

KENTUCKY FIRE COMMISSION

Special Fire Commission Meeting

Minutes

January 25, 2020

Lexington, Kentucky

Present:

Dr. Fadi Akhrass

Joe Choate

Mike Haney

Dustin Isaacs

Josiah Keats

Tamela Kerr

Ricky King

Scott Lawson

Lonnie Madden

Michael Mosbey

Andrew Scott

Dwane Smeathers

Lloyd Stone

Board Advisors Present:

Joe Baer

Gregg Bayer

John Beatsch

Scott Lawson called the meeting to order at 1:30 pm. Dr. Fadi said John Martin with Louisville Fire Department passed away from Angiosarcoma cancer. Dr. Fadi said he believes this cancer was caused by exposure to carcinogens. Mr. Martin did not have any exposure to smoking in the past. Dr. Fadi said Dranham Harold Ramey with Marrowbone Fire Department passed away from liver cancer. Dr. Fadi said he had been smoking for a long time and will not be eligible for the LODD benefits criteria. Andrew Scott said the line of duty benefits has certain criteria

written by the state that has to be met. Lloyd Stone said the way the state law is written a person has to be tobacco free for 10 years. Mike Haney motion to approve. Lonnie Madden seconded. Motion approved.

Correspondence

None.

Announcements from the Audience

John Beatsche asked can a firefighter appeal to board in advance before they die. Dr. Fadi said they can start applying all of the paperwork, but no one will be able initiate the paperwork until the firefighter passes away. Ricky King asked shouldn't it be listed in the documentation that the illness is job related. Andrew Scott said we looked at a compilation of records that have been provided. Andrew said the law bars us from disbursement until after they pass away. He does think the Fire Commission should be clearer than we have in the past in letting everyone know the criteria that we have to follow. Wendell Followell asked is this information on the website. Jeremy Rodgers said all of that information is on the website. Jeremy said that he receives one to two calls on this a week and trying to pre-approve LODD's would be a logistical nightmare.

John Beatsche asked does Supporting Heroes follow the Fire Commission criteria, or do they have their own? Jeremy said with the firefighter that you are talking about, it wasn't cancer that he passed away from. It was a lung disease. Dr. Fadi said he has to make sure the LODD meets with all of the state guidelines. Dustin Isaacs asked what steps have we taken to make sure that the departments and firefighters are aware of what the criteria and guidelines are. Jeremy Rodgers said it has been sent out multiple times. Dr. Fadi asked can we create a PowerPoint to show them the criteria. Lloyd Stone said we educate ourselves as firefighters on this, but we do not educate our families. Scott Lawson said we will discuss this during the workshop. Gregg Bayer said he thinks that it would be important to put out what qualifies for cancer, heart and lung for line of duty. Andrew Scott asked Jeremy Rodgers to go over the KRS statute with our attorneys and break it down to make it easier to understand. Also include in that what is the number one issue that knocks firefighters out of LODD benefits and have it for us at our next meeting. Wendell Followell said we can put answers to frequently asked questions on the Fire Commission website. Larry Potter said it is hard for the Fire Commission to be everywhere all the time. We need to educate the chiefs and the community. There are layers of communication that we can get across that will help. Bruce

Roberts said in the white books, look at 61.315 under 11A. This explains what is covered and not covered. Jeremy Rodgers said he doesn't want to exclude someone and later on find out that they did qualify for the benefits. Andrew Scott said if we get a call, we should have a packet to send out to them. Jeremy Rodgers showed the board members what he sends out after he is notified that there has been a cancer LODD. Larry Potter said we may need to be more attentional. Joe Baer the reason lung cancer is not on this list is because we didn't have the data to support it. Dr. Fadi asked how are we excluding smoking but not alcohol from liver cancer. Joe Baer said he will get Dr. Fadi that data. Joe Baer said there are a number of states that have full presumption on cancer. Dr. Fadi said we need to be more precise with the language on what will make people qualified or not.

Meeting adjourned at 2:12 pm.