

**COMMISSION ON FIRE PROTECTION, PERSONNEL,
STANDARDS AND EDUCATION**

Fire Commission Minutes

October 19, 2017

Owensboro, Kentucky

Present:

Joe Baer
Theresa Rochetti- Cantrell
Greg Dearing
Pam Dickens
David Goldsmith
Mike Haney
Scott Lawson
Bill Lilly
Vikki Parman (Proxy for Wendell Followell)

Absent:

Mike Dossett
Rick Daugherty
Dr. Melahn
Rich Meyer
James Nickell
Kevin Tyler

Greg Dearing called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm (CT). Scott Lawson motion to approve the minutes from July 30, 2017 in Ashland Kentucky. Pam Dickens seconded. Motion approved.

Greg Dearing thanked Pam Dickens and Kimberly Clark for hosting this meeting and their hospitality. Pam Dickens said they have a fire brigade at Kimberly Clark and they do approximately 100 hours of training a year. They have 72 people who are a part of their emergency response team.

Greg Dearing thanked Vikki Parman from KCTCS for driving down and attending this meeting. Greg said we have had a change in chairman. Kevin Tyler is the new chairman of the Eligibility Committee.

Loan Committee

David Goldsmith said the loan committee met this morning to discuss two loan requests. Route 377 Volunteer Fire Department is requesting \$75,000.00 for a wildland interface pumper. Scott Lawson motion to approve. Joe Baer seconded. Motion approved.

White Mills Volunteer Fire Department is requesting \$75,000.00 for a pumper tanker. Scott Lawson motion to approve. Pam Dickens seconded. Motion approved.

Eligibility Committee

Ronnie Day said the eligibility committee met this morning. We had two cancer related deaths and one heart attack related death. All three were presumed line of duty deaths. David McCrady from Owensboro Fire Department passed away from cancer. Dr. Melahn reviewed his files and determined it is a line of duty death. Scott Lawson motion to approve. Joe Baer seconded. Motion approved. Greg Dearing introduced David McCrady's wife and son to the Commission. William McCrady said his dad fought hard to get the cancer presumption bill passed. He thanked everyone for their help. Joe Baer thanked David McCrady's family for what David did on behalf of all of the firefighters. Ronnie thanked William McCrady for all of his help too.

Ronnie Day said James Branham who was with Lexington Fire Department passed away from cancer. Dr. Melahn reviewed and stated that he meets all of the criteria for a cancer line of duty death. Scott Lawson motion to approve. Pam Dickens seconded. Motion approved.

Ronnie Day said Dewon Wells from Montgomery County Fire Department had a heart attack. Ronnie said the letter we received back from Dr. Melahn states that he meets all the criteria for a line of duty death. David Goldsmith motion to approve. Scott Lawson seconded. Motion approved.

Education Committee

None.

Training Facility Committee

Bill Lilly said the Training Facility Committee met this to morning to approve training facility grants for the following departments:

Bardstown Fire Department- \$30,000.00
Buechel Fire Department- \$10,803.00
Calloway County Fire and Rescue- \$4,850.00
Calvert City Fire Department- \$43,000.00
Campbell County Fire District- \$90,000.00
Hazard Fire Department- \$40,000.00
Ewing Fire Department- \$40,000.00
Flatwoods Fire Department- \$75,000.00
Frankfort Fire and EMS- \$40,000.00
Georgetown Fire Department- \$5,595.00
Hardinsburg Fire Department- \$50,000.00
Jessamine County Fire Department- \$26,000.00
Kenton County Fire Chief's Association- \$60,000.00
Lancaster Fire Department- \$20,000.00
Lexington Fire Department- \$65,000.00
Lost Creek Fire Department- \$16,000.00
Louisville Airport Authority- \$8,505.00
Madisonville Fire Department- \$90,000.00
Mercer County Fire Department- \$15,000.00
Middletown Fire Department- \$9,900.00
Mt. Washington Fire Department- \$30,000.00
Oldham County Fire Instructor's Association- \$85,000.00
Olmstead Rural Fire Department- \$7,569.00
Paris Fire Department- \$35,000.00
Richardsville Fire Department- \$56,500.00
Russellville City Fire Department- \$9,000.00
Russellville Rural Fire Department- \$30,000.00
Southeast Bullitt Fire Department- \$6,000.00
Spencer County Fire Department- \$6,750.00
Summit Ironville Fire Department- \$26,128.00
Versailles Fire Department- \$75,000.00
Winchester Fire Department- \$100,000.00

The amount awarded for the training facility grants was \$1,206,600.00. Bill Lilly motion to approve these departments for training facility grant money. Joe Baer seconded. Motion approved.

