

KENTUCKY FIRE COMMISSION

Fire Commission Meeting

Minutes

August 3, 2024

Owensboro, Kentucky

Present:

Cheryl Allen
Chris Black
Mike Haney
Ricky King
Dwane Smeathers
Dr. Irvin Smith
Jerry Stephens
Mike Sutt
Father Matthew Young

Absent:

Joe Choate
Nick Clark
Josh Keats
Andrew Scott

Ex Officio Members

Present:

Joe Baer
Kyle Carpenter
Nathan Mulvey

Ricky King called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm (CST). Ricky King turned the meeting over to Marc Henderson. Marc Henderson thanked everyone for being here and said if you need anything please stop by and see us. Chris Black motion to approve the minutes from June 12, 2024 in Paris Kentucky. Mike Sutt seconded. Motion approved.

Ricky King said we have been meeting with KCTCS and he feels like everything is going well. Ricky introduced the new Director of Operations Carrie Wilburn to the Board. Carrie said she appreciates the opportunity to be with the Fire Commission.

Ricky said Carrie is going to travel across the State and if you need anything, please call her. Ricky thanked the Fire Commission for all of their hard work.

Training Facility Grants

Chris Black said that the Training Facility Grant Committee met this morning and discussed a couple of things. Chris said that the Training Facility Grant monies have been doubled this year. Chris said the Committee voted this morning to award the Training Facility Grant monies every year. The process will start this coming week. The applications will be a webform in KyFIRES. Jerry Stephens motion for the Training Facility Grant Committee to award the monies annually. Dr. Smith seconded. Motion approved.

Chris Black said we want to change the name of the Training Facility Grant Committee to the Grant Committee and will work with all of the Fire Commission grants. Dwane Smeathers motion to approve. Jerry Stephens seconded. Motion approved.

Loan Committee

None.

Eligibility Committee

Dwane Smeathers said the Eligibility Committee has had a couple of investigations. Dwane said the committee found Kevin Culver from the Jeffersontown Fire Department in the act of malfeasance and negligence on August 4, 2023 and we recommend that we suspend his instructor number for six months and he must complete the 1403 class. Chris Black motion to approve. Father Matthew Young seconded. Motion approved.

Dwane Smeathers said the committee met on Thursday with Jeremy Killion. Pursuant to 739 KAR 2:060, the committee recommends revocation of his level one instructor certification for six months and he must retake the instructor level one class again. Chris Black motion to approve. Mike Sutt seconded. Motion approved.

Dwane Smeathers said we have two Line of Duty Deaths. John Vickers Jr. from the Zoneton Fire Protection District passed away from cancer. Dr. Smith has reviewed all of his paperwork and recommended approval. Mike Sutt motion to approve. Chris Black seconded. Motion approved.

Travis Ransom from the Union Fire Protection District passed away from cancer. Dr. Smith has reviewed all of his paperwork and recommended approval. Chris Black motioned to approve. Cheryl Allen seconded. Motion approved.

State Fire Rescue Training

Marc Rudder said we feel that FY 2024 was a success. SFRT provided training to 97% of the fire departments. Of these departments, 50% received 21 hours or more. SFRT presented 7,382 classes to 99,027 students. This count could be duplicated if a student attends multiple classes. This is an increase of 1.43% from FY 23 in classes and 3.74% for FY 23 in students.

Marc Rudder said the Accredited Certification Office conducted skills testing for 2,630 candidates. We provided 4,295 written examinations. The Accredited Certification for written exams will increase in January 2025 to \$50.00. Marc said we are working to develop a fee structure for skill exams for the higher level fire officer courses as well as the technical courses. There will be a fee structure implemented sometime in calendar year 2025. Marc said in May 2024, the Fire Academy of Kentucky completed recruit class #004 with twenty-nine graduates. Marc said the next class will begin on August 19, 2024 with over thirty recruits.

Marc said July 30th was the last day for Bill Mullins. Marc said we have been accepting applications to replace Bill and that process is ongoing.

Fire Commission Operations

None.

Fire Marshal's Office

Mike Haney said they are trying to do interviews and hiring processes for five employees. Mike said they are gearing up for the State Fair. Mike said their Hazardous Materials section will be having a staff meeting at Lake Cumberland this month. Mike said they have a new Commissioner Max Fuller.

Fire Commission Facilities

Derrick Hall said he is working with KCTCS on a property transfer for District 2. Derrick said he will request a full survey once this property transfer has occurred.

Derrick said that District 3 has completed their move to Greenville. They are two weeks into construction for the training tower at the Fire Academy. Derrick said we are working with KCTCS on a maintenance building project. Derrick said they are working on a sink hole problem with District 4. They are working on a relocation for District 5. They are working on a master plan for District 6. Derrick said District 9 is looking at adding property to their location. Derrick said they are still looking for property for Districts 11 and 12. Derrick said we are awaiting approval for the expansion of the District 15 Office.

Kentucky Office of Homeland Security

None.

Kentucky Firefighters Association

Kyle Carpenter thanked Green River for hosting this conference. The conference next year will be in Maysville. Kyle thanked Marc Henderson for being our leader this past year. He has done a great job working on this conference.

Kentucky Association of Fire Chiefs

Nathan Mulvey recognized Mike Sutt. He has been selected as the second vice president for the Kentucky Chiefs for the remainder of this term. Their annual leadership conference will be held on August 20th through the 22nd in Bowling Green Kentucky. Nathan said this year, they will be presenting with KBEMS a proposed mutual aid system deployment plan. Nathan Mulvey said Chief Steven Kyle has been selected to take Nathan's position as the State Director for the Southeastern Association of Fire Chiefs.

Kentucky Professional Firefighters Association

Joe Baer welcomed Carrie Wilburn to the Fire Commission. Joe said he received a call from a Lexington firefighter. Lexington has contracted with the UDS diagnostic services to provide cancer screenings. They have detected numerous cancers. The cost for the screening is \$350.00. Joe said he is attending the IAFF convention in Boston in a couple of weeks. Joe said they are already preparing for the 2025 Legislative Session. The committees starting meeting about a month ago.

KBEMS

None.

Director Reports

Bruce Roberts said under the PPE grants, if you are one of the departments who received the helmets, boots, and gloves, you should receive a letter saying that you will be getting money deposited into your checking account for pants and coats. It will be in the amount of \$3,500.00. This was all of the remaining money out of last years budget going towards the grants.

Bruce Roberts said the Peer Support class will be held on September 9th and 10th in Owensboro. Only fifteen people have registered so far. Bruce said we can accept twenty more people. We will reimburse you for your hotel stay and serve lunch for both days.

Bruce said at this time, the Fire Commission is going through two audits. We have an audit by LRC, and they have to have their information by December 2024. Bruce said we are getting ready to have the big state audit. We are meeting with them in the next couple of weeks.

Bruce Roberts said on July 15th, State Aid went up to \$15,000.00. Incentive pay went up to \$4,429.00.

Old Business

None.

New Business

None.

Announcements from the Audience

None.

Chris Black motion to adjourn. Dwane Smeathers seconded. Meeting adjourned at 1:35 pm (CST).