

KENTUCKY FIRE COMMISSION

Fire Commission Meeting

Minutes

August 7, 2021

Wilder, Kentucky

Present:

Joe Choate
Mike Haney
Dustin Isaacs
Josh Keats
Tamela Kerr
Ricky King
Scott Lawson
Lonnie Madden
Michael Mosbey
Dwane Smeathers
Lloyd Stone
Michael Sutt

Absent:

Dr. Fadi
Andrew Scott

Ex Officio Members Present:

Joe Baer
Eric Philpot
Cathy Rigney

Absent:

Wendell Followell

Ricky King called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm. Scott Lawson motion to approve the minutes from June 17, 2021 in Paris Kentucky. Dwane Smeathers seconded. Motion approved. Ricky King thanked the KFA for hosting this meeting.

Loan Committee

Joe Choate said the Loan Committee met today to discuss three orders of business. Joe Choate said the committee recommends making a KAR change for the loan amounts to go up to \$125,000.00 and for the repayment of loans to go up to 15 years. Dustin Isaacs motion to approve. Scott Lawson seconded. Motion approved.

Joe Choate said Laurel County Fire Department is requesting \$75,000.00 for a 2019 5500 Pumper Firetruck. Scott Lawson motion to approve. Dwane Smeathers seconded. Motion approved.

Joe Choate said Olive Hill Fire Department is requesting \$59,500.00 for a 1994/2014 (Rebuilt) Aerialscope Spartan/ Seagrave. Dwane Smeathers motion to approve. Dustin Isaacs seconded. Motion approved.

Training Facility Grant Committee

Lloyd Stone said the Training Facility Grant Committee met today to discuss an issue with Valley Creek Fire Department. Valley Creek received a training facility grant from the Commission. They had been granted an extension for this grant, but still have not begun construction. The committee recommends that they return this money to the Fire Commission. Scott Lawson motion to approve. Tamela Kerr seconded. Motion approved. Ricky King asked after this money has been returned, can it be awarded to other fire departments? Bruce Roberts said yes.

Lloyd Stone said the Training Facility Committee has received 52 grant requests. The committee voted to let Bruce Roberts go through the applications and weed out the ones that does not meet the KAR requirements. The Training Facility Grant Committee will meet again on August 16th at 10:00 am at the Fire Commission building in Paris to go over the applications. Bruce Roberts said the committee will also look at the applications that does not meet the requirements.

State Fire Rescue Training

Marc Rudder said that 2021 was an unusual year for SFRT because of COVID. They worked diligently to continue training. SFRT trained 659 of the 779 fire departments in Kentucky. Almost 85% of the departments received training. They taught over 22,000 hours of training. 449 of those classes were delivered virtually by the request of the department. Marc said they are going to continue doing that in FY 2022. Each department will receive 21 hours of instructor lead training. SFRT is currently moving forward with in person training, but virtual is an option if departments choose that. Marc said that SFRT does work through KCTCS to offer

the AAS degree in Fire Science Technology. Marc said that the Accredited Certification Office has added live fire instructor and live fire instructor in charge to SFRT. Marc said they are adding a certification for drones. SFRT will be presenting this to IFSAC the last week of August.

Marc Rudder said that SFRT has had several changes recently in personnel. Marc introduced Kacie Mills with SFRT Area 7 to the Commission. Marc introduced John Gentry the new Coordinator for SFRT Area 5 to the Commission. Charlie Lott retired on June 30th. This job opening is currently posted. Marc Rudder said that Larrel Alley transitioned to part time on June 30th. Marc said that Shannon Mason Jones left on July 2nd. Marc said that Margaret Melton has announced her retirement on August 17th. Marc Rudder said between the Fire Commission and SFRT, we could have up to ten postings that we hope to fill before the end of the year. Cathy Rigney asked do you know how many degrees have been granted. Casey Hall said approximately 240 credentials and 10 to 12 degrees.

Homeland Security

Josh Keats said the Office of Homeland Security has had a few personnel transitions. They are continuing to develop an anti-terrorism grant. They are working on renovations on the Fusion Center.

Kentucky Firefighter's Association

Eric Philpot thanked everyone for being here at the KFA conference. 254 registrants are at the conference this year. The business meetings will kick off on Monday morning at the Southgate Community Center. Eric said the Kentucky Fallen Firefighter Memorial will be held on September 29th at 11:00 am in Frankfort.

Kentucky Association of Fire Chiefs

Cathy Rigney said the Kentucky Association of Fire Chiefs conference will be held on August 23rd through the 25th in Bowling Green.

