

KENTUCKY FIRE COMMISSION

Fire Commission Meeting

Minutes

June 12, 2024

Paris, Kentucky

Present:

Cheryl Allen
Chris Black
Nick Clark
Josh Keats
Ricky King
Andrew Scott
Dwane Smeathers
Dr. Irvin Smith
Jerry Stephens
Mike Sutt
Father Matthew Young

Absent:

Joe Choate
Mike Haney

Ex Officio Members

Present:

Joe Baer
Kyle Carpenter
Nathan Mulvey

KCTCS President

Present:

Dr. Ryan Quarles

Ricky King called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm (EST). Dr. Quarles said it was great seeing everyone again. Dr. Quarles thanked the Commission for the Helmet.

Dr. Quarles said after this meeting he is heading to Bowling Green for the June Board of Regents meeting. Dr. Quarles said they expect to take action on the budget as well as a recommended pay adjustment as well across the system. Dr. Quarles invited the Fire Commission to the September Board of Regents meeting in Henderson to do a presentation. Dr. Quarles said they are already gearing up for the 2025 General Assembly. The Senate Legislature asked us to do a complete evaluation of KCTCS System Statewide. We expect a lot of internal changes for us. Dr. Quarles said to be thinking about things that you may need and let KCTCS know.

Ricky King said we need approval of the minutes for April 24th, May 2nd, and May 7, 2024. Dwane Smeathers motion to approve. Chris Black seconded. Motion approved. Ricky King said we are in the process of looking at the hiring of the Fire Commission Operations Director.

Health and Wellness

Dr. Smith said the Health and Wellness Committee met yesterday. Dr. Smith said that Bruce Roberts gave us an update on the Stress Injury KAR. Bruce was going to a meeting after the Health and Wellness Committee meeting to get that KAR approved. This KAR will go into effect in approximately 60 days.

Dr. Smith said under new business, we discussed the new Cancer Screening Statute. No funding has been put in for this yet. Dr. Smith said we are going to get some ideas together on this and bring it to the August meeting.

Dr. Smith said that the St. Matthews Fire Department and Anchorage Middletown Fire Department wants to do a pilot program on monitoring the heart rates and temperatures of firefighters. The committee motioned to approve Bruce looking into this.

Training Facility Grants

Chris Black said the Training Facility Committee met this morning to discuss a few items. The first was concerning a request from the Kenton County Fire Chiefs Association requesting an extension on their training facility grant from 2022. After they were awarded that money, they lost their facility. They have been granted several extensions. The committee decided to request this money back and in the next process, we will give priority with requesting grant funds. Dwane Smeathers motion to deny this extension and request that the money be returned. Jerry Stephens seconded. Motion approved.

Chris Black said the second item we discussed was the increase in the funds for the Training Facility grants. Chris said we are updating the applications for the Training Facility grants. The change on the application for number 15 is to please check one box. On number 16, we are going to add all structures. Chris said on the application, if SFRT provides a prop, we are not going to award those props to the departments. Chris said the committee decided that the department who awarded a training facility grant will have to come to the Paris Office and sign for the check. Ricky King asked if they have the approval letter from the State building construction, can that not be attached to their paperwork. Chris said this could be added as long as there are details to go with it. Nick Clark motion to approve making these changes to the Training Facility Grant application. Jerry Stephens seconded. Motion approved. Chris said we will try to have our next committee meeting in August in Owensboro.

Loan Committee

Dwane Smeathers said the Loan Committee met this morning to discuss two Loans. Tateville Volunteer Fire Department is requesting \$76,231.00 for a 2024 GMC 2500 Response truck with warning lights, siren, camper shell and drawer system. Father Matthew Young motion to approve. Chris Black seconded. Motion approved.

Salt Lick Fire Department is requesting \$43,832.70 for a 2024 Can-Am Defender Max Limited. Jerry Stephens motion to approve. Father Matthew Young seconded. Motion approved.

Finance Committee

Mike Sutt said that the Finance Committee did not have a quorum this morning. Brenda Goddard is going to discuss the budget during the Commission meeting. Brenda Goddard said everyone should have received a copy of the budget proposal and the breakdown of how it was developed. Brenda said we did get increases in four line items. Nick asked will there be a way to move some of this money around if it not getting used. Brenda said the budgets listed at the bottom would fall under 95A.262. These are set for two years. Within these budgets, we can transfer around. Brenda said the Cancer Screening got approved in statute, but they did not tie any funding to it. Bruce Roberts said we will try to get the law changed to codify. If not, it could go back to square one. Dr. Quarles asked for the Commission to start making a list and get it to us by September. Dwane Smeathers motion to approve the FY 24/25 budget. Jerry Stephens seconded. Motion approved.

Eligibility Committee

Dwane Smeathers said the Eligibility Committee met this morning. Dwane said no action was taken on the IFSAC Fire Officer I skills testing. The firefighters are allowed to retest.

