

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

Fire Commission Minutes

February 22, 2019

Owensboro, Kentucky

**Present:**

Joe Baer  
Chris Bartley  
Rick Bobo (Representative for Mike Dossett)  
Daron Britain  
John Bunnell  
Joe Choate  
Rick Daugherty  
Greg Dearing  
Sean Dreisbach  
Mike Haney  
Dustin Isaacs  
Scott Lawson  
Patrick Lucas  
Lonnie Madden  
Vikki Parman  
Andrew Scott

**Absent:**

David Howser  
Dr. Melahn

Greg Dearing called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm (CT). Bruce Roberts conducted the swearing in of John Bunnell and Joe Choate. Rick Daugherty motion to approve the minutes from December 6, 2018 in Lexington Kentucky. Chris Bartley seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Greg Dearing thanked Jimmie Evans and Green River for hosting this meeting. Jimmie Evans thanked everyone for being here.

Greg Dearing said we are in the process of hiring a new executive director. The job posting is on the KCTCS website. If you have any questions on this, please call Greg Dearing or Bruce Roberts.

## **Education Committee**

Chris Bartley said the education committee met this morning and discussed curriculum and degree updates. If you have any questions, please talk to Casey Hall or Marc Rudder.

## **Eligibility Committee**

Rick Daugherty said the eligibility committee met this morning to discuss several topics. Rick said there are four departments who are non-compliant with DLG. Rick said at the December meeting we asked Bruce to reach out to these departments one more time to submit all the paperwork they need to. Bruce contacted these departments and no information was received back. Those departments are: Priceville, Warfield, Wolf Creek and Caledonia. Rick said a motion was made by the committee to stop the state aid for these four departments and to also send a letter to their local governing body. Andrew Scott motion to hold state aid from Priceville, Warfield, Wolf Creek and Caledonia Fire Departments. Joe Baer seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Rick Daugherty said during an audit it was discovered that McDaniels Fire Department had duplicated three training classes in the fire training system. With the duplicate training hours in the fire training system, McDaniels was above 50% on their training. After the duplicated training hours have been removed, their batch report will fall to 33%. The committee motion to remove these duplicated training hours from the fire training system. The committee made another motion to send a letter to the fire department and their local governing body to request state aid back since they didn't meet the 50% on their training. Patrick Lucas motion to approve. Chris Bartley seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Rick Daugherty said when Roaring Springs' batch report was run at the end of 2018, they were only at 22%. Bruce Roberts received a letter from their fire chief stating that the person designated to enter their training hours had not been doing so. There was documentation of training hours that had been completed that had not been entered into the fire training system. The chief moved quickly and had those hours entered into the fire training system. They are now at 56%. These hours were checked, and they had been taught by SFRT. Rick Daugherty said the eligibility committee passed a motion to approve accepting these training hours being entered late for 2018 and within that letter to include some language to the fire chief on the accountability of making sure that hours have been entered into the fire training system in a timely manner. That motion passed favorably out of

committee. Chris Bartley motion to approve. Patrick Lucas seconded. Motion approved. Motion passed unanimously.

Rick Daugherty said there was paperwork submitted and reviewed for five line of duty deaths from 2018. Dr. Melahn and Jeremy Rodgers reviewed all the paperwork to make sure it met all the criteria for line of duty death benefits. The first line of duty death was from Ronald Helton who suffered a cardiac event while on the scene and passed away. The committee reviewed this and moved to approve. James Donnelly passed away from liver cancer. That was reviewed and approved. James Settles passed away from brain cancer. That was reviewed and moved to pass. Ray Hollingsworth passed away from liver cancer. The committee reviewed this and moved to approve. Jeff Crossfield passed away from liver and pancreatic cancer. The committee also reviewed and moved to approve. Sean Dreisbach motion to approve these line of duty deaths. Dustin Isaacs seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Rick Daugherty said the committee discussed this morning about sending out a standard form letter to all the fire departments summarizing the importance of the accountability of training hours and entering them into the system in a timely manner. Sean Dreisbach motion to approve. Scott Lawson seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

