eligibility Committee met this morning to discuss a LODD for Shawn McAdam with the Louisville Fire Department. All documentation has been taken care of. Scott Lawson motion to approve. Andrew Scott seconded. Motion approved.

## **State Fire Rescue Training**

Marc Rudder said SFRT through the first quarter of the year has offered 1167 classes, which is up 3% over FY 2022, In those classes we have trained over 15,000 students. Marc said over the last 2 ½ to 3 years, SFRT has struggled to be able to get out and provide classes especially hands on classes due to Covid. If a department has need for training, please contact your District Coordinator. Marc said to be eligible for the Commission's grants, the department must receive or have scheduled training through SFRT. Marc said this has made the phone calls and training submissions increase at several of our District offices. We provide 21 hours of training for each fire department. Marc said we are in the process of hiring four Training Specialists across the state. Marc Rudder said everyone is invited to visit the first recruit class at NRPC. Scott Lawson thanked the adjunct instructors and the students for their hard work.

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

None.

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

None.

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

Rick Bobo said that Shelby Dodge with the State Fair contacted him and would like participation from our agencies again next year. Rick said he is working with her and setting up meeting dates. He said he will get this out to everyone of when the meeting dates are. She would like to talk about this year with what went right and what went wrong and discuss what we would like to do next year.

Rick said the E-Board meeting for the KFA will be held on October 29, 2022 at the Elizabethtown Extension Office at 9:00 am (EST). Rick said he has been working with Dr. David Casey who is the chair of the Department of Psychiatry and Behavior Health Sciences at the University of Louisville. Rick said he has his steering committee working on firefighter mental health and PTSD and maybe looking at creating a taskforce across the entire State of Kentucky.

Rick Bobo said the Memorial Committee will work on fundraising for the Firefighter Memorial in Frankfort and its expansion.

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

Cathy Rigney thanked everyone for attending their conference. Cathy said their next meeting will be on October 27, 2022 at 6:00 pm in Prestonsburg. Cathy said they had a silent auction to raise money for the Firefighter Memorial in Frankfort. They presented a check for \$6,000.00 to Bruce Roberts for the Memorial.

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

Joe Baer said they have been working on legislative issues for the 2023 session. They have had monthly meetings of all the committees and the task force. They are hopeful to have a successful session next year. Joe Baer said they want to get the Incentive pay and State Aid increase in statute. Joe said they are working with various stake holders on the Drop Program for the retirees. Joe Baer said they are currently working on the PTSD statute. Joe said they would like to loosen the restriction. Delores Montgomery said they have increased participation with the PTSD program. They have spent approximately \$60,000.00 this fiscal year. More people are becoming aware of this program. Joe Baer said they would like to expand on the coverage instead of PTSD diagnosis requirement, have a mental trauma diagnosis requirement.

Joe Baer said the next EMS Task force meeting will be on November 1, 2022. They are supposed to roll out their recommendations for legislative change. Joe said they will definitely keep an eye on this to make sure that hospitals don't take over EMS.

Joe said the Bourbon Barrel Taskforce was established through Legislative action this past session. They want to eliminate taxes on Bourbon Barrels which would have a significant impact on some of the departments, cities, and districts. They meet tomorrow on this.

Joe Baer said he is currently working on getting resumes and applications to fill the Chapter 95 Fire Department position on the Board. Joe thanked Scott Lawson for his representation on this Board on our behalf for many years.

Joe Baer said Bob Hug with the Newport Fire Department who for the past few years has been going through kidney failure. He has been on the transplant list for a year or two. Another firefighter on Newport Fire Department Ryan Whaley donated a kidney to Bobby this past Monday. Ryan got to go home on Tuesday. Bob should get to go home today or tomorrow.

Joe Baer said that he and Kevin Pletzke have been working on the next KPFF convention and they have had numerous discussions with companies who provide screenings for firefighters. Joe said they met a company called United Diagnostics that provides screenings from the neck down. They are going to attend the next KPFF Convention and check every delegate for free. Joe said they also met with a Company called Gallery that does blood screenings. They do screenings for fifty different cancers.

### **KBEMS**

None.

### **New Business**

Ricky King said that Dustin Isaacs resigned from the Fire Commission Board. Larry Potter said that Dustin wrote a nice resignation letter. He has a very busy job in Senate Leadership. Larry said that Dustin was an advocate for the volunteer firefighters. He was proud of us purchasing our own offices and stopping the renting of properties. We appreciate all of Dustin's hard work.

Larry Potter said that Wendell Followell has a replacement who will be an Ex Officio member on our Board. Larry introduced Dr. Beverly Malloy to the Fire Commission. Dr. Malloy said she holds high regard for the Fire Commission and the Fire Departments for what they do.

Josh Whitis welcomed everyone to their new building. Josh said this building has changed a lot since they purchased it. Josh introduced Kim Hollis to the Commission. Larry said this building has all kinds of potential.

Larry Potter introduced the Fire Commission Office Staff to the Fire Commission Board. Everyone discussed what they do in the office. Larry said we are in the process of hiring training specialists.

Larry Potter discussed the Recruit Academy at NRPC. The first recruit class will be graduating on November 11<sup>th</sup>. Marc Henderson said we have put a lot of time and effort into this. This is the first pilot program. These recruits never stop. We would love to see everyone at the graduation.

Larry Potter said that Tiger Robinson has been having some medical issues. He has decided to go out on medical retirement. Larry asked everyone to keep Tiger in their thoughts and prayers.

Ricky King asked John Wood, do we need a motion to accept Dustin Isaacs resignation? John Wood said he doesn't think so.

Ricky King said that Mayor Scott has had a lot going on. Andrew Scott said he accidentally rolled his tractor over. His father asked him to get a checkup. He had a CT scan and discovered that he had kidney cancer. He had surgery and had the tumor removed. Andrew Scott thanked everyone for their prayers.

### **Announcements**

None.

Dwane Smeathers motion to adjourn. Wayne Briscoe seconded. Meeting adjourned at 1:57 pm (EST).