

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

Fire Commission Minutes

February 23, 2018

Owensboro, Kentucky

Present:

Absent:

Joe Baer
Rick Bobo (Representing Mike Dossett)
Daron Britain
Theresa Rochetti-Cantrell
Greg Dearing
David Goldsmith
Mike Haney
William Lilly
Patrick Lucas
Dr. William Melahn
Rich Meyer
Vicki Parman (Proxy for Wendell Followell)
Kevin Tyler

Rick Daugherty
Pam Dickens
James Nickell

Greg Dearing called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm (CT). Ronnie Day conducted the swearing in of Daron Britain and Patrick Lucas. Greg Dearing welcomed the new Commission members. Greg Dearing thanked President Dwane Smeathers and the Green River Firefighters Association for hosting this meeting. Dwane Smeathers thanked everyone for being here and said that he hopes everyone has a great weekend.

Greg Dearing introduced Dr. Ritchie Taylor and his staff from the Western Kentucky University to the Commission. Dr. Taylor discussed the research they are conducting on firefighter cancer. They have two studies that are going on in the

state. Dr. Taylor said they are studying both career and volunteer firefighters. They are working on getting more resources to the firefighters in Kentucky. Joe Baer said he appreciates everything they are doing. Greg Dearing said at our Workshop in January, we had a presentation on cancer in firefighters. Greg said our door is always open to you and he appreciates everything they are doing.

Joe Baer motion to approve the minutes from December 7, 2017 in Mayfield Kentucky. Bill Lilly seconded. Motion approved.

Loan Committee

David Goldsmith said the loan committee met this morning. North Middletown Fire Department is requesting \$22,500.00 for a Dodge Utility vehicle with accessories. The committee reviewed the application and everything is in order. David Goldsmith motion to approve. Rich Meyer seconded. Motion approved.

David Goldsmith said Laurel County Fire Department is requesting \$50,000.00 for an E-One 2003 Fire Engine pumper/tanker. David Goldsmith motion to approve. Rich Meyer seconded. Motion approved.

David Goldsmith said Stinnett Fire Department is requesting \$18,571.00 for a 2018 Peterbilt pumper/tanker. David Goldsmith motion to approve. Joe Baer seconded. Motion approved.

David Goldsmith said that Route 377 Fire Department is requesting an extension on their loan. The apparatus they ordered is going to be in later than they expected. David Goldsmith motion to approve an extension on the loan for Route 377 Fire Department through December 31, 2018. Kevin Tyler seconded. Motion approved.

David Goldsmith said a VIN number has been added to the loan application. Bruce Roberts said we are doing things different with the loans since our audit. Bruce said we created a new application to include the VIN number. Joe Baer motion to approve the new loan application. Rich Meyer seconded. Motion approved.

David Goldsmith said we have developed a policy for filing of the UCC statement. Bruce Roberts said we will send the department a letter. They will have 30 days to respond. We will send them a second letter if needed and they will have 45 days to respond. After 60 days if they do not respond, we will hold the remaining amount of their state aid money until their statement has been filed. If they do not have any state aid left, we will put in there that the fire department may not qualify for

things like thermal imaging grants, training facility grants or anything that the Fire Commission does for the fire departments. Billy Lilly motion to approve the new UCC statement. Joe Baer seconded. Motion approved.

Greg Dearing motion to suspend business and introduce a guest speaker. Kevin Tyler seconded. Motion approved. Greg Dearing introduced the Secretary of State Alison Lundergan Grimes to the Commission and audience. Mrs. Lundergan Grimes said it is a pleasure and a privilege to see everyone. She said this is a room full of friends. The Kentucky Fire Chiefs presented a plaque to Alison Lundergan Grimes.

Eligibility Committee

Kevin Tyler said Casey O'Daniel filed an IFSAC appeal in 2017. Kevin Tyler said it is the recommendation of this committee to approve that appeal. Rich Meyer motion to approve. David Goldsmith seconded. Motion approved.