### **Finance Committee**

Joe Baer said the finance committee met this past Wednesday at the SFRT Area 6 Office. We reviewed the fiscal year to date 2019 financial reports for the Fire Commission and SFRT. We found that everything was in order. Joe said the Finance Committee reviewed the overtime of the employees. Joe Baer said we took action on an AFG grant that was awarded to us in the amount of \$250,000.00. However, we must put some matching funds into that which came to the amount of \$32,608.00. The finance committee approved this and needs the Commission's approval. Rick Daugherty motion to approve the matching grant fund money for the FEMA grant in the amount of \$32,608.00. Andrew Scott seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Sean Dreisbach asked the Commission to tell the audience what this grant is for. Greg Dearing said it is for a mobile training tower.

Joe Baer said SFRT Area 1 is requesting computers for a computer lab for their EMT classes. They want to spend \$13, 017.40 on these computers. This money will come from EMT/ Paramedic degree program. Sean Dreisbach motion to approve. Rick Daugherty seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Joe Baer said SFRT Area 2 is requesting a concrete pad behind their building, which is where their bay doors are. The cost for the concrete pad will be up to \$20,000.00. This will come out of facilities funds. Rick Daugherty motion to approve. Scott Lawson seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Joe Baer said SFRT Area 3 Industrial needs to update their rope rescue equipment. The cost for the rope rescue equipment will be \$14,709.28. This will come out of the Area 3 industrial budget. Sean Dreisbach motion to approve. John Bunnell seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Joe Baer said SFRT Area 3 Industrial needs a new confined space prop to meet the needs of the industrial customers. The cost for the prop is \$56,023.97. Andrew Scott motion to approve. Chris Bartley seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Joe Baer said the Green River Firefighter's Association voted at their last meeting to transfer the Area 3 Training Center to SFRT/FC/ KCTCS. Marc Rudder said the only stipulation is if SFRT Area 3 no longer wants the property it will go back to the Green River Firefighter's Association. Dustin Isaacs motion to approve. Chris Bartley seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Joe Baer said NRPC wants to purchase a box trailer that will be used for Hazmat Awareness and Operations for students. The cost of the trailer will be \$12,000.00. Rick Daugherty motion to approve. Andrew Scott seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Joe Baer said SFRT Area 5 has requested to install LED lights in their building. Many of the lights in their building has gone bad and the new lights would save in energy costs. The cost of the LED lights will be \$11,500.00. Sean Dreisbach motion to approve. Scott Lawson seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Joe Baer said that SFRT Area 5 would like to update the lighting in their training tower and cleaning up existing electrical conduit. The total cost for this project will be \$6500.00. Andrew Scott motion to approve. Chris Bartley seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Chris Bartley seconded. Motion approved.

Joe Baer said SFRT Area 5 would like to purchase pumper operations equipment through their degree program so they can teach NFPA 1002 pumper operations courses. The cost of the equipment is \$6,079.75. Sean Dreisbach motion to approve. Scott Lawson seconded. Motion approved.

Joe Baer said SFRT Area 6 would like to purchase a flash fire prop to enhance the ability to teach fire behavior and other topics. The cost of the flash prop will be \$7500.00, and it would be purchased out of the degree money. Rick Daugherty motion to approve. John Bunnell seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Joe Baer said SFRT Area 9 is requesting a concrete pad outside of the bay. The cost of the concrete pad is roughly \$20,000.00. Andrew Scott motion to approve. Chris Bartley seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Joe Baer said SFRT Area 9 is requesting a floor scrubber in order to be able to keep the building clean. The cost of the floor scrubber will be \$12,900.00. Rick Daugherty motion to approve. Lonnie Madden seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Joe Baer said SFRT would like to purchase adapters for the MSA cylinders and battery chargers to charge the rechargeable batteries in the SCBA air packs. The adapters and cylinders will be divided up between the different areas. The cost for the adapters and cylinders will be \$16,600.00. Lonnie Madden motion to approve. Scott Lawson seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Joe Baer said for the next three requests he would like to combine them into one request. The requests are for white instructor helmets, burn helmets and rescue helmets for SFRT. The total cost for these helmets is \$54,500.00. This order will not all be on one PO because they are different helmets and vendors. John Bunnell motion to approve. Andrew Scott seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Joe Baer said SFRT is requesting to purchase two 3500 trucks. The total amount on these trucks is \$90,000.00. This money will come out of the fleet line on the budget. Sean Dreisbach motion to approve. Lonnie Madden seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Joe Baer said SFRT would like to purchase fire wipes so our instructors can clean themselves after live fire training. The cost of the wipes is \$7,500.00. This would come out of SFRT carry forward funds. Scott Lawson motion to approve. Andrew Scott seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