Dwane Smeathers said committee has requested to contact Jeromy Killion for a hearing. Father Matthew Young motion to approve. Chris Black seconded. Motion approved.

Dwane Smeathers said that there were some discrepancies with the Fogertown Fire Department training hours. The committee approved for the Fire Commission to remove the duplicate hours and send a letter to the Fire Chief of Fogertown. Chris Black motion to approve. Jerry Stephens seconded. Motion approved.

Dwane Smeathers said that we have a LODD for Roy Frank Whitt with the Route 504 Fire Department. He passed away in an apparatus accident. Dr. Smith has reviewed his records, and everything is in order. Jerry Stephens motion to approve. Chris Black seconded. Motion approved.

Dwane Smeathers said that Richard Givan from the Ekron Fire Department passed away from a cardiac event. Dr. Smith reviewed his paperwork, and everything is in order. Chris Black motion to approve. Nick Clark seconded. Motion approved.

Dwane Smeathers said the Incentive pay request for Bowling Green Fire Department has been tabled.

Dwane Smeathers said that the Crescent Springs Villa Hills Fire Department is requesting to start receiving Incentive pay. Father Matthew Young motion to approve. Chris Black seconded. Motion approved.

Wickliffe Rural Fire Department had a clerical error in KyFIRES that dropped them below 50% on training for their State. They have corrected this error, and they are requesting their State Aid to be reinstated. Chris Black motion to approve. Nick Clark seconded. Motion approved.

State Fire Rescue Training

Marc Rudder said through May 31st, SFRT has trained 95% of the fire departments in the Commonwealth. The Accredited Certification Office has been really busy. They are in Louisville this week doing live fire instructor for the SFRT staff with

the intent of rolling this out across the Commonwealth in FY 25 to the fire departments. Marc said they have completed testing and will roll across the State for the Common Passenger Vehicle and Rope Rescue Awareness Ops and Technician. Marc said they are running a Fire Officer IV class. The Fire Academy held it's ribbon cutting on April 30, 2024. Work is underway for their drill tower. The Academy will start it's fifth recruit class in August.

Fire Commission Facilities

Derrick Hall said we are finishing the concrete at the Academy. Derrick said next week, we will be working with Jimmy Vancleve moving District 3 to Greenville. Derrick said he would like to see sheds at all of facilities to protect our trailers.

Fire Marshal's Office

None.

Kentucky Office of Homeland Security

Josh Keats said that Homeland Security is getting ready to post for the Director of Fusion Response job. Josh said they are keeping an eye on all threats.

Kentucky Firefighters Association

Kyle Carpenter said that the State Fire School finished on Sunday. 640 students had registered for fire schools. The vendor hall had thirty-eight booths along with fourteen floor spaces. Kyle thanked the Fire Commission and SFRT for all of their hard work for State Fire School.

Kyle said the KFA had six members and the Honor Guard member to travel to Emmetsburg for the National Fallen Firefighter Memorial. Kyle said they are still looking for Honor Guard members across the Commonwealth. Kyle said that registration for the 2024 KFA conference is now open.

Kentucky Association of Fire Chiefs

Nathan Mulvey said they are working with the Kentucky Emergency Management on a mutual aid system. Nathan said their Conference will be in August in Bowling Green.

Kentucky Professional Firefighters Association

Joe Baer said the KPFF's sole priority is legislative issues. Joe we are starting to get our legislative issues out there. We need to get gameplan together before the legislative session begins in January. Joe said he would like for everyone to meet before the end of July. Joe said there are eleven cancers currently for our Line of Duty Death. Joe said data shows that there are a number of cancers that are not in our statutes. Joe said he received a call from a Legislator, and they are going to look at work schedules. Joe said they have a case going that the Kentucky Supreme Court is going to consider. It is regarding residency requirements. Joe Baer thanked Dr. Quarles for attending this meeting.

KBEMS

None.

Old Business

None.

New Business

Bruce Roberts said the first round of PPE's have been delivered. He thanked the Coordinators and Staff for all of their hard work on this. Bruce said they are looking at a second round of PPE grants. Bruce said the Operations position has been posted and is closed now.

Bruce Roberts said that Mary Adams will be inducted into the KFA Hall of Fame in August. Bruce said the next Fire Commission meeting will be on August 3, 2024 in Owensboro. Bruce said everyone will have to pay for their own hotel room and then get reimbursed.

Bruce Roberts said the Peer Support class will be held on September 9th and 10th in Owensboro. This class can hold up to thirty-five attendees. Bruce said we will reimburse for the hotel rooms, and we will provide lunch for both days.

Bruce introduced Katie George to the Commission. Katie will be the Fire Commission's new Attorney.

Ricky King said that Pat Thompson will be inducted into the KFA Hall of Fame in August.

Father Matthew Young motion to adjourn. Chris Black seconded. Meeting adjourned at 1:54 pm (EST).