Kevin Tyler said Chris Watson filed an IFSAC appeal in 2017. Kevin Tyler said it is the recommendation of this committee to deny that appeal. Rich Meyer motion to deny this appeal. Bill Lilly seconded. Motion approved.

Kevin Tyler said we need to change the wording for the junior firefighter program. Jeremy Rodgers said we ran into a couple of issues with junior firefighters responding in POV's. Jeremy said the revisions that have been added are: JRFF's shall never: Respond to an incident either non-emergency or emergency to the scene while operating a POV or that JRFF's shall never: Install and/or operate a POV with any type of emergency warning device while responding to a non-emergency or emergency incident and/or have such warning devices installed in their POV. David Goldsmith motion to approve. Joe Baer seconded. Motion approved.

Kevin Tyler said that after review the committee voted to reinstate state aid for Worthville Fire Department. Kevin Tyler motion to approve. Bill Lilly seconded. Motion approved.

Greg Dearing said the committee met this morning to discuss two line of duty deaths. Dr. Melahn said Terry Bucklew from Bowling Green Fire Department passed away from colon cancer. He reviewed Mr. Bucklew's medical records. His death meets the requirements for the benefits based upon the KRS. Dr. Melahn

motion to approve the death benefits for Terry Bucklew. Rich Meyer seconded. Motion approved.

Dr. Melahn said Matthew Logsdon with the Lexington Fire Department passed away from cancer and met the criteria of KRS. Joe Baer motion to approve the death benefits for Matthew Logsdon. David Goldsmith seconded. Motion approved.

Bruce Roberts said that Little Poplar Creek Fire Department did not get their training hours in for 2016. Bruce said he has all their paperwork and they had two people whose hours had not been entered into the training system. The department has now entered those hours and they are above 50% on their batch report. David Goldsmith motion to award Little Poplar Creek Fire Department their state aid. Kevin Tyler seconded. Motion approved.

Kevin Tyler motion to approve the thermal imaging cameras for 141 fire departments. Rich Meyer seconded. David Goldsmith abstained because his department is one who applied for a camera. Motion approved.

Education Committee

None.

Training Facility Committee

Bill Lilly said the training facility grant committee met this morning and approved the minutes from the last meeting. Bill said we had \$8,505.00 returned that was declined by Louisville Airport Authority. We would like to add this money to Madisonville Fire Department's training facility grant. Bruce said this will give them a total of \$98,505.00. Bill Lily motion to approve. David Goldsmith seconded. Motion approved.

Rich Meyer motion to approve the training facility grants for \$1,206,601.42. Kevin Tyler seconded. Motion approved.

Finance Committee

Greg Dearing said the finance committee had a short meeting last night. Greg said we are going to have a finance meeting on March 26th at 8:30 am. The meeting will be held at the Fire Commission Office in Lexington. Joe Baer motion to approve

the finance minutes from December 7, 2017 in Mayfield Kentucky. Bill Lilly seconded. Motion approved.

Legislative Committee

Howdy Kurtsinger passed out legislative reports to the Commission. Howdy said that last Wednesday the pension bill was dropped in. It has 289 pages. Howdy said he has not had a chance to look at everything that is in the bill. We have asked for our own pension plan. Howdy said we have tried for the last two years to lock the incentive and state aid bill into KRS, but each time we had issues with Fish and Wildlife. We put these bills back in for this year. HB 140 has passed the house and is in the Senate. SB 90 has passed committee. HB 185 will increase the death benefits on the pension side. This bill has not moved yet. Howdy said Frankfort has agreed to set up a committee to look at PTSD. Howdy said the taxing districts may have the cap removed.