### **Health and Wellness Committee**

Sean Dreisbach said the health and wellness committee met this morning to discuss the extractors. Currently we have 18 extractors throughout the state of Kentucky.

We have 18 requests for extractors for fire departments or other areas of the state. The committee recommends approving 13 of these requests. Sean said the 13 fire departments that have been approved by the health and wellness committee for extractors is Hendron, Russellville Rural, Eastwood, Northern Pendleton, Daviess County, Symsonia, Harrison County, Campbell County District 1, Allen, Montgomery County, Black Oak, SFRT Area 7 and Carrollton Fire Department for the total amount of \$104,000.00. Rick Daugherty motion to approve. Chris Bartley seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Sean said we are going to create a letter and send out to all the fire departments letting them know the locations of the extractors.

### **Legislative Committee**

Michael (Howdy) Kurtsinger passed out legislative information. Howdy said it has been a very busy session. There is already over 750 bills that have been dropped in this session. Howdy thanked everyone that comes to Frankfort and put in their time to help us watch this legislation. Howdy Kurtsinger discussed HB13 which is a bill that would allow taxing district fire departments to create a new taxing district and increase the tax to a total of 15 cents all together. The tax we are using now was set back in the 1940's. This bill is on the house floor. Howdy said there has been a lot of discussion about moving the Fire Commission to Public Protection. KCTCS is neutral on this position. This would move the employees from KCTCS to the state. The Fire Commission Board would be reduced from 19 members to 11 members. They would be an advisory board only.

### **Loan Committee**

Joe Baer said the loan committee met this morning to discuss one loan application. Wolf Coal Fire Department is requesting \$10,000.00 to purchase a tank and body to place on a 2019 Chassis. Wolf Coal received a \$50,000.00 from the USDA Rural Development. Rick Daugherty motion to approve. Dustin Isaacs seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Joe Baer said that John Bunnell has been appointed to the loan committee.

### **Training Facility Grant Committee**

Scott Lawson said the committee had a meeting on the training facility grants. We discussed the 2018 grants. That was a total of 31 grants. Out of the 31 grants, 23 of the grants have been completed. There were 7 departments who have requested

extensions. They are Bardstown, Campbell County, Lexington, Madisonville, Middletown, Oldham County and Versailles.

Rick Daugherty motion to extend Bardstown Fire Department's training facility grant by 30 days. Dustin Isaacs second. Motion approved.

Campbell County is requesting a 30-day extension. Rick Daugherty motion to approve. Andrew Scott seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Rick Daugherty asked didn't we agree to give them 30 days to provide documentation. Scott Lawson said. Chris Bartley said if we do not get a letter back in 30 days then we are going to request the entire amount back. Scott Lawson motion to send a letter to Campbell County to get some kind of response on their contract. If we don't get something back within 30 days, then we are going to request the money back. Chris Bartley seconded. Rick Daugherty abstained. Motion approved.

Scott Lawson said Lexington Fire Department has asked for a 30-day extension to get some electrical work completed. Scott Lawson motion to approve. Rick Daugherty seconded. Chris Bartley abstained. Motion approved.