Finance Committee

Joe Baer said the finance committee met on September 5, 2017 in Lexington Kentucky. The committee chose to purchase two tandem road tractors for approximately \$80,000.00 each that will be placed in Areas 7 and 9. Joe Baer motion to approve. Bill Lilly seconded. Motion approved. Ronnie Day said the purchase of these two trucks and the surplus of the two existing trucks have been approved by Wendell Followell. Tiger Robinson is working with purchasing in order for the bid process.

Joe Baer said the finance committee requests the purchase of three flashover trailers at approximately \$85,000.00 each. Scott Lawson motion to approve. Pam Dickens seconded. Motion approved.

Joe Baer said the finance committee requests the purchase of five smoke maze trailers at a cost of \$19,500.00 each. Joe Baer motion to approve. Pam Dickens seconded. Motion approved.

Joe Baer said the finance committee requests the purchase of three prop vents. They cost \$45,000.00 each. Scott Lawson motion to approve. David Goldsmith seconded. Motion approved.

Joe Baer said the finance committee requests the purchase of 15 power assisted stretchers at a cost of \$8,500.00 each and 15 stair chairs at a cost of \$2,775.00 each. Bill Lilly motion to approve. Pam Dickens seconded. Motion approved. Greg Dearing said all of this equipment is for training purposes.

Health and Wellness Committee

None.

Legislative Committee

Howdy Kurtsinger said in everyone's folder is a financial report. Howdy said we are responsible for checking the receipts and expenditures for all of the fire departments who make under \$100,000.00. Howdy said we have thirty

departments who has not sent anything to us. Bruce Roberts sent a certified letter to all of these departments. Of the thirty departments, 22 have signed that they received the letter. Only 14 of these departments have complied with us and sent their information in. There are some departments who have not signed and we have not heard anything from them. Howdy said according to administrative regulations we have to hold anything-monetary wise that we provide to these departments if they do not comply with this law. We also have to notify the Attorney General or the auditor's office of this. Howdy said he would like the Fire Commission to make a motion for us to notify these departments and give them until the end of this month to comply and if not they will lose state aid, incentive pay, etc... Howdy said the auditors said they do not have time to go out to these departments. Joe Baer motion to approve the withholding of any funds from the Kentucky Fire Commission to the fire departments who are non-compliant of the administrative regulation and that we will notify the Attorney General's Office or the State Auditor's Office. Howdy Kurtsinger said whenever we withheld worker's comp or funding from a fire department, we notify the county judge of the county these departments are in because KRS 67 states that the county judge is responsible for police and fire protection in his county. Scott Lawson seconded. Bruce said we will send these departments a letter first and if they do not reply then we will hold their funds and send them another letter notifying them of that. Motion approved. Howdy Kurtsinger said we will notify the Area Coordinator's and they can contact the departments in their area.

Howdy Kurtsinger said the governor had a press conference concerning pension reform. We have been hearing that there is going to be a special session. We do not know when the date is going to be. Howdy said we will notify you when we hear something. Joe Baer said there are a lot of concerns that people have concerning hazardous and non-hazardous employees. We are still reviewing it right now.

State Fire Marshal's Office

Mike Haney said the Fire Marshal's Office does every K-12 school inspections in the state of Kentucky with our deputized fire departments. We inspect them every fall and do follow-ups at the beginning of the year if necessary. Mike Haney said we had a carbon monoxide release at a Shelbyville nursing home yesterday. It was the result of a malfunctioning boiler. Mike said from his understanding that makes five boiler incidents we have had in the last year. Mike said they are just now gaining access to the Murray State basement after the gas explosion that occurred there. It has taken this long to secure it and tear down everything to get people safely into that area where the actual investigation can take place.

Emergency Management

None.

Kentucky Firefighter's Association

None.

Kentucky Association of Fire Chief's

None.

Kentucky Professional Firefighter's Association

Joe Baer said they are preparing for the special session for pension reform and getting ready for the 2018 regular session. There has been some discussion concerning tax reform issues.

KBEMS

None.

Old Business

Joe Baer asked about the overtime issues. Ronnie Day said he has met with Wendell Followell and he just received an email explaining why this was done.

New Business

David Goldsmith said he attended a symposium in Arizona concerning firefighter cancer. Forty-four states were represented at this conference. David said there is now scientific evidence concerning firefighter cancer. The first four hours of the conference was covered by doctors, scientists and the CDC. David said some of the scientific data that was covered says that the hood is the weakest link and smoke does get through the hood. They recommend that firefighters decon themselves at the scene and document those smoke exposures. Do not carry your fire gear back and put inside the apparatus. David said they said that for every five degrees your

temperature goes up the absorption rate goes up 400%. Fire Instructors are exposed more because they are in it all the time. David said everyone needs to wash the liners in their helmets.