Joe Baer said Chris Bartley received a call on HB 2. Joe said the call was to find out what it would take for us to support the bill. Joe said they were able to have the two-year reapplication removed. Joe said the way Worker's Compensation is now a person has five years with a statute of limitation from the time of injury and/ or last exposure to file a claim. There is an exemption in the law that states that any radiation disease or asbestos related disease has a 20-year limitation. We were able to include the cancers that are defined in our firefighter cancer bill that was passed two years ago into that 20-year exemption from the date of the last exposure. We see that as a huge benefit to our firefighters. Joe Baer said this has passed through the House. Joe said he cannot emphasize enough the importance of documenting these exposures and filing these reports. We are now supportive of HB 2 as amended in the house. We are asking everyone to contact his or her legislators in support of HB 2. Howdy said if you are not receiving my legislative report, please let him know.

Greg Dearing introduced State Representative Mark Hart to the Commission. Greg said Mark is a retired firefighter from Lexington. Representative Hart said the Worker's Comp bill will be assigned to the committee. We are not expecting big cuts to that bill. He said HB 185 is still in committee. Representative Hart said at the fire chief's meeting after this, he is going to address HB 96. Joe Baer said we appreciate your support in Frankfort.

Fire Marshal's Office

Mike Haney said they are in the middle of trying to work out some codes to allow principals to put something in place for active shooter situations where a terrorist may pull a fire alarm to try to mimic the situation with the Florida shooting. The Fire Marshal's Office is fielding a lot of questions on this. Mike Haney said if you get calls, do not go out on a limb and approve stuff that you are not sure of. Make sure that it meets code. There are no blanket answers to these questions. There are variables for every building.

Emergency Management

Rick Bobo said FEMA is in Kentucky based upon the flooding we had in Eastern Kentucky. They have done preliminary damage assessment at this time. They are going to stay in Kentucky and help flooded areas in Western Kentucky. Rick said that FEMA Region 4 completed the ten state integration of the New Madrid Seismic plan. Sharepoint 316, which is the software that Emergency Management uses are in the implementation phase right now. Rick Bobo said they are going to host an Energy Cyber Tabletop in late May.

Kentucky Firefighter's Association

Joe Boarman said he has been elected as the President of the KFA. The conference will be held in Louisville this year.

Kentucky Fire Chief's Association

Mike Hulse said we will be having a meeting this afternoon after the Commission meeting.

Kentucky Professional Firefighter's Association

Joe Baer said on February 12th, they had a mini legislative conference for their members. Joe thanked the KFA and chiefs for co-sponsoring the legislator's chili event on February 13th.

KBEMS

Mike Poynter said he is happy to announce that after a three-year implementation of their data program that they have 100% compliance with 220 ambulance

services across the state. They are working on their annual report right now. Mike said they are in the process of developing an EMS Leadership academy. They are putting together a curriculum and providing a free two-day course probably at their office in Lexington. Mike said on February 15th, they filed their EMS ground regulations.

Old Business

Ronnie Day said our By-Laws state that if a Commission member seeks chairman, vice chairman or secretary that they should do so in writing at the December Fire Commission meeting. Ronnie said that Howdy Kurtsinger, Jim Nickell, Therese Cheney and myself are the members of the election committee. Ronnie said we received letters from Greg Dearing for chairman, Joe Baer for vice chairman and Rich Meyer for secretary. Ronnie said with no others seeking these positions that we accept these three gentleman for these positions by acclamation. David Goldsmith motion to approve. Bill Lilly seconded. Motion approved.

Greg Dearing said he is going to wait two to three weeks before getting the two new board members their committee assignments. Greg asked the two commission members to get a couple of dates together to meet with him and Ronnie for orientation. Greg thanked Scott Lawson for all of his hard work with the Fire Commission board.

Greg Dearing said the Fire Caucus will be on April 19th in Washington D.C. Ronnie said they will be leaving on Wednesday and returning on Friday. They will meet with their congressman on Thursday. Ronnie said the KFA will be going with them.

Announcements from the Audience

None.

Meeting adjourned at 2:18 pm (CT).