Scott Lawson said that Middletown Fire Department has 98% of their training facility work completed. They are requesting a 45-day extension. Rick Daugherty motion to approve. Andrew Scott seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Scott Lawson said that Oldham County requested a 90-day extension. Rick Daugherty motion to approve. Chris Bartley seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Scott Lawson said Versailles Fire Department is requesting a 45-day extension to install the steps to their building. Rick Daugherty motion to approve. Chris Bartley seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Greg Dearing asked Scott Lawson to put his abstention in. Scott Lawson abstained from voting for Bardstown Fire Department.

Scott Lawson said the last update we received from Flatwoods Fire Department was in September 2018. They have not sent in any completion paperwork for their grant money. The committee voted to send a letter to them to see if the work has been completed. If not, then we are going to request their money back. Rick Daugherty motion to approve. John Bunnell seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Scott Lawson said the due date for the training facility grants will be May 15, 2019.

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

Mike Haney said the Cabinet for Public Protection has a new secretary. Her name is Gail Russell. Mike said that Calvin Crupper is retiring at the end of this month.

### **Emergency Management**

Rick Bobo said that FEMA has a change of command. Deputy Administrator Pete Graynon is the acting administrator. Rick said they are still in the planning process for the earthquake exercise. It is a national level exercise. The will be on the second or third week of June. Rick said they are working with FEMA headquarters on lifeline reporting module. Rick said they were approved to become the national EMAC coordinating state for EMAC missions for 2019-2020.

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

Randy Lawson said the annual conference for the KFA will be August 3<sup>rd</sup> through the 6<sup>th</sup> in Owensboro Kentucky. Randy thanked everyone for what they are doing for the fire service in Lexington. We follow legislation that involves the fire service. Randy Lawson said the KFA was instrumental and pursued the legislation that led to state aid and pay incentive for the fire departments.

### **Kentucky Association of Fire Chiefs**

Gregg Bayer said the Kentucky Association of Fire Chiefs will be meeting right after the Commission meeting. Gregg said it is a team effort as far as legislation goes. Gregg Bayer read Resolution 2019-011 to the Commission. Gregg said the KAFC fully supports the Kentucky Fire Commission and State Fire Rescue Training remaining under KCTCS.

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

Joe Baer said our primary focus this time of year is in Frankfort and the legislation that takes place there. Joe said to echo the remarks from the Kentucky Association of Fire Chiefs, we are on board and support the opposition of the legislation of Senate Bill 235 and House Bill 486. We have read the bill and don't see anything



that benefits the Kentucky fire service and no benefits to the firefighters themselves.

Joe Baer said we have a bill (HB 273) that would provide peer support training to all Kentucky Firefighters. The peer support is for mental health. We are trying to get some legislation passed that would provide training for us to help our brothers and sisters should they ask for it. Chris Bartley said this has been in A&R for the last few weeks. That was moved yesterday back to local government because the cost was minimal and did not need to get to A&R. It was posted to go to committee on Wednesday afternoon.

Joe Baer said there is a bill that would merge the Boone County Fire Departments. There is an expanded gaming bill that is supposed to establish a pension fund. We received a call yesterday asking us to support this bill. Joe Baer said we are hosting a legislative workshop on Monday (2-26-19) and we are going to go over all the legislation that make affect us. On Tuesday (2-27-19) we are asking everyone to meet us at the capital to lobby the legislators on the various issues and then we will have a press conference at 11:00 am. The legislative chili dinner will be that afternoon at Buffalo Trace. Everyone is invited to attend.

### **KBEMS**

Mike Poynter said KBEMS is working on the Community Paramedic Pilot Project that we initiated about two years ago. We are looking at high volume users, preventative or scheduled chronic illnesses and preventing readmissions to hospitals. We have pilot programs currently across the Commonwealth of Kentucky in urban, suburban and rural areas. Mike said in Lexington last year they had 43 individuals last year that called EMS 297 times in 90 days. Post patient contact after the community paramedic program, they reduced the calls to 96 which is a reduction of 68%. The total healthcare savings was at just shy of a half a million dollars. Mike Poynter said Representative Rothenburger has filed House Bill 106 which creates a new certification for community paramedics. We would appreciate your support on that.