David Goldsmith said the death certificate in Kentucky does not state whether you are a firefighter. What it asks for is your last known occupation. David asked Howdy Kurtsinger to look into how do we get this changed on death certificates. Ronnie Day said he has met with Dr. James Kripps and he is working with Dr. Melahn on firefighter cancer research. Ronnie said he received an email from Matt Cann from Western Kentucky University and there is a group of professors there that do research data and they are working with the Green River Firefighter's Association and the Dixie Firefighter's Association. They want to work with us on research and data on cancer and how we can better educate our firefighters and try to prevent the cause of it. Greg Dearing asked where are the fire gear extractors located? Bruce Roberts said in the SFRT Areas. Bruce said he is looking at purchasing eight more, but he has to get an MOA for the different firehouses he want to put them in. Greg Dearing said he wants the locations of the extractors put on the Fire Commission website so fire departments will know where to go. Bruce said the extractors cost \$8,000.00. A company that installs them wants almost \$20,000.00 to install it at SFRT Area 9. That is why the extractor has not been installed yet.

Dale Dobson introduced Elizabeth Gordon to the Commission. He discussed a grain entrapment project they are working on. Grain entrapments continue to be a significant and deadly danger on crop farming operations. Farmers enter grain storage bins in order to manage their product, and if the grain bin and equipment are not secure, one could find themselves quickly submerged in grain. Time is critical when working with a grain entrapment. Firefighters are often the first to arrive on the scene of an entrapment, meaning it is necessary for first responders in rural areas to receive adequate training on rescuing a victim. A collaborative partnership has been formed between the Dixie Firefighters Association, Kentucky Department of Agriculture Farm Safety Program, Fire Commission, State Fire/Rescue Training, Southeast Center for Agricultural Health & Injury Prevention and the University of Kentucky to address equipment used for grain entrapments. Currently underway is a comprehensive, evaluative study of Grain Rescue Tubes, a life-saving device that allows first responders to move grain away from an entrapped victim to prevent further engulfment and extract them from the bin. The Grain Bin Entrapment project provided the funds to purchase seven grain tubes that are popularly used in the fire and rescue industry; these tubes are being analyzed for physical characteristics (such as weight and type of material) as well

as ease of operation (such as time required to deploy the mechanism and storage space needed). In addition, supplemental materials have been purchased that are used to aid firefighters in the rescue process, including drill-powered handheld augers, rope and pulley systems, and grain walking shoes. A training will be conducted at the end of harvest season on a farm site in Larue County on December 8th and 9th where all equipment will be thoroughly examined and data on their effectiveness will be collected. Community members, firefighters, representatives from companies selling entrapment equipment, as well as experts in rescue, grain bin manufacturers, and agricultural educators will be in attendance to offer training and feedback on the safety equipment. The equipment will be utilized during a comprehensive training session in which real-world scenarios will be created that a firefighter might encounter. They will be given a variety of tubes and materials with which they will extract a person who has been harnessed and submerged in grain for training purposes. A mannequin will also be used to represent an unconscious victim; in this way, firefighters will be exposed to a variety of situations and problem-solving techniques. Data collected from the event will be compiled into a comprehensive manual that will serve as a guide to the equipment and rescue strategies. This manual will then be distributed to fire departments and farmers across the country to allow others in crop producing areas to make informed decisions when investing in rescue equipment.

Ronnie Day said that as our by-laws state it is required that we have a mandatory workshop once a year. Ronnie said we always try to do that in January. We need to set a date and location for our workshop next year. Ronnie said our next Commission meeting will be on December 7th in Mayfield Kentucky. Please get with Therese Cheney to get a hotel room.

Bruce Roberts said the Junior Firefighter Camp will be on November 3rd through the 5th in London Kentucky. If you want to attend, please contact Jeremy Rodgers. Bruce said the thermal imaging camera grants are due back in the office by November 1st. If a department has received one within the last two years, they will not be eligible to receive another one yet.

Correspondence

Greg Dearing said the World Combat Challenge will be held in Louisville Kentucky at the Marriott on Hurstbourne Lane from October 23rd through the 29th.

Greg Dearing said in everyone's packets is an invitation to the 50th anniversary of Shelby County Suburban Fire District, which will be held on November 4th from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm.

Meeting adjourned at 2:06 pm (CT).