Kentucky Professional Firefighter's Association

Joe Baer said the KPFF's primary focus recently has been preparing for the upcoming legislative session. They are working on getting their legislative agenda. Joe Baer said their former Secretary/ Treasurer Chris Bartley has accepted a

position with the International Association of Firefighters in Washington DC. He is retired from the Lexington Fire Department as well as resigned from the KPFF. Joe said their board met last month and they elected Kevin Pletzke as the new Secretary/ Treasurer of the KPFF.

KBEMS

None.

Old Business

Ricky King asked with the way the virus is right now, will we have an alternate plan for what we are going to do if the Kentucky Fallen Firefighter Memorial is canceled. Bruce Roberts said we don't. Eric Philpot said we are going to try to live stream it this year. Eric Philpot said on the National Level they are limiting the number of people to 1000. Ricky said we need to look at and be prepared for this. Bruce Roberts said we could say this is for the families only. There will be 14 names going on the wall. Bruce said we need to honor these families the best way we can. He is not in favor of zoom for this. Bruce Roberts said we are ordering coins for the 20th Anniversary of the Memorial. We hope they will be here in the next couple of weeks.

New Business

Bruce Roberts said we have two line of duty deaths that need to be approved. Arthur Henley with New Haven Fire Department passed away with cancer. He does meet all the qualifications for line of duty. Bruce said he has the approved letter from Dr. Fadi. Scott Lawson motion to approve. Joe Choate seconded. Motion approved.

Bruce Roberts said that Ronald Ingram with Woodford County Fire Department had a heart attack while on a run. Bruce said he has the approved letter from Dr. Fadi. Dwane Smeathers motion to approve. Scott Lawson seconded. Motion approved.

Bruce Roberts said he has the Executive Director reports from Larry Potter. Bruce said Larry apologized for not being at the meeting. His family has been stricken with COVID. Bruce said there has been a delay on the NRPC project. It came in overbid. Marc said the projects was an office building classroom and the other was

a burn tower. Bruce said that Larry wanted everyone to know that they are looking at a 400-hour recruit school starting the first quarter of 2022.

Bruce Roberts said we are looking at the Reorganization of the Office. We are going through a total reorganization. We held the internal interviews and still have a couple to go. Bruce said that Larry Potter is also working on a Total Compensation Package for all the staff. He said hopefully by the middle of the month we can offer the jobs. Bruce said we are also looking at the possibility of another round of PPE grants. Bruce said if you have received a PPE grant and you have not turned in your paperwork, you will not be looked for another round of PPE grants. The paperwork was due by June 30, 2021. Bruce asked everyone who has not turned in their paperwork to please do so as soon as possible. Bruce Roberts said we are putting together a schedule of meetings to be held across the state. Bruce said Larry's goal is for the Fire Commission to get out across the state and be seen. Bruce said we are working every day. We do have a mandate from KCTCS to wear masks in the office.

Joe Baer asked a question about the one-year contracts for the full-time staff. Joe Baer asked has the Fire Commission ever discussed this with KCTCS? Joe said to continually sign contracts year after year with KCTCS makes it feel like there is no sense of job security. Bruce Roberts said from what he has heard, KCTCS is going to do away with the one-year contracts. Marc Rudder said we have been told the new President is looking at other options. Ricky King asked can we send a letter from the Fire Commission to KCTCS recommending that they do away with the one-year contracts? Bruce said that is up to the Fire Commission Board. Michael Sutt motion to send a letter to KCTCS on doing away with the one-year contracts. Dwane Smeathers seconded. John Wood said he can discuss this with Bruce Roberts before a motion is made. Joe Baer said the people he talked to received their last contracts two weeks before they expired. Ricky King said we will table this and get some more information for John Wood before we decide. Mike Sutt rescinded his motion. Dwane Smeathers seconded. Motion approved.

Fire Marshall's Office

Mike Haney said it sounds like there is a lot of turnover across the state. The Fire Marshall's Office has positions open now. They began the process of adopting 2818 updated codes of NFPA 1 and 101. This has been submitted to LRC. Mike said they will be attending Hazard Fire School and will be teaching Fire Inspector I and Inspector II classes.

Correspondence

Scott Lawson asked can the agendas for the Fire Commission meetings be emailed to all the fire departments across the state. Scott said a lot of people that don't get this information until the last minute. Ricky King said we can look at this.

Announcements from the Audience

None.

Meeting adjourned at 2:51 pm.