Mike Poynter said the second item is paramedic staffing and training. Over the last decade or so we have really expanded our roles as an EMS community. We are having challenges with staffing in some areas. There are a lot of factors involved. We have more paramedics in Kentucky now than what we ever had, but we are doing more than we have ever done. We are working in emergency departments. We have 288 paramedics that are assigned to helicopters. We are having shortages

is specific areas. We are looking at strategic ways to fill that gap. We are looking at accelerated courses for paramedics in a 12-month period. We are looking at remote training with technology and satellite programs. We are looking at scheduling.

### **Old Business**

Greg Dearing said it is time to the annual elections. The following people are on the election committee: Michael (Howdy) Kurtsinger, Mary Adams and Daron Britain. Howdy Kurtsinger said according to the Fire Commission By-Laws section 2.3, we must have a ballot printed. According to open records law, it cannot be a secret ballot. Howdy said we will vote for the positions that are on ballot. Greg Dearing said that Rick Bobo does not get to vote. Howdy Kurtsinger said this is because Emergency Management does not get a proxy. Howdy said the following people are up for election. Greg Dearing as chairman. Joe Baer as vice-chairman. Scott Lawson as secretary. Howdy said in our minutes we must record how everyone voted. Howdy Kurtsinger read the results of the election. They are as follows:

Greg Dearing as Chairman of the Fire Commission:

Yay

Abstained

Daron Britain  
John Bunnell  
Lonnie Madden  
Vikki Parman  
Scott Lawson  
Greg Dearing  
Chris Bartley  
Andrew Scott  
Sean Dreisbach  
Joe Baer  
Rick Daugherty  
Mike Haney

Dustin Isaacs  
Patrick Lucas  
Joe Choate

Joe Baer as Vice-Chairman of the Fire Commission:

Yay

Abstained

Daron Britain  
John Bunnell  
Lonnie Madden  
Vikki Parman  
Scott Lawson  
Greg Dearing  
Chris Bartley  
Andrew Scott  
Sean Dreisbach  
Joe Baer  
Rick Daugherty  
Mike Haney

Dustin Isaacs  
Patrick Lucas  
Joe Choate

Scott Lawson as Secretary of the Fire Commission:

Yay

Abstained

Daron Britain  
John Bunnell  
Patrick Lucas  
Lonnie Madden  
Vikki Parman  
Scott Lawson  
Greg Dearing  
Chris Bartley  
Andrew Scott  
Sean Dreisbach  
Joe Baer  
Rick Daugherty  
Mike Haney

Dustin Isaacs  
Joe Choate

Greg Dearing is the chairman. Joe Baer is the vice-chairman. Scott Lawson is the Secretary. Greg Dearing thanked the Commission members for voting. We are going to continue the progress for the fire service.

Greg Dearing said the taskforce met on February 9<sup>th</sup>. The next meeting will be on March 16<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am in Lexington. It is an open meeting to everyone.

### **New Business**

Greg Dearing and Bruce Roberts presented plaques to Bill Lilly and Pam Dickens for all their hard work and dedication to the Fire Commission Board.

### **Correspondence**

Jeremy Rodgers said the junior firefighter camp is on March 1<sup>st</sup> through the 3<sup>rd</sup> at NRPC. There are 42 junior firefighters who have registered to be there.

Jeremy Rodgers said Acadis came to our office this past week for a rapid start. We are extremely excited for what they have already done. With this new system every firefighter in the State of Kentucky will have a public portal and will be able to print their own hours and certificates. Jeremy said the new training system will merge the training records and IFSAC together.

Bruce Roberts said the Fire Caucus will be April 22<sup>nd</sup> through the 24<sup>th</sup> in Washington D.C.

### **Comments from The Audience**

None.

Meeting adjourned at 2:40 pm